



### Segment 10 (Units 17–20)

#### *Decorate with crafts*

**Genre:** Home decorating program

*Viewing Time: 2:17*

#### **Background Information**

Home decorating (or lifestyle) programs are increasingly popular on English-language television in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. These programs usually show “before and after” footage of a home that has been redecorated by professional designers, often with limited time and funds. The program may also show viewers how to apply these design ideas to decorating their own homes. Some home decorating programs, like this one, also include some historical background about particular kinds or styles of home decorations.

#### **Vocabulary for Comprehension**

*Preview the vocabulary with your students.*

architecture: *the style and design of a building or buildings*

authentic: *done or made in a traditional way*

colonial: *relating to the control of countries by a more powerful distant country*

crumble: *to break apart into small pieces*

den: *a room in a house where people relax, read, watch television, etc.*

mold: *a hollow container that you pour liquid into, so that when the liquid becomes solid, it takes the shape of the container*

ore: *rock or earth from which metal can be obtained*

pottery: *objects made out of clay*

seek: *to try to find or get something*

#### **Answer Key**

*Previewing* (Answers may vary—as long as they are appropriate guesses, accept them for now.)

1. It's (Oaxaca) Mexico.
2. Pottery, silver jewelry, rugs (weavings)
3. There are many kinds of traditional crafts in Mexico.
4. It's teaching a respect for traditional arts / promoting travel to Mexico.

#### *In-Depth Viewing*

1. F—It's south of Mexico City.
2. T
3. T
4. F—It is possible to visit their workshops and home.
5. F—Crafts from Oaxaca are affordable.



### Video Script

**Narrator:** You know, if folk art is really your first choice for the den or family room, as it was in our designer show house, you might consider going on a travel tour offered through the Folk Art and Craft Exchange.

For instance, our crew traveled to Oaxaca, Mexico, last month in search of authentic Mexican folk art—just look at all the wonderful items for sale in the local marketplace!

This ancient city, five hours south of Mexico City, is rich in colonial architecture as well as native crafts and culture, and is very popular with tourists.

In fact, for many home designers and collectors, Oaxaca is synonymous with Mexican folk art and crafts, such as rug-making, pottery, and silver work. During our stay, we paid a visit to a local jewelry company to see how those beautiful silver pieces take shape.

For hundreds of years valuable ore has been pulled from the local silver mines and craftspeople mold it into art. These artists make it look easy, but creating anything from silver is not a simple task.

Silversmiths here still use a centuries-old process called “lost wax.” Every silver piece is first created out of wax. The wax model is then used to create a plaster mold. The extreme heat causes the wax to melt away, or—as the name says—it’s lost.

Finally, the plaster is filled with hot liquid silver. Once the silver has set and cooled, the plaster is dipped in water—and just like magic, it crumbles away. The design left behind is rough, but solid silver. Over and over the pieces are polished both by machine and by hand. The finished products have a shine that reflects the light—and the craftspeople’s respect for tradition.

Collectors seeking traditional crafts can visit the homes and workshops of craftspeople throughout Oaxaca to admire and purchase not just silver, but rugs, pottery, and wooden figures.

And because you can purchase many of these handmade items at very affordable prices, your decorating budget will go far.