



DESCRIPTION AND SUGGESTED USES

This is a brass kettle from the Colonial Period in US History. It was used in the fur trade. We know this because of the “HBC” imprinted on the inside of the kettle near the attachment for the handle. “HBC” stands for “Hudson’s Bay Company” the organization that dominated the fur trade in North America from the 17th through the 19th century. See the background essay for the importance of brass kettles in international trade.

SUGGESTED USES

1. Combine this artifact with the “Beaver Capped Pipe” to have students place the items in the fur trade. It is recommended that you not give students the answer to what does “HBC” stand for. Allow them to use their on-line searching skills to solve that problem. The emblem is emblazoned on both items, but is a challenge to find. Allow the students to find the emblem on their own.
2. Combine this artifact with the “Brass Kettle” from the 19th century. Compare and contrast. What is different? What is the same? (There should be very little difference.) Why would such an object not change a great deal over 200 years?