

**Application of Ideas from the Geo-Politics Session
American Revolution and American Peoples Workshop
By Lynn Dole (1/23/02)**

I enjoyed the activity with the artifacts that we used to discuss interactions in the Atlantic world during our last class meeting. I was able to immediately put it to use in my sophomore World History course at Mohawk Trail Regional High School.

My class was studying the impact of “the meeting of three worlds: Europe, Africa and the Americas” following the voyages of Columbus. I had given my students a summarizing assignment the week before, in which they were to create a graphic summary of major changes that resulted from these interactions. Students focused on the Colombian Exchange, trade patterns, and population shifts. I was looking for a way to review what they had learned and to introduce concepts about trade interactions that influenced people in the Americas, Africa, and Europe.

In addition to the items we had used in our course, I added silver, spices, and tobacco. I had the students work in small groups like we had modeled in our course. It was interesting to see the connections that students made; for instance one group had the silver and wampum and they noted how both were used as currency. Another group chose to present their summary as “interpretive dance”. They depicted the growth of tobacco and its export and use.

This was a meaningful activity. The next day I had students write about two of the artifacts, describing the ways in which these items were used and how they involved interactions between people from different continents. Based on what students were able to write, this was a very valuable summarizing activity using hands-on materials. Thank you for giving me the idea and inspiration, and for letting me borrow some of the artifacts.