PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY – American Decorative Arts

Think about the terms fashion and style. Fashion is a popular trend that is seen in style of dress, ornament, manners of behavior, etc. Style a distinctive appearance that is determined by the principles to which something is designed.

Think about fashion and style. Give one example of a fashion and style from long ago and an example from today.

Long Ago: ______________________________

Today: ________________________________________________________________________

While clothes from the 1700s reflect a certain style, they are not popular today. Below is a portrait of people wearing clothes from long ago. If someone was to wear those outfits today, how would people react? Write your reaction below.

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Furniture has its own fashions and styles too. Today, popular stores like Pottery Barn and IKEA sell furniture with clean, sleek lines. If someone liked modern furniture they might buy something from one of those stores, rather than an antique store. In the space below draw a picture of your ideal chair. Then, describe what features of your chair make it either fashionable today or in the past. What type of style does it reflect?

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