
UNIT: Furniture**LESSON:** Quality Construction

COMPETENCIES:

1. Differentiate between hardwoods and softwoods and list characteristics of each.
 2. Identify the most common furniture joints.
 3. Explain the purpose of a wood finish.
 4. Identify and describe the two main types of springs.
 5. Evaluate the quality of a piece of furniture according to a quality checklist.
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OVERVIEW/SUMMARY:

Unlike many things in our world of "disposables", furniture is a large investment that is not routinely replaced. A knowledge of furniture construction, function, and durability before purchasing furniture ensure a better choice.

MOTIVATOR:

Cut pictures from catalogs of various qualities and types of furniture. Mount them on heavy paper and hang them at the front of the room. Write the various prices of the furniture on cards and distribute them to class members. The students are to try to match their price card to the correct piece of furniture. Discuss why the costs of furniture vary so greatly.

OPTIONS/SUPPLIES:**OPTION 1**

DISCUSSION OR TEXTBOOK READING: Have students complete the worksheet "FURNITURE CONSTRUCTION AND SELECTION" during the class discussion or in conjunction with a reading assignment.

OPTION 2

SLIDE PRESENTATION: "Furniture: A Buyer's Guide", Learning Seed, #184, \$89.00, 1-800-634-4941.

OPTION 3

EVALUATION: Have students review the information "QUALITY FURNITURE", then develop a checklist of qualities they will look for in furniture. They should then evaluate furniture according to the checklist.

OPTION 4

WORKSHEET: Have students complete the worksheet "FURNITURE JOINT MATCH".

OPTION 5

FIELD TRIP: Take students to a furniture store and have a salesperson (or yourself) demonstrate to students how to check furniture quality. If the store will permit, students could use their checklists to evaluate pieces of furniture in a range of prices.

OPTION 6

PROJECT: Have students complete a hands-on project of putting together and examining actual joints. "Wood Furniture Joint Set", Brywood Enterprises, P.O. Box 1190, Sulfur Springs, Texas 75483. 903-439-1081

OPTION 8

VIDEO PRESENTATION: Have students watch a video about furniture construction. An inexpensive option is "Pennsylvania House Answers Video—Furniture", \$9.95, Pennsylvania House Advertising Dept., 137 N. 10th St., Lewisburg, PA, 17837.

OPTION 9

GAME: Play "Win, Lose, or Draw" or "Pictionary" using the vocabulary words listed on the information sheet "FURNITURE TERMS".

RESOURCES:

Furniture Catalogs

Crate and Barrel, 1-800-323-5461

This End Up, 1-800-627-5161

Ethan Allen, 1-800-162-2971

Pottery Barn, 1-800-922-5507

Speigel, 1-800-345-4500
