

# Teacher's Guide to Household Artifacts

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Herbert Hoover grew up in a time before electricity, indoor plumbing, and automobiles.

## Water Pump

A hand-cranked pump raised water from a shallow well or cistern. This type of pump cycled small rubber buckets on a chain and dumped the water through the spigot.



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## **Water Pitcher & Wash Basin**

Water stored in the pitcher is poured into the basin for hand washing.



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## **Cook Stove**

A wood burning stove required constant attention when cooking. Without a thermostat the cook had to control the heat by hand, adjusting the various vents and doors.



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## **Butter Churn**

A hand-butter churn was an improvement over the plunge-type churn, but still required physical effort to make butter.





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## Washboard

Clothes were scrubbed by hand against a washboard in a large basin of water.



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## **Kerosene Lamp**

Lamps burned kerosene to provide light at night. People had to light and extinguish the wicks, and refill the gas.



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## High Chair

High chairs are pretty much the same as they have always been, but have more safety features today. Parents would have to pay close attention to the baby in the high chair.



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## **Clock**

Mechanical clocks kept time with springs and weights had to be wound up regularly.





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## Coffee Grinder

The Hoovers had to work for their morning coffee. A hand-cranked machine ground up roasted coffee beans before it was brewed on the stove.



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## **Bootjack**

Streets were often muddy or dusty and filled with animal manure. To remove boots without using your hands, you could wedge the heel of the boot into the top of the jack and pull your foot out.



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## **Flatiron**

Flatirons weighed a few pounds and had to be heated atop the stove before using it to get the wrinkles out of clothes.





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## Chamber Pot

In wintry weather or the middle of the night, people could use a small pot as a toilet, to be emptied in the outdoor privy later.

