



Mercer Museum Mysteries

Welcome to the Mercer Museum! You will begin the scavenger hunt in Central Court on the Second Level.



Teacher's Answer Key:

Head to the Central Court on the Second Level of the Museum.

1. What were the three most important native food supplies to the colonists? Why?

Corn, fish, game— Because corn can be prepared and used in many ways. Fish and game were readily available for colonists.

2. What meat-related annual event took place on farms and homesteads in 18th and 19th century America?

Preservation of meat

3. Why did this food item have to be preserved in this manner?

Because there was no refrigeration, and meat needed to be preserved for use at a later time.

4. 4. What type of combs, passed down from one generation to the next, were prized possessions in 18th century America?

Tortoise Shell Combs

Go to the Third Level of the Museum.

5. Illiteracy was very common in early America. How did people who could not read understand the signs of stores and shops?

Trade and shop signs contained pictures or otherwise represented the products or services to be found inside. This helped those that could not read readily identify the type of shop or business.

Travel up to the Fourth Level.

6. After the American Revolution, where were the two national manufacturing armories located?

Springfield, Massachusetts & Harper's Ferry, Virginia

7. Which one produced 3/4 of a million rifle & muskets to use during the Civil War?

The armory in Springfield, MA.

Head to the Fifth Level.

8. What is an ancient form of furniture, the basic form of which remained unchanged from the Middle Ages through the 19th century?

The cradle

9. What substances were used to soften water for laundering clothing?

Lye, potash, and carbonate of soda

Move on to the Sixth Level to the Columbus Gallery.

10. What diseases were unknown to the Lenape people until the Europeans arrived? How did they contract these diseases?

Smallpox, measles, influenza, and diphtheria

They contracted them through trading the Europeans for contaminated blankets, kettles, beads, etc.

From the Columbus Gallery, go up to the Roof Galleries.

9. Name a famous Bucks County murder case.

The murder of Samuel & Lena Rightly by Wallace Burt
OR the murder of Dr. William Chapman by Lino de
Mina.

10. When was the old Bucks County Jail on Court St. in Doylestown built? When was it torn down to build a new jailhouse?

It was built in 1813 and torn down in 1885.

Wish to know more about a particular object you viewed in the museum?

Just write down the large number seen on many of the artifacts and look it up in the Mercer Museum Catalogue Registers. They are located on a small desk on the 2nd Level in Central Court by the doorway to the stairs.