



Frederick A.O.  
Schwarz  
Children's  
Center

## MCNY Investigations

### *New York Interiors: 1690-1906*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*Find the answers to these questions by looking at the exhibition **New York Interiors: 1690-1906** on the second floor of the Museum. Start by looking at the first room on your right, and then follow the written directions as you walk around the gallery.*

#### **A New York Interior in the Dutch Tradition: Late 17th or early 18th century**

1. List some of the objects you see in this room.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Many homes in early New York had only two main rooms. Based on your answers above, what do you think this room or “great chamber” (*groot kamer*) was used for?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How did early New Yorkers light their homes? What clues did you find?

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What is the most commonly used natural resource you see in the house? (Hint: Look at the furniture, floor, walls, and ceiling.)

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*When you finish looking at the Dutch Alcove, continue walking into the gallery along the right wall. You will see the English Colonial Interior, our next room, on your right. Stop there to answer the following questions.*

**English Colonial Interior: c. 1760-1780**

1. What are some differences you notice between this room and the Dutch interior?

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2. New York was a busy trade port during this time; where do you think the wallpaper and silk curtains in this room came from?

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3. What might this room have been used for? (Hint: Look at the objects on the center table.)

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*Walk forward to the last interior on the right wall to answer the question below.*

**The Bertha King Benkard Memorial Bedroom: c. 1740-1760**

Find the object that was split in two so that it would travel safely by ship across the ocean. What is it?

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*Look for the Drawing Room (c. 1830) on the opposite side of the gallery to answer the questions on the following page.*

### **Drawing Room: 1830**

The United States Constitution was 43 years old by 1830, and America was a young democracy. Look closely at this room. How were American citizens decorating their homes differently from the colonists before them?

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*Walk forward to view the next interior on the same side of the gallery and answer the following questions.*

### **Drawing Room: 1856-1857, 1 Pierrepont Place**

The Edison Electric Light Company did not exist until 1878. Before electric lights were common indoors, how did some New York families light their homes? (Hint: This answer might surprise you!)

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*Walk forward to the final interior in the exhibition.*

### **Drawing Room: 1906**

Thinking back to the other rooms you observed, what are the most significant changes from first to last? (Hint: Think about changes in technology, invention, materials, style...)

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**Turn over**

