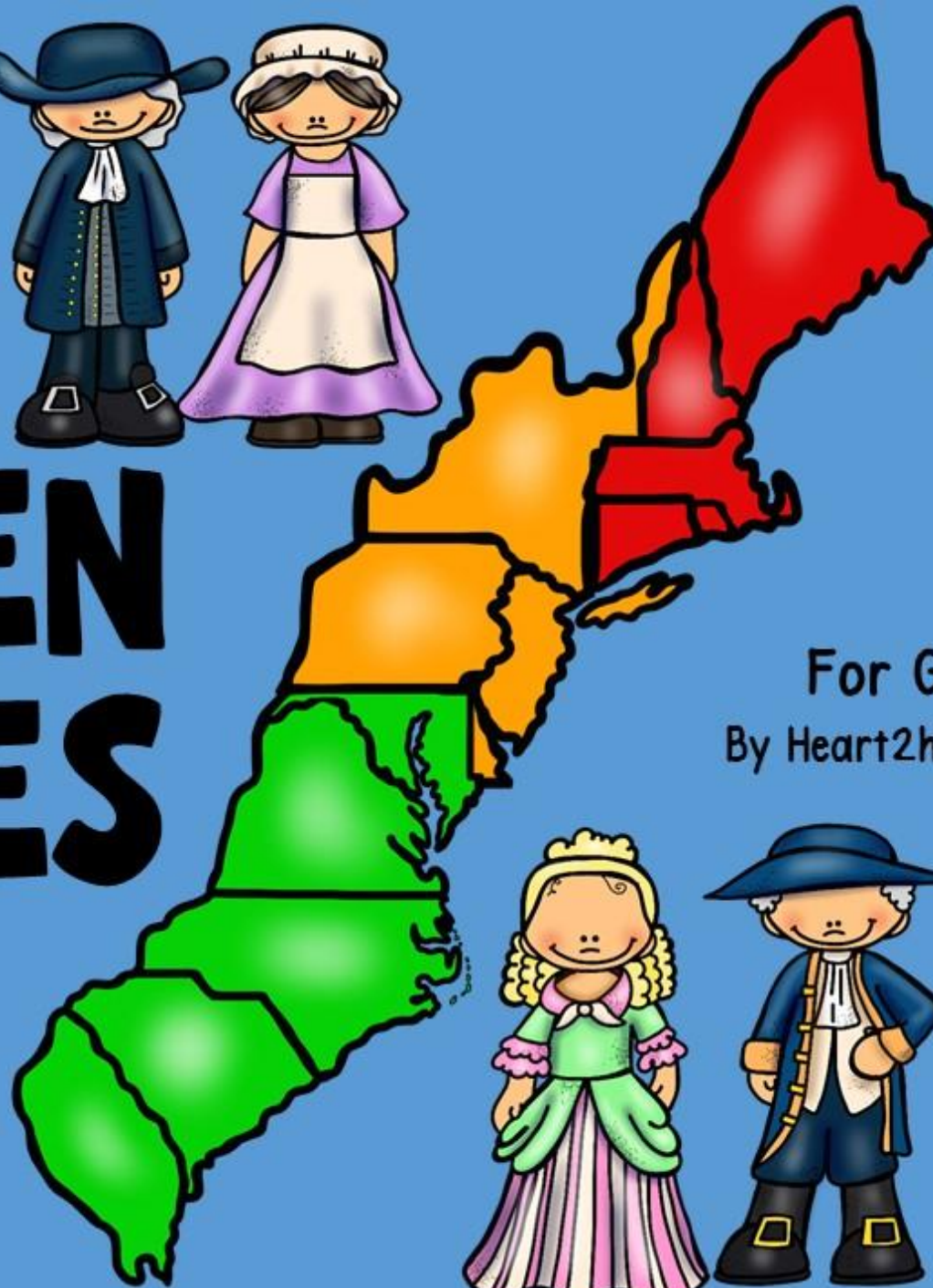


# THE THIRTEEN COLONIES



For Grades 3-5  
By Heart2heartteaching.com





# Basket-makers

Baskets were very useful for the colonists! Baskets came in lots of different sizes and shapes depending on their use.

Large baskets were used to carry and store fruits and vegetables from the garden.

Medium-sized baskets were used for gathering eggs and filled with bread to pass around the dinner table.

Small baskets were woven tightly for holding sewing pins and other tiny items. Baskets were made from wood and any other materials they could find.





# Basket-makers

The first step in basket-making was finding a young tree, or sapling that was perfectly straight. Using an axe, basket-makers would strip the tree into long thin strips of wood called splints. Next, the wood was soaked in water to make it easier to bend. A mallet pounded the splints to flatten them.





# Basket-makers

The basket-maker then started weaving at the bottom and worked her way up the sides. Weaving needed to be just the right tightness to hold the shape and give the basket support. When the sides were raised, she finished the top off with a rim and handle to hold it firmly together.





# Shoemakers

When the colonists left England to come to the New World, they were only allowed to bring four pairs of shoes with them. With the rough terrain and harsh weather, it wasn't long before new shoes were needed. Shoes were made from heavy leather on the top and bottom. There were overlapping straps to fasten them.

Oddly, there was no right or left shoe, instead they could be worn on either foot. To make the shoes last longer, people rotated wearing them on both feet.





# Shoemakers

The first shoemakers in the colonies traveled from house to house making and repairing shoes. It wasn't long before shoemakers set up shops throughout the New England area. For custom made shoes, models of a person's feet were made out of wood and kept on hand for future orders. Large plantations had their own personal shoemaker to make shoes for the entire family.





# Shoemakers

Buying a new pair of shoes was very expensive during colonial times. Instead, many people learned from the Native Americans how to make moccasins because they were easy to sew and shape for each foot.





# Tailors

The word "tailor" means the art of cutting. A tailor's art is a piece of fabric that he measures, cuts, and sews to fit someone perfectly.

During colonial times, tailors made clothes for both men and women. He specialized in making long coats and breeches, or knee-length pants, for men. Tailors made most of their money from these long coats and cloaks. Tailors were mostly men even though women sewed many items.





# Tailors

Tailors also made the bony body supports called stays, or corsets. It was made from the bony part taken from the roof of a whale's mouth. Young girls and women wore corsets as part of their dresses. It helped them stand up straight with good posture. It was believed that wearing a corset opened up the rib cage for proper breathing which helped to keep them healthy.





# Blacksmiths

The blacksmith was one of the most important tradesmen in the colony. Blacksmiths were greatly needed for their specialized skills. Many blacksmiths started as indentured servants. As a young boy, he would work for a master blacksmith for a certain number of years in exchange for training and a place to live.







# Blacksmiths



Some boys attended school in the afternoons to learn reading, writing, and math. At the end of the training period, usually four to five years, he graduated to a journeyman.

As a journeyman, he was free to charge for his services and live wherever he pleased. He had to create a "masterpiece" before he could officially become a master blacksmith.





# Blacksmiths



Horseshoes were one of the most needed items made and repaired by the town blacksmith. He used a brick hearth, or forge, to make and fix all sorts of iron items such as tools, axe heads, hammers, and nails. They forged heated bars of iron to yellow hot. The blacksmith used sledges to hammer the heated bars into various shapes.



# Blacksmiths

From steel, he made many tools for farmers including nails, plows, shovels, and axes. Blacksmiths also made common household items such as latches and hooks for doors, kettles, sewing tools, and silverware. During the Revolutionary War, they made many of the weapons, such as cannons and guns.







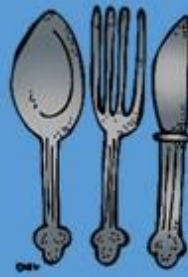
# Silversmiths



Silver was mostly imported from England during the colonial times. It was a luxury to have silver then as most people could not afford it. Each town had their own silversmith to make smaller household items such as shoe buckles, spoons, and buttons. They also repaired silver items for wealthy families.







# Silversmiths



Like a blacksmith, a silversmith heated the silver using a forge. Then, he would pour the hot liquid silver into a cast iron mold to shape it. A silversmith used small hammers and an anvil to pound out the silver. Solder was used to join pieces together. Some pieces were engraved which took a very steady hand. Finally, a pumice stone was used to polish the silver pieces so they sparkled.





# Silversmiths

Paul Revere was a silversmith. He started his apprenticeship under his father who was a goldsmith and silversmith. His father died when he was just 19 years old, so Paul took over running the family silversmith shop. He trained a large number of apprentices and journeymen in his shop, including his own son. During the American Revolution, Paul Revere became active in government so his son took over the family business.





# Printers

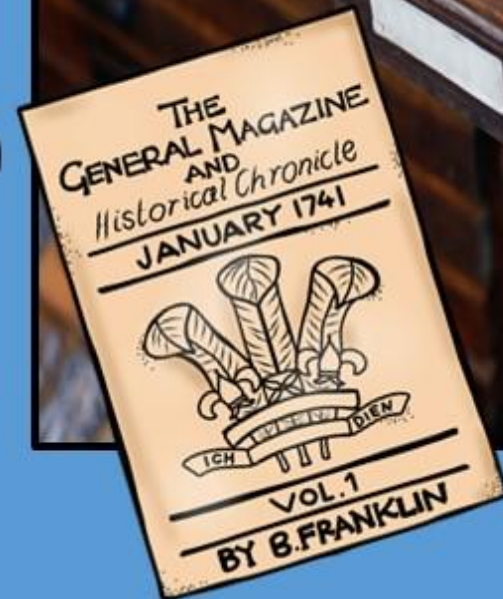
Printers provided the colonists with important news. Many printers started their apprenticeship as a young boy. They lived with a master printer to learn his trade for ten years. During his training he would learn how to work a printing press. Blocks contained one letter of the alphabet.





# Printers

So, each letter of all the words on a page had to be positioned in just the right spot and set in backwards. That way when the page was pressed it came out printed correctly. The block letters were then dabbed with black ink. Next, a sheet of paper was placed on top of the letters. Finally, it was pressed down by hand. When the page was lifted, it revealed the articles for readers. It took up to 25 hours to print one newspaper sheet during that time.





# Town Criers

Town criers brought the news to the colonists doorsteps like a live newscast long before newspapers and printed materials were created. Sometimes they were a husband and wife team, with the wife ringing the bell and the husband shooting out the news of the day.

They had to be able to read the official statements written in fancy cursive. Town criers were protected under the law. You may have heard the saying, "Don't shoot the messenger!" which came about from this important trade during the colonial times.





# Coopers

Coopers, or barrel-makers, were very important during the colonial times. Barrels were used to store everything and anything you can think of during the colonial times including salted meats, grains, tobacco, flour, and gunpowder. These containers were created by coopers and made from wood. It took an apprentice years to learn how to make all the different sized and shaped barrels to perfection.





# Wigmakers

Wigs were popular with the successful businessmen in the colonies. Wearing a wig showed others that you were wealthy. A wigmaker made wigs from horse, goat, or human hair. Mostly upper class men wore wigs weaved into the latest fashions. Some women wore wigs, but most had their own hair styled with flowers or bows.





# Cabinetmakers

Cabinetmakers made more than just cabinets. They became masters at creating all kinds of furniture including tables, chairs, and desks.

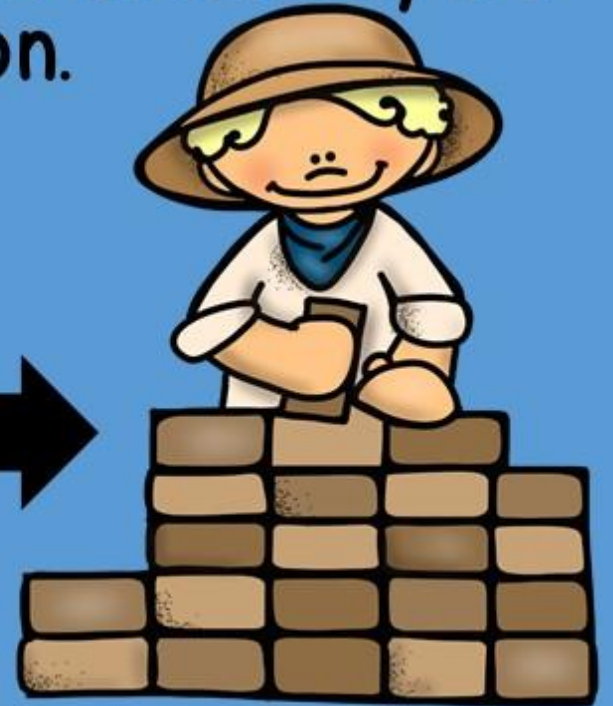
People living in the colonies needed all kinds of furniture, so cabinetmakers were in great demand. After their apprenticeship was completed they made a good living.





# Brick-makers

Brick-makers dug the clay from the wet ground. Then they shaped it into a rectangular shape. When it dried out it was placed in a bed of sand to completely dry which took several weeks. Bricks were then baked, or fired, in a hot kiln for days. Many brick-makers moved to the area where the brick buyers lived to make the bricks on location.





# Merchants



Merchants were the businessmen who bought and sold goods in the market towns. They arranged the buying and selling of goods between overseas suppliers and the local farmers and shopkeepers in the colonies.



Merchants played an important role in the colonies because without them, there was no one to supply the colonists with all the supplies they needed.





# Technology in the Colonies

The plow was first invented thousands of years ago during ancient times. But during colonial times, the plow was greatly improved by adding an iron shovel on the end. This "shovel plow" dug a shallow furrow, or trench, in the ground. These walking plows were small enough to be pulled by just one animal, usually an ox. Horses and mules were sometimes used also. Using the plow helped farmers produce more crops and it was a lot easier than doing it all by hand.





# Technology in the Colonies

New England colonists became expert shipbuilders. With thick forests and trees all around, they quickly learned how to process the lumber in sawmills for building houses and ships



It wasn't long before shipbuilders began building a new large vessel each year. Ships were needed for fishing and whaling. The most important shipyards were in big cities that sat right on the water, like Boston.