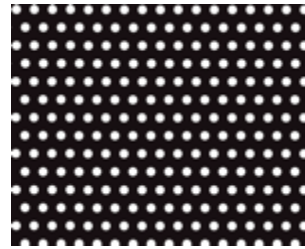# History Hunt with
Historic Northampton
(Everywhere Edition)

Our history is everywhere! It is in the clothes we wear, the food we eat, and the games we play. Take a look around your house and see if you can find these connections to history in your home, then turn to the next page to read more about each object.

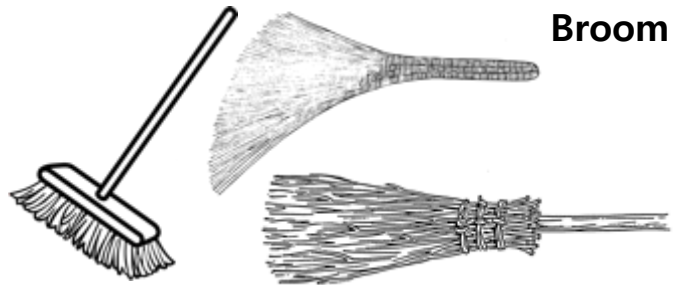**A Stuffed Bear**

Polka Dots

Something that is ultramarine blue

What color is ultramarine blue? Hint: think about Grover, or Daniel Tiger's pajamas.
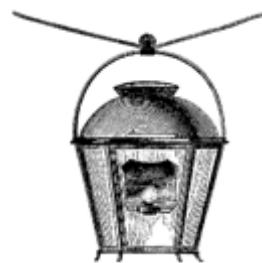
Broom

One of these words in print:

- **Skim milk**
- **Hurry**
- **Eyeball**
- **Alligator**
- **Bedroom**

Extra challenge: find them all!

Lamp Shade

All done but still want more? Make your own scavenger hunt of things that you find in your house and see if your family can solve it! Share your hunts at @HistoricNorthampton on Facebook, @historic.northampton on Instagram and @northamphistory on Twitter. We'd love to see what you create!

For more activities, check out:
www.historicnorthampton.org

HISTORIC NORTHAMPTON

A Stuffed Bear

Teddy bears are named after Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, who was the US president in the early 1900s. While on a hunting trip out west, he refused to shoot a bear that was tied to a tree. A cartoonist drew a picture of Roosevelt and the bear, and that picture inspired a Brooklyn couple Rose and Morris Mitchom to create the "Teddy's Bear" toy. The toy caught on and a trend was born.

Polka Dots

Fabrics with dots have been around for a long time, but the term "polka dots" comes from a dance that was wildly popular in the 1840s-60s: the polka. It is not totally clear how the dance became the dot, but there was a lot of clothing specially made for people who loved the dance.

Do you know anyone who knows the polka? If not, it's a great time to learn!

Something that is ultramarine blue

When Ultramarine blue paint was first created in the 1300s, it was one of the most expensive paints in the world because it was made from a gemstone: lapis lazuli. It was so precious that some artists would only use it for the last coat on blue sections in paintings. The color was chemically recreated in the 1820s. Once that happened, the paint was affordable and artists used it more frequently.

Broom

Did you know that one of the biggest advances in broom technology happened in Hadley? In 1797, farmer Levi Dickinson used a special type of corn plant to make a broom for his wife. It worked better than many previous versions, and soon his business was booming. By the mid-1800s, "broomcorn" was planted in Northampton and the Valley and sold around the world. (Unlike popcorn or sweet corn, you can't easily eat the kernels of broom corn).

One of these words

All of these words have one very important thing in common: they were first used by one of the most famous playwrights of all time: William Shakespeare. Shakespeare invented hundreds of new words, many of which we still use today!

Know something that should have a name but doesn't? Try to invent your own word for it!

Lamp Shade

Your lamp shade might be something you don't think about very often, but they were really important for keeping people safe. When Paris put up gas streetlights in the 1700s, they were topped with a curved reflective shade that reflected light onto the street where people were walking at night. This shade was called the réverbère, is pictured on the front of this sheet.

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