LIVING SPACES: THEN AND NOW

Grade level: elementary
Work of Art: Shaker Living Room (slide 5)

Compare the following two rooms:

Shaker Living Room (slide 5)
Each student's living room or all-purpose room

1. List the pieces of furniture (e.g. chair) in each of the living spaces:

   Shaker Living Room       Student's Room

2. Which pieces of furniture do both living spaces have?

3. Which pieces of furniture are unique to only one of the living spaces? What can those pieces of furniture tell us about the Shaker lifestyle or about our lifestyle today?

4. Examine a piece of furniture that both living spaces share. What material is each made of? How was each made? What can the materials and processes tell us about lifestyles and values, industry, and technology?

5. Are both living spaces designed for the same purposes? For relaxation? For work? For entertaining? List 3 items in each room that are clues to how the room is/was used.

   Shaker Living Room       Student's Room

Adapted from work by Museum Classroom Participants from Beasley Academic Center, Howland School of the Arts, and Armstrong School