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## Unit 4 Furniture Styles and Selection

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**Unit Overview:**

This unit covers the emergence and adaptation of furniture styles that are seen in the United States. It's a historical overview of how the styles and details and the factors that we should take into consideration for selection furniture for the home.

**Lesson 4-1: Day 1 Introduction to Furniture Styles**

**Objective(s):** Introduce students to furniture, and the various styles.

**Skills attained:** Recognize the differences in furniture styles, details.

**Topics:**

- Introduction to Furniture

**Procedure:**

- Review Unit 3 Test Results
- Introduce students to furniture

**Materials list:**

- None

**Motivation:**

Ask students about the pieces they have in various rooms of the home. Living room, family room, dining room, bedrooms. Make lists on the board. You will find some commonalities of course. Ask them why they think people seem to have the same furniture pieces. Then, ask a few of them to describe pieces of furniture, such as chairs, tables and sofas.

**Description:**

After the Unit 3 Test results review, begin a discussion on furniture. Tell the students that they will be exploring the history of furniture and the various styles.

**Assessment:** None

**Wrap-up Activity:**

Review with students some of the new things they have learned.

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### Lesson 4-2: Day 2 and Day 3 Furniture Terms

**Objective(s):** Students will become familiar with various terms associated with furniture.

**Skills attained:** Learn furniture terms

**Topics:**

- Furniture terms

**Procedure:**

- Use the board to list the furniture terms students to furniture

**Materials list:**

- Board
- CN4:1a-m
- Worksheet 4:1 "Furniture Selection Word Scramble"

**Motivation:**

Students need to be familiar with the furniture terms that are common in the industry if they are going to be able to communicate with other professionals.

**Description:**

This can be a very long session for students. Teaching the vocabulary can be very tedious for students, but it's necessary. There are a couple of ways to accomplish this. You can simply give the class a list of the words and have them write down the definitions. Or, you can break the class into groups, and have each group work on a list by category, and then pass the lists around.

**Assessment:** None

**Homework:**

Worksheet 4:1 "Furniture Selection Word Scramble"

### BASIC TRADITIONAL FURNITURE VOCABULARY

#### TABLES

**Butler's Tray** – Table with hinged sides that fold up. Cut-out sections from handles.

**Butterfly** – Small table with drop leaves that can be supported by wing brackets.

**Cocktail** – Low table for use in front of a sofa.

**Console** – Table made to be placed against a wall. Often made as an extension table. May have one top section that raises and rests against the wall.

**Corner** – Square or triangular table. Often used with sectional furniture.

**Dinette** – Small-scale dining table.

**Dressing** – Used as vanity or powder table.

**Drop Leaf** – Hinged section on table drop down when not in use.

**Drum** – Round or octagonal table with shelves, drawers or compartments.

**End** – Small table designed for use next to a chair or sofa.

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**Extension** – Dining table that can be enlarged by use of extra sections of leaves.

**Game** – Top of table has game board in inlaid or painted design.

**Gate Leg** – Has drop leaves that are supported by extra legs that are swung away from the base when the leaves are raised.

**Harvest** – Long, narrow table with drop leaves.

**Lazy Susan** – Table with raised platform that revolves.

**Library** – Long, narrow table sometimes used in back of a sofa.

**Nest of Tables** – Set of graduated tables made to form one unit.

**Night** – Small table used next to a bed.

**Pedestal** – Single turned center pedestal supports table, or pedestal may have tripod base. Extension tables often have two pedestals for firm support when extended.

**Step** – Originally made to reach high bookshelves. Adapted today, keeping the steps, as two or three-level end table.

**Table Chair** – Hinged top swings back so base can serve as a chair.

**Tea Wagon** – Table on wheels; often has one or more shelves below table top.

**Tiered** – Small table with two or more levels.

**Tilt-Top** – Table top is hinged so that it may stand in vertical position.

**Trestle** – Long rectangular top on two vertical supports. Informal.

### CHAIRS

**Bench** – Seat with no back; may or may not have arms.

**Barrel** – Chair with circular back; usually upholstered.

**Boston Rocker** – Characterized by wide, decorated top rail and curved seat. Often painted back with gilt design.

**Boudoir** – Small-scaled upholstered chair designed for use in bedroom.

**Captain** – Sturdy chair with rounded back, spindles, and shaped seat.

**Chaise Lounge** – An elongated chair designed for reclining.

**Club** – General term for a sturdy upholstered chair in simple lines and generous proportions.

**Cobbler's Bench** – an adaptation of the old cobbler's work table with a raised section at one end. May be used as a table or as a seat.

**Contour** – Chair shaped for comfort; may adjust to different positions.

**Eames** – Seat and back of molded plywood; named after noted contemporary designer Charles Eames. Eames recliner and ottoman, top surface upholstered in leather.

**Fan back** – Upholstered chair with rounded back.

**Hassock** – Heavily upholstered stool. May have removable top so it can be used for storage.

**Hitchcock** – American-type straight chair. Often painted and decorated with gilt stencil designs on top rail and crosswise splat.

**Ladder Back** – Chair with horizontal rails or slats forming the back.

**Lawson** – Sturdy upholstered chair in simple lines of English club furniture.

**Lounge** – Upholstered chair with deep seat.

**Occasional** – Small-scale chair usually used in living room.

**Ottoman** – Upholstered bench or seat with no arms or back – may be used as a footrest.

**Pull-up** – Similar to an occasional chair.

**Rocker** – Chair with curved runners at the base permitting the chair to tilt backward and forward. A platform rocker has a stationary base upon which the chair rocks back and forth.

**Scissors (Savonarola)** – Slats form the side arms and base in an X-shaped arrangement.

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**Settle** – All wood, often of Windsor design. In reality, a bench with arms, sometimes called a “Deacon’s bench”.

**Shell** – Side, back, and seat are molded from plastic or fiberglass.

**Side** – Small chair without arms.

**Stool** – Small seat with no arms or back. Usually mounted on legs.

**Swivel** – Chair with seat that revolves.

**Thonet** – Chair with bent-wood frame.

**Tub** – Chair with rounded back and sides.

**Tuxedo** – Upholstered. Arms are same height as back.

**Windsor** – May be side chair or arm chair. Various forms usually have bent-wood frames with spindles that form the backs. Seats are shaped; legs are attached directly to the bases of the seats and flare outwards.

**Wing** – Upholstered chair with high back-and-side sections.

### SOFAS AND SETTEES

**Camel Back** – Gracefully curved arch back.

**Lawson** – Sturdy upholstered club-type with square or key-shaped arms.

**Love Seat** – Small sofa designed for seating two people

**Playpen** – Modular upholstered seating units, sectionals for flexible group arrangement.

**Settee** – Lightweight sofa that may have open work back and arms. Seat may or may not be upholstered.

**Sectional** – Separate seating units designed to be used together to form a variety of arrangements.

**Tuxedo** – Sofa with slender proportions. Arms are same height as back.

### CABINETS AND STORAGE PIECES

**Apothecary Chest** – Chest with many small (or simulated) drawers adapted from early American druggists’ chests.

**Armoire** – Tall cupboard that may be used as a wardrobe or storage chest.

**Bachelor’s Chest** – Small-scale chest of drawers.

**Bookcase** – Any cabinet designed to hold books; may or may not have glass doors.

**Breakfront** – Tall unit that usually has glass-enclosed shelves on top of drawer cabinet below. Center section usually protrudes from side sections.

**Cassone** – Long, low chest with elaborate ornamentation.

**Cedar Chest** – Long, low chest made entirely of cedar or lined with cedar for storage of household items with protection against moth damage.

**Chest-on-Chest** – Cabinet designed to appear as one chest placed on top of another. May have drawer or cupboard sections.

**Cheval Mirror** – Mirror that swings between posts and is adjustable. Small versions often with drawers in base, are used on chests or tables.

**China Closet** – Cabinet designed for display of china or glasses. Usually has glass front and sides.

**Commode** – Low cabinet with drawers and compartments. May be used against a wall or as an end table.

**Corner** – Any cabinet designed with a triangular back so it can stand in a corner.

**Credenza** – Low cabinet with drawers or compartments. Designed to stand against a wall.

**Curio** – Cabinet with glass doors and sides to display various types of collections.

**Dresser** – Chest of drawers usually designed for use in a bedroom.

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**Highboy** – Tall chest that appears to be in two sections.

**Hutch** – A tall cupboard or sideboard that usually has open shelves on the top section and cabinets below.

**Lowboy** – Low chest or table with drawers.

**Room Divider** – Various types of shelves and cabinets designed to separate one area from another.

**Secretary** – Desk with drawers below, open or closed bookshelves above.

**Sideboard** – Long, low cabinet designed to be placed against a wall. May have drawers and compartments or a combination of both.

**Wall-Hung Units** – Shelves and cabinets fastened to a wall with brackets,

**Wardrobe** – Free-standing cabinet made for storage of clothes.

**What-Not** – Series of shelves designed for display of bric-a-brac. May stand on the wall or stand against a wall. Corner units often have graduated shelves.

### DESKS

**Flat-top** – Various desks having broad, flat surfaces.

**Kidney-shaped** – Desk with a curved top and curved drawer sections.

**Kneehole** – Any desk that has a flat top and drawer sections on one or both sides.

**Roll-top** – Desk with a flexible hood that can be drawn down over the writing surface and storage compartments.

**Secretary** – Desk with bookshelves above and storage compartments below. Writing surface is usually a drop-lid writing section and drawers in the base.

**Slant-top** – Similar to the lower section of a secretary, with a drop-lid writing section and drawers in the base.

**Tambour** – Desk with flexible-slat shutters or doors that can be drawn closed to hide the storage compartments. Usually has one or more drawers below the writing surface.

### BEDS

**Bunk** – Two beds in a framework in which one bed is directly above the other.

**Canopy** – A drapery or hood that decorates the head of the bed. It may be supported on posts or mounted on the wall or ceiling.

**Cot** – A small-scaled narrow bed.

**Four Poster** – Elongated corner posts at each corner of the bed.

**Hi-Riser** – A single couch with an under section that can be pulled out and raised to form an extra bed.

**Hollywood** – A mattress and box spring supported on four or six legs. May be used with or without a head board.

**Poster** – Has four tall posts, decoratively turned.

**Sleigh** - The headboard and footboard of the bed curve outwards to resemble an old fashioned sleigh.

**Sofa Bed (or Sleep Sofa)** – Various sofas that convert into beds. Some pull out from under the seat section, others allow for the back of the sofa to drop down (jackknife).

**Spool Bed** – Posts and spindles of headboard and footboard are turned in a spool design.

**Studio Couch** – A couch with loose pillows that rest against a wall. Some form single beds while others can be converted into double beds.

**Tester (Field Bed)** – A canopy or ruffled valance is supported on four posts to cover the top.

**Trundle** – Low bed on rollers which fits under a single bed.

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### TRADITIONAL DESIGN ELEMENTS

**Apron** – Structural support placed at right angles to underside of table or chair for decorative trim and to increase support.

**Broken Pediment** – A triangular top, from classical architecture, sometimes used on headboards, mirrors, tall chests or cabinets. Its sloping lines stop short of the peak, leaving a gap for an ornamental finial such as a turned knob or urn shape.

**Cabriole Leg** – Shape has a graceful “g” curve.

**Cornice** – A protecting molding used to give an architectural finish to the top edge of a chest, dresser or cabinet.

**Dental** – A small rectangular block. Used in a row projecting like teeth under a cornice. A classical Greek form of ornamentation.

**Fiddle back** – Chair or bed back whose splat resembles a violin.

**Fluting** – Vertical channels carved into columns as seen in ancient Greek architecture.

**Gallery** – Decorative railing around edge of table, shelf or tray.

**Grill** – Can be metal or wood, combined with glass for some cabinet doors.

**Louvers** – Fixed, shutter-like slats used for decorative door panels.

**Mullion** – Slender moldings dividing the panes of glass of doors.

**Ogee Bracket Foot** – Shaped like a bracket, with a double curve.

**Spoonfoot** – Supple flattish end of a cabriole or turned leg.

**Stenciling** – Pattern applied to furniture by painting over thin metal or heavy paper cut-outs.

**Stretcher** – Support connecting legs of any piece of furniture; frequently turned for decorative interest.

### FINISH

**Antiquing and/or Distressing** – Method of treating wood to lend an old appearance or “patina”. This may be done with chemicals, paint or stain. It adds a worn-away look to the color and reduces the brilliance of the surface. Specking adds a soft look instead of continuous color.

### CONSTRUCTION

**Butt Joints** – The simplest and weakest joint – not appropriate for furniture unless reinforced with corner blocks.

**Center Drawer Guide** – Channel under center of the drawer rides over a guide on the case frame to prevent jamming and insure smooth operation.

**Dovetail** – Joint made by flared tongues of wood that interlock with shaped pieces of wood to hold front and back dresser corners securely.

**Dowel** – round peg of wood that fits into corresponding hole to form a strong joint. Used originally instead of nails.

**Floating Construction** – Used for furniture made of solid woods; it permits top and side panels to expand or contract with changes of temperature and humidity, thus avoiding warping or cracking.

**Mortise and Tenon** – A tongue or projecting part of wood that fits into a corresponding rectangular hole or mortise (one of the most important joints in woodworking).

**Rabbet** – Joints have a groove cut out from the edge of one piece to receive the other member.

**Tongue and Groove** – Joints resemble mortise and tendon joints except that the tongue and groove extend the width of the boards.