

Trunk Overview

Trunk Expanded Explanations

Lenape Children: Rich with reproduction artifacts which encourage hands-on learning, students can begin to visualize an authentic view of Lenape children's lives. Includes deer hides (tanned and untanned), antlers, quills, Indian clothing, gourd rattles, language lessons, children's games, mask, bulletin board materials, books on the subject. Important for the study of early eastern Pennsylvania/Chester County peoples. 1 large trunk on roller wheels. (1st-8th grade)

American Revolution in Chester County: Uniquely packaged reproduction artifacts in three different containers to highlight three different Chester County perspectives on the Revolutionary War, this trunk suggests that for this area, the American Revolution was indeed a civil war for the inhabitants. Reproduction artifacts in a basket show the civilian perspective, artifacts in a British portmanteau give the British perspective, and objects in a wooden Patriot trunk tell the rebels' story. Primary source county documents included in the Civilian basket. (3rd-8th grade)

The Underground Railroad in Chester County: Packaged in a hard-sided portfolio, this trunk contains visual imagery of this time period through photos, maps, and graphics about the impact of slavery in Chester County and the people who defied it. Interactive play included for a student-centered experience. Critical thinking skills highlighted as a divisive situation in the nation's history is experienced. The essential understanding of this trunk is that Chester County, by virtue of its location "just over the line" (Mason-Dixon line), was central to the operation of the Underground Railroad and so its inhabitants were obliged to face this emotionally charged issue directly in their lives. (3rd-high school)

Voices from the Past: Chester County and the Civil War: A wooden trunk houses Civil War military clothing and a soldier's haversack loaded with the (reproduction) items which the soldier's would have carried, thus informing students on a soldier's life in the Civil War. Famous Chester County Civil War general, Galusha Pennypacker, is profiled. Photos located in a separate portfolio highlight county involvement. Primary documents in the form of letters, county documents, Emancipation Proclamation, and 13th amendment text are included. Two Civil War era board games are included for an immersive cultural experience, since one is Milton Bradley's first game, published in that time period. Cipher disc lesson plan is included

for an experience in decoding/encoding encrypted letters. Character cards of famous Chester Countians are included and can be kept by the teacher if arrangements are made prior to renting the trunk. (3-8th grade)

Government and Citizenship Trunk: Important as a resource for students to appreciate their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Trunk information and artifacts are organized into five sections: government structure (local, state, national), famous Chester County people, rights and responsibilities of citizens, major issues in government and citizenship, the role of media in government. Heavily interactive with many classroom suggestions- among them: badge-a-minut campaign badge maker, wooden jigsaw puzzles of the counties and townships of Pennsylvania, character cards and games about famous people in Chester County, children's books about government, a play about Bayard Rustin and civil rights. Encourages critical thinking about government at all three levels. Activities and artifacts packed in a rolling trunk, a portfolio with handle, and a portable, standing timeline banner in a carrying case outlining the role of media in politics. (3rd-high school)

Women and Reform: Artifacts tell the story of the Women's Rights movement. Photographs, buttons, posters, primary documents (newspapers, letters), books, textiles, free produce items all help to trace the history of the women's suffrage movement with a focus on Chester County. Reproduction items are packaged in a large, hard-sided portfolio case with handle. Audiotape of songs of the suffrage movement. (middle and high school)

Chester County's Industrial Revolution: A tote bag packed with information about Chester County industry: cotton, railroads, water mills, iron works, plus a cassette of songs sung by working men and several VHS videos of millwork, plus workers' specific memories of working in the mills. Various books about industry are included. Artifacts specific to the railroad industry are included in this bag. A portfolio contains photos of Chester County railroads. Useful information to help a student's understanding of the type of industry typical of Chester County. (middle and high school)

Bayard Rustin: Civil Rights Leader: Small portfolio containing DVDs of Rustin's life and his songs. Books outline Rustin's eventful life and his contributions to the civil rights movement. Photographs offer students a visual experience of Rustin's colorful life in both a national and a local spotlight. Looking at both the trials and the successes of his life allows students to appreciate a complex individual in terms of his time period. Critical thinking about this subject

allows a student to evaluate this person in terms of today's thinking as well as in his own time period. (middle and high school)

Horace Pippin: Artist: Experience the life of famous Chester County artist Horace Pippin through this trunk. DVD and VHS tapes of Horace Pippin's life, prints of his more famous paintings, replicas of his unique brush apparatus and palette, his war medals, primary documents (newspaper articles) and a puzzle. Books, including a children's book (by a Chester County writer) about his life and art. Art prints are packaged in a portfolio with a handle and artifacts are stored in a large hard-sided portfolio with a handle. (4th grade-high school)

Quilted History Mystery: Four quilted tote bags, one with teacher manuals, and the other three containing information in a learning center format to aid students in finding the solutions to a quilting mystery. This trunk focuses on six mystery laminated quilted examples about which the student must find the answers to questions concerning the example's construction. Information in this exercise is heavily focused on the materials and process used to make the cloth and is less focused on actual quilting methods, although they are mentioned. (high school)