

## TIME IN A TEAKETTLE

Grade Level: 3 to 5

### IN THIS LESSON

**Students will compare and contrast antique and modern teakettles in order to explore how the design and production of tea has changed (or stayed the same) over time.**

### OBJECTIVES

- To identify the history and use of artifacts representing cultural necessities
- To develop visual acuity, creative thinking, and historical imagination
- To develop investigative and analytical skills
- To make connections between the past and present

### ILLINOIS LEARNING STANDARDS

#### ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

**Goal 3:** Write to communicate for a variety of purposes.

**Goal 4:** Listen and speak effectively in a variety of situations.

**Goal 5:** Use the language arts to acquire, assess, and communicate information.

#### SOCIAL SCIENCE

**Goal 15:** Understand economic systems, with an emphasis on the United States.

**Goal 16:** Understand events, trends, individuals, and movements shaping the history of Illinois, the United States, and other nations.

### SUGGESTED ARTIFACTS

Antique copper teakettle  
Enameled metal teakettle  
Modern stainless steel teakettle  
Electric teakettle

**Please note:** The following items are optional. You may use them to provide further context or to complete the extension activities.

Loose tea leaves  
Infuser  
Teabags  
Tea set and/or various cups and saucers  
Tea cozy  
Sugar and creamer set

### ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

Artifact Analysis worksheets (<http://www.greatchicagostories.com/classroom/artifact.php>)  
Chart paper  
Crayons, markers, and/or other art supplies

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*This lesson was developed and written by Lori Plier.*

## TIME IN A TEAKETTLE

### ACTIVITY

1. Divide students into four groups and give each a different teakettle. Make sure your kettles are chosen in as wide a range of styles, materials, and time periods as possible. Distribute Artifact Analysis worksheets and ask students to fill them out.
2. After they have completed their worksheets, students should draw a picture of their kettle on chart paper, being sure to label all its parts.
3. Have each group come forward to post its drawing at the front of the room and give an oral presentation based on their answers to the Artifact Analysis worksheet.
4. Lead a class discussion. What features do the kettles have in common? What features are different? Why? Has the teakettle changed much over time? What does this tell us about the history of some household items? Have they changed a lot or not very much? What does this tell us about history in general?

### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Hold a class tea party. Demonstrate the various ways of brewing tea (loose leaf, teabag, etc.). Have students read and/or demonstrate selections from the following books: *Children's Tea and Etiquette: Brewing Good Manners in Young Minds* by Dorthea Johnson, John Harney, and Anne Noyes; *Emma Lea's First Tea Ceremony* by Babette Donaldson and Jerianne Van Dijk; and *Tea for Felicity—A Play About Felicity* by Valerie Tripp.

Have students research the history of tea and/or tea ceremonies and etiquette around the world.