

Hands-on Items



Goose Quill Pen – From the Mayflower Compact to the Declaration of Independence, the famous documents of America were all created with the same simple quill pen that colonists used daily to write letters and keep diaries. Important documents such as the Magna Carta and the United States Constitution have proven the quill pen to be a powerful tool in the hands of artists and statesmen.

Soldier's Haversack – The soldiers of the colonial period carried a bag called a haversack. Soldiers used the haversack to carry their personal items with them while they were in the field. Using and interpreting the artifacts found in the haversacks, we can understand more about the life of the colonial soldier.

This set includes:

- Booklet
- Haversack
- *Virginia Gazette*
- Dice (4)
- Musket Ball
- Tin Cup
- Cockade
- Playing Cards



Lady's Pocket – Colonial women generally wore more layers of clothing than is customary today. Due to the fashion of the time, women's clothing did not have built-in pockets. To work around this issue, women wore pockets which were tied around the waist. The items a woman carried with her depended on her social status, the time of day, and the job she was currently undertaking.

This set includes:

- Booklet
- Pocket
- Wax Animal
- Needle Case
- Pieces of 8
- Fan
- Wig Curler
- Wax & Seal
- Fable book
- Receipt



Colonial Paper Currency – The standard currency of the colonial period was hard currency. Hard currency was preferred due to its intrinsic value as a precious metal. Coined silver and gold, however, was hard to come by in the American colonies. To overcome this hurdle, colonies began printing paper currency. The values differed by colony and every colony had a different system. The widespread use and printing of paper money would rapidly depreciate the value creating a need for a unified and standardized financial system.

Lucet – The lucet is a simple tool used in colonial times to make cord and drawstrings. They were commonly found in colonial sewing kits. The technique involved graceful hand motions which helped perpetuate the colonial feminine style of grace and craftiness.





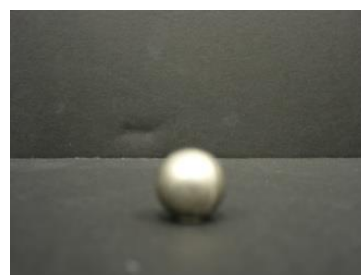
Pieces of Eight – Also known as a Spanish milled dollar or peso, the pieces of eight was the most commonly available hard currency in the American colonies. England had forbid the colonies to coin their own money, so colonists made use of what was available. Pieces of eight were particularly useful due to its ability to break into up to eight pieces known as bits. The ability to break down hard currency into smaller denominations was helpful to stimulate commerce.

Ladies Caps – Just as colonial men wore hats, so did colonial women. Ladies caps served several functions depending on the circumstance under which they are worn. Caps can be worn to alleviate heat and sweat from the sun, to keep hair dry, or as a fashion statement.



Drop Spindle – The drop spindle was used to home spin yarn and thread. Most colonists only owned a few pairs of clothing, so it was vital that they be properly maintained. The job of clothing repair was often taken up by colonial women. The drop spindle greatly increased the speed of thread and yarn production.

Musket Ball – Unfortunately, war was a constant threat to many colonists. Between the French and Indian War, skirmishes with American Indians, and ultimately the Revolution, muskets and musket balls were commonplace in many colonial homes and lives. Musket balls of the period were made out of lead, a soft metal that would flatten on impact, leaving grisly exit wounds. This replica musket ball is lead-free.



Slave's Bag – Slaves owned very little, but some slave masters allowed slaves to own a few things as a means to create positive work incentives. Things that slaves owned could be bought, traded, or sold at the discretion of the slave, granting slaves a modicum of freedom. Sometimes slaves would carry their belongings in a simple sack like this one.

This set includes:

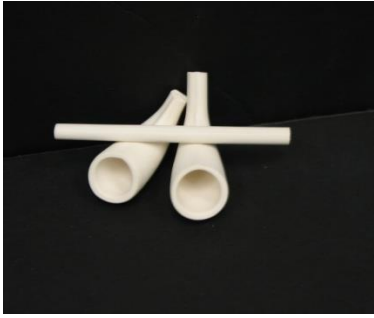
- Feather
- Booklet
- Bag
- Bill of Sale
- Oyster Shell
- Wooden Spoon
- Flint & Steel
- Piece of Chain
- Pewter Button
- Stockings (Pair)



Stamp and Wax – Before the time of e-mails, even before adhesive envelopes, colonial correspondence was carried through letters. Hot wax would be poured onto the envelope flaps, sealing the envelope. Before the wax cooled, the stamp would be pressed into the wax leaving a signature design which occasionally signified the person who sent the message. Kings and government officials would often have stamps of their crest to grant importance to the letter.

Spyglass and Map – The spyglass was used throughout the Revolutionary War as a critical espionage tool by both the Americans and the British, but the patriots were particularly dedicated to procuring intelligence. The spyglass allowed for the safe monitoring of enemy troops and their movements, keeping the Continental Army up-to-date with the enemy's tactics. The included map is of the Battle of Yorktown.





Broken Pipes – Tobacco was the greatest cash crop of Virginia. Tobacco became a common luxury good after the process of smoking swept through England. The habit also found an audience in the American colonies. Colonists made their own pipes in order to smoke and the practice was common among all social classes. Soldiers would often tie their pipes to their hats in order to keep the fragile pipes from breaking.

Wig Curlers – Can you imagine if your dad or brother wore hair curlers? In colonial times, white powdered wigs were commonly worn by men of influence. George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Adams, and several others wore these wigs. To get the characteristic curls, colonists would use clay or bone curlers. The curls would then be applied to a heat source or sugar water to fix the curl in place.

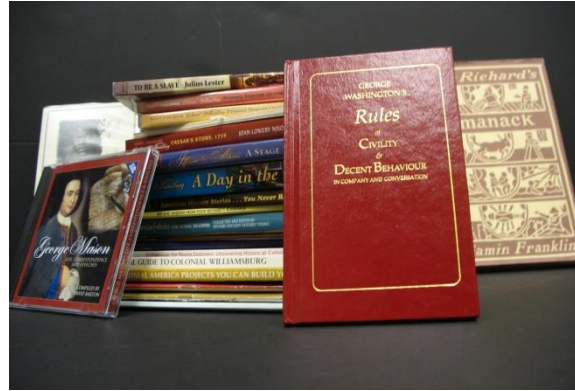


Archaeology - This activity is designed to give the student an idea of how archeology is done. A canvas allows for the activity to be done indoors. A bag of broken and small artifacts is included in the trunk. Students then have the opportunity to uncover an artifact, analyze the artifact, and determine its function and significance. Please be careful, as some of the broken pieces might be sharp!

Wooden Muskets – These wooden muskets are roughly the size of the muskets used during the colonial period. Wooden muskets are a safe way to bring authenticity to mock drill or battle reenactment.



Books and Media – Included in the trunk are several books and videos that relay information concerning life in Colonial America. Some of notable mention are George Washington's *Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior*, Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack*, and *African-American Folktales*.



Extras in Trunk:

Hands-on History: American Indian Bandolier Bag booklet

Hands-on History: Lady's Pocket Booklet

Deck of cards

Modern dolls wearing colonial garb