

Historical Objects Buying Guide

Starting your own collection of historical items can seem like a daunting task, but with the investment of a little time and money you can create own collection in no time. Start by looking around your school. If you are in an older building, there is probably some storage closet hiding treasures from the past. You might also want to reach out to friends, neighbors and family members to see if they have any items they would part with. A trip to your local antiques or thrift stores may also help you locate some inexpensive items. Any event that involves historic reenactors will likely have dealers selling reproduction or vintage items as well. If you are looking to create collections for specific time periods, the lists below may help. Each list has suggested items for the time period along with prices and links for shopping. Note: Prices are subject to change.

Colonial Era Items

Pot Hooks (2) \$3.50 each [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Flint and Steel \$14.50 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Pot scrubber \$7.25 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Jaw Harp \$8.50 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Pipe Tamp \$6.00 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Ink Pot \$5.00 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Ladies garters \$15.00 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Pieces of Eight \$6.50 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Carding Combs \$25-35 on [ebay](#)
Pipe \$ 15.00 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Sugar Cone \$5.00 [Jas Townsend & Sons](#)
Civilian broadsides \$5.00 [Sullivan Press](#)
Betty Lamp \$35-\$50 on [ebay](#)

Civil War Era

Pharo playing cards \$7.95 [The Regimental Quartermaster](#)
Razor strop \$12.95 [C&C Sutlery](#)
Button polishing board \$1.95 [C&C Sutlery](#)
Wooden louse comb \$4.95 [C&C Sutlery](#)
Hardtack \$19.95 [The Regimental Quartermaster](#)
Cap Pouch \$16.95 [Crescent City Sutler](#)
Lace fan \$14.95 [The Blockade Runner](#)

Daguerreotype \$20-?? Prices for these vary widely on [ebay](#). Be patient and you should be able to get a good deal

Railroad Passes of the Civil War \$2.95 [Sullivan Press](#)

Soldier's Pocket Hymnal \$8.00 [Sullivan Press](#)

Industrial Revolution/ Immigration

Many of the items below can be found on ebay. Remember to limit your search to the antiques category. Also some sellers allow you to make an offer that is less than the listed price. I always let the seller know that I am a teacher and plan on using the item in my classroom. I don't know that it helps, but it can't hurt!

Miner's Lamp \$35-\$50 on [ebay](#)

Wooden spools \$10-\$20 on [ebay](#)

Railroad Spike \$5-10 on [ebay](#)

Railroad Police Badge \$15.95 [Crescent City Sutler](#)

Sears Catalog (Reproduction) 1890s-1920s \$10-\$25 Prices vary on [amazon](#) depending on year selected and shipping costs

Button Hook \$10-\$25 on [ebay](#) depending on the materials used. Buttonhooks were used at Ellis Island to flip up immigrants' eyelids to check for eye disease.

Hair Crimper \$10-20 on [ebay](#).

Flat Iron \$12-??? Depending on style on [ebay](#)

Blue glass canning jars with zinc lids \$ 5-20 on [ebay](#).

The [Tenement Museum](#) has some excellent primary source documents that you can download and print for free