



MCNY Investigations

New York Interiors: Furnishings for the Empire City

Self-guided worksheet for high school students

This worksheet is designed to help you compare and contrast the art and objects on view in the Museum’s permanent exhibition *New York Interiors: Furnishings for the Empire City*. Use the wall text and your own observations to record valuable historic and aesthetic information about the space.

Note: Before beginning this activity, walk around the entire gallery and briefly view each interior. Survey the evolution of their styles and notice the major differences between the first, or oldest alcove, and the last, or most recent. Then, choose your favorite interior and complete the activity below.

Interior’s Name: _____ Time Period: c. _____

1. In the left column below, list furniture, decorations, and other items of interest you see in this interior. In the right column, name its practical function and/or use. (Note: Example below is from the Dutch Interior.)

Name of Object	:	Probable Use
<u>Split/Double Dutch Door</u>	:	<u>Lets light and air into the house</u>
_____	:	_____
_____	:	_____
_____	:	_____

2. You now have an inventory of some objects and how they were used. Choose one of the objects you identified above and take a closer look at its design. Sketch this item in the area below, including as much detail in your drawing as you can. You may also include written descriptions and information to support your drawing. (Hint: What material is it made of? How large or small is it?, etc.)

3. As an added challenge, try to find an object in a different interior that performs a similar job or function to the item you just drew. Compare it: How is this object different from the one you identified above? How many years separate these objects?

4. Your Room: c. 2010

What might future generations of New Yorkers find interesting about how we decorate our homes today? Choose one object that you own or would like to own and imagine you're looking at it 100 years from now in a museum setting. How does this object illustrate modern day life in New York City? Does it have any similarities to objects included in these historic interiors? Why or why not?

Draw your object in the box provided and write sample wall text for its use and significance in the space below:
