

# Useful Artifacts

A presentation to teach students  
about household items that were commonly used  
in plantation homes.

Presented by the Alexander & Baldwin  
Sugar Museum Educational Program.



# What is an Artifact?

- Any object made by human work a long time ago





# Coconut Grater

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- Was used by the Filipinos to scrape out the meat of a coconut
- This work was done by sitting down on the seat of the grater



# Washboard

- An “old fashioned washing machine”
- A bar of laundry soap rested on the wooden ledge
- Clothes were scrubbed by hand





# Lantern

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- This type of lantern was used for lighting when there was no electricity
- Kerosene oil would be put in the base of the lantern and the wick was lit with a match to create a flame



# Chamber Pot

- This was kept in the bedroom under the bed for relieving yourself in the middle of the night
- Early plantation homes did not have indoor toilets. The toilet was outside in a building called an outhouse, which was far from the home





# Rice Pot

- Rice was cooked in this metal pot with a wooden lid
- The rice was cooked over a fire. The fire was made in a 10 gallon cooking oil can that supported the rice pot



# Milk Bottle (Large and Small Size)

- Milk was delivered to homes in glass bottles sealed with a cardboard cover. Children washed and collected these covers to play games
- The smaller milk bottle was what students had with their school lunch. It was sealed with an aluminum cover and the students punched a hole with a straw to drink it.





# Iron

- The iron was heated with charcoal
- The iron was opened and hot charcoal placed inside. This created heat that removed wrinkles from clothes



# Steamer

- Designed by the Japanese, it was used to steam treats like mochi and manju. Fish was also cooked this way
- The box was placed over a pot of boiling water, which created steam that would cook the items inside





# Soda Bottle

- Soda came in glass bottles that were sealed with metal caps
- The bottles were printed with the name of the company who made the beverage. On Maui, popular companies were “Star Ice” and “Maui Soda”



# Kau Kau Tin

- This two layered lunch pail was used to carry a meal, which was usually rice and dried fish or shrimp or leftovers. The tin was transported in a denim bag
- Workers took their lunch with them to the fields and shared with others during their break





# Do we use these artifacts today?

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- The artifacts in this presentation are still used today, and may or may not look different.
- Your teacher has a worksheet for you to complete. Can you match the artifacts to the items that we use today?

GOOD LUCK!!!

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