

Curiosity

Corner

Treasures from the
FCS Archives

Welcome to *Treasures from the FCS Archives*, a repository of resources for teachers and history enthusiasts! Every month, we are sharing photos, artifacts, documents and other treasures for you to review, discuss and discover. We encourage you to click the links, scan the photos and dig deeper into these treasures, all of which can be found in the Fulton County Schools Archives. Enjoy!

THE UNION LOOM: WEAVING TOGETHER SCIENCE AND HISTORY



The computer age owes its existence to the technology first used to make clothing, curtains and carpets. It might at first seem like a rather strange connection to make, but among the earliest goods to come from combining math, technology and tradition are textiles and the tools used to produce them.

This edition of *Curiosity Corner* features an [antique rug loom](#) manufactured by the Union Loom Company of New York and donated to the Teaching Museum by a former Fulton County Schools teacher.

Floor Loom
Union Loom Co.,
Boonville, NY
c. 1918-1940

On loan from
Joanna Gillespie,
Dahlonega, GA

Though the Union Loom was used primarily for domestic production, it represents a single point in the long [history of weaving technology](#)—an evolution which would transform economies, help industrialize much of the world, and serve as a building block for the technology of the digital age.

A look at the Union Loom also allows for a discussion about our local history: how a cottage industry in quilt and rug-making put a [region in North Georgia](#) on the world map.

Curiosity in the Classroom:

A Closer Look

Click on the image above for a higher resolution jpeg. Ask students to carefully and quietly study the image.

Ask students:

- What is this device?
- What do you see that makes you say that?
- What is it used to make?
- When would this device have been used and by whom?

After prompting student observations and curiosity, provide students a bit of [background](#) on this historic device, including this [video](#) of it in action. Now ask students to consider again:

- How old is this loom? Can you approximate its age?
- Who might have used this loom when it was first created? Who might use this loom today?
- What can this loom tell us about textile traditions over the last century?

Lesson Ideas & Links:

[Elementary School Connections](#)

[Related Primary Sources](#)

[Middle School Connections](#)

[Ask the Teaching Museum](#)

[High School Connections](#)

[Additional Online Resources](#)

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For more information and resources or to connect with staff at the *FCS Archives*, contact us at archives@fultonschools.org