

History Standards: Students understand political, religious, social, and economic institutions that evolved in the colonial era.
Analysis skills: Historical interpretation
Language Arts Standards: Reading comprehension; literary response and analysis; writing applications

Name _____
Date _____

Using Primary Sources
Portrait of Mrs. James Smith (Elizabeth Murray)
1769
Courtesy, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Colonial portraits captured special moments in a few people's lives. However, there were not many artists with the talent to paint people's likenesses well. Some people had silhouettes made of themselves. But a real portrait was much rarer and much more expensive. Elizabeth Murray had her portrait painted at age 43 by a famous colonial artist, John Singleton Copley, on the eve of her departure for England following her husband James's death. She wanted to leave her family a special remembrance of her.

To find out more about what Elizabeth's portrait could reveal about her and the colonial times, click on various parts of her portrait. What conclusions can you draw about the way some people lived during pre-Revolutionary times?

Turban: _____
(hair decorations)

Hair: _____
(hair styles)

Eyes: _____
(eyeglasses)

Cheek: _____
(make-up)

Dress: _____

Fruit: _____

Hand: _____
(jewelry)