Modus Operandi

Life / Style in Early America

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July 31, 2009
A unit plan for grades 8 – 12
NEH Picturing Early America
Who would wear...
What is this person...

• Doing right now?
• Eating?
• Using?
• Believing?
• Spending?
• Thinking is an important person?
• Going home to?
We can match clothing to people of today because…

• We are familiar with today’s cultures
• We see people dressed like this everyday
• We may dress like this at times
• We know the beliefs and values that are around today
• We know the technology in use
But can you design clothing for a person who…

- Swabs a deck?
- Milks a cow?
- Has a tea party?
- Builds a house?
- Fights a British soldier?
- Plows a field?
- Rules a colony?
- Serves a family supper?
How can we learn from the clothing we see in pictures?

- The Inquiry Wheel
- Top layer: The People
  - Gender
  - Time period
  - Socio-economic
  - Race
  - Age
  - Place
The Inquiry Wheel

- Middle layer: The Clothing
- Cut
- Construction
- Fit
- Color
- Fabrics and trims
- Jewelry and accessories
The Inquiry Wheel

- Bottom layer: The History
- Human Dignity
- Government
- Culture
- Geography
- Economy
- Technology/Science
- Cycles of Civilization

- As we turn the layers of the wheel, we devise many questions to ask about the people and their costume.
Use your wheel to write questions about:

Ohio Historical Society
Use your wheel to write questions about:

*Landsdowne* portrait by Gilbert Stuart, 1796.
Use your wheel to write questions about:

. Ralph Earl, *Angus Nickelson and Family*, Museum of Fine Arts, Springfield, Massachusetts, Gift of Robert L. Munson,
Use your wheel to write questions about:

*Saturday Evening* early 19th century Michele Felice Cornè, Peabody, Massachusetts Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Use your wheel to write questions about:

Am I not a man and a brother?
Use your wheel to write questions about:

Unknown image from ‘slavery in America Project’
Use your wheel to write questions about:

Elizabeth Clarke Freake Mrs John Freake and Baby Mary Unidentified Artist
Use your wheel to write questions about:

Sans Arc Lakota” Ledger Book, 1880-1881Black Hawk
Use your wheel to write questions about:

Unknown image Onslow County North Carolina
Make sure your questions:

• Include 5 history themes
• Can be researched by encyclopedia or internet
• Will give us a comprehensive understanding of the person’s life
• Can be easily communicated by you through your chosen project
The Project Part 1:

• choose a person living in the 18th century
• Give your person a name, age, habitat, and occupation
• Choose an exact year to portray through your project
• Your goal is to show what you have learned about the history of the 18th century.
• Make sure you can include at least 5 themes of history
The Project Part 2:

- Portray your research through:
  - A completed hand sewn garment
  - A design sketch
  - A hand painted or drawn portrait
  - Each of these choices requires a diary which includes the individual’s view of the 5 themes you have chosen