



Pieces of the Past Video Transcripts

Object 1

Video 1

This object is a pair of metal bars with a hinge to connect them and two sets of arms that end in these flat little pinchers. Now, the pinchers can cut but they're not that sharp, so they won't hurt me. This is always used with this. Now, you definitely have this in your kitchen but you probably wouldn't recognize it in this form, it's a type of food. What do you think these are?

Video 2

This is called a sugar nipper. Now, in the 18th century, making sugar was a really long and laborious process which made processed sugar super expensive. Plus, sugar can only be grown in really warm climates, so if you lived in the 13 colonies your sugar was coming from the Caribbean. If you have to ship sugar from the Caribbean to the 13 colonies, it's going to be on the ship a really long time and you don't want bugs crawling into your sugar, so you keep it packed together like this in a sugar cone. It's kind of like a giant version of a sugar cube that you might have at home. In order to use the sugar, you have to break it apart so that you're not pouring all of this into your cup of tea. So you clip it with the sugar nippers. Now, sugar would be commonly used in drinks called punches which would be served in giant punch bowls like this which you just grab and take a sip from.

Object 2

Video 3

This object, made of metal, would have been found in taverns in the 1700s. There's a handle on one side and a pointed end on the other. You can pour things in, but nothing can come out from the end, and you probably use it by what's right behind me. Any guesses?



Video 4

This is an ale shoe. If you wanted to heat up your drink in the 1700s, you couldn't just pop something in the microwave, so you would use this metal cup. Pour your liquid inside and place the pointed metal part into the fire. Since metal gets hot when it's exposed to heat, it would warm up your drink inside and then, if you're a tavern keeper, you can pour it into a mug and serve it to your customers.

Object 3

Video 5

This object is a long, thin tube connected to a bowl-like piece on the end. If you look really closely, you can see that it's hollow on the inside. It's made of a material that you might recognize from your parents' coffee mugs, and it can be used for one of the most popular activities in an 18th century tavern. What do you think it is?

Video 6

This is a clay pipe. When we harden clay, we call it ceramic. This is used to smoke tobacco. Tobacco smoking was one of the most popular activities in the colonies and it's something you would commonly see in tavern rooms. Now, because clay is breakable, you probably don't want to bring your own pipe to the tavern where it could get knocked out of your hands and shatter on the floor. So when you come to Fraunces Tavern, you can walk over here to the pipe box and rent one from Samuel Fraunces. Now, do you think Samuel Fraunces was cleaning the pipes after everyone used them? If you said no, you're right. People in the 18th century didn't know as much about germs as we do today, so there wasn't as much of an emphasis on cleanliness or sanitation. You would go over, grab your pipe, smoke it, put it back, and the next person would take their turn without any worries.



Object 4

Video 7

So, this object is a hollow container that's made out of animal bone. With a narrow end on one side, it opens up to pour something out. You may also notice this item has a strap, maybe used to carry something? What do you think it is?

Video 8

So, this object is a powder horn. It would be used to carry gunpowder, which would come out of this narrow end right here. The reason why Continental soldiers, British soldiers, or even militiamen would carry gun powder in this item is because gunpowder is extremely flammable. A highly personal item to a lot of these soldiers, soldiers would often etch or sketch symbols, even maps of areas they were in such as New York City, or even personal stories of their travels with the army.

Object 5

Video 9

This metal object has a handle so you can carry it with you wherever you need it, and in the 1700s that was a lot of places. It's covered in holes that are punched from the inside out, meaning that they're smaller on the inside than they are here on the outside. There's also a small door, so you could keep something inside. Any idea what this would be used for?

Video 10

This is a lantern. If we open the door, we can see a candle inside. In the 1700s, we didn't have electricity and we didn't have street lights, so if you wanted to go outside after dark, you would need to take one of these with you to light your way.



Object 6

Video 11

This object is a metal canister, used to hold vital objects in the 18th century. Inside, there are two objects that will always be used together. One is a little stone that can come in any shape, but will always have distinctive chipped marks on the edge. And the other is a thin metal bar that can fit over your knuckles. Notice that it has thicker material here than it does at the bottom. What do you think these are used for?

Video 12

This is a flint and steel. In the 18th century, matches weren't as common and you needed fire to be your source of light and heat during the night. So you would use your flint and strike your steel very hard to create sparks that you would then use to light your candle or your fireplace.