

FURNITURE: FORM AND FUNCTION

Grade level: elementary or secondary, with adaptations
Works of art: Shaker furniture (slide 5)
Desk and bookcase (slide 2)

Examine the Shaker furniture in slide 5. This furniture was made and owned by members of the Shaker religious sect, active in several states in America by 1774. What kinds of values and lifestyle are suggested by the design and decoration of Shaker furniture? For example, despite the fact that America has always had a large resource of wood, how does Shaker furniture seem to have been inspired by the virtuous saying, "waste not, want not"?

The design of Shaker furniture remained constant throughout the history of the sect. Why should this be particularly understandable for a religious community?

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