

## Sample A

John Smith was a cooper. One day he stopped making staves to get a drink of water. He looked and he saw a new family in town.

“I wonder how I can help the new family?” John said. “I know! They probably need barrels to store their things!”

John went to the blacksmith to get some iron rings so he could make different size barrels. John went back to his workshop to use his tools to make the staves to make different sizes of barrels. He used a plane, broadax, and drawknife to make the staves so they would be tight. To curve the wood to make a barrel shape, the wood needs to be heated over a cresset. Coopers are very careful about their work so that the barrels fit together. John made a small barrel to give to the new family. He also decided to make a bucket so they could carry water. Using the same kind of wooden staves and iron rings he made the bucket too.

When the barrels and bucket were finished, John went to find the new family. He walked across the village square to find them. He found the father and said, “Hi, I’m John Smith, the cooper.” “My name is Thomas, and this is my son Benjamin. My wife and daughter went to find some water.” John and Thomas shook hands, and John invited him to come over to his workshop and told him that he had something for his family to welcome them to the town. Now they were friends.

## Sample B

The shoemaker named William was sitting in his house working on making his neighbor a pair of shoes. He looked out the door and noticed a family walking by. He didn't recognize them and thought he would go outside to find out if they were new to the village. He went outside "Good day! I am William the shoemaker, he said."

The family stopped and said hi to William. The father's name was Joseph and the mother was Abigail. There were two children, a girl who was little and a boy who was a teenager. William asked them if they wanted to come in and have some water. He noticed that the little girl's shoes were falling apart, and asked if he could fix them. Joseph said that they didn't have any money, but William said he would like to fix them to welcome them to town. William took out his tools and repaired the little girl's shoes, sewing them back together.

William asked the father what his trade was. He said he worked with a wigmaker and was in charge of barbering and shaving the customers. "Is there a wigmaker here?" Joseph asked. "Next to the tavern," William said. Thomas told William that he was hoping to find work and a place to build a house.

## Sample C

Colonial ladies got their clothes from a milliner. Milliners were in charge of making dresses and getting things from London for the rich ladies. "I like my job," said the Milliner. They were usually women who were good with business and advertised a lot that they had fancy things in their shop. Only rich people could shop there. Poor families had to sew their own clothes.

## Sample D

Mr. Johnson was the carpenter. He was working on putting a roof on a small house he was building. He noticed a family walking across the square. He had not seen them before. He thought they must be new to the town. He climbed down off the roof to meet them. "I'm John Johnson, the carpenter." The father introduced everyone. His name was Henry. His wife was Mary. They had two children, Elizabeth and Samuel.

"Are you going to need someone to build you a house?" John said. "Yes, I was planning on building it myself, but could use some help." Henry said. "Get the wood from the sawyer. I can help you get it started" John said. Henry said thank you, and asked John if he had any family. John said he had a boy about his son's age and asked the family if they would like to eat dinner with them. After that, they were friends.

## Sample E

I was working on putting the letters in place in the printing press for the newspaper when a man walked into my shop.

“Hello, I’m looking for the town printer” he said.

I told him I was the printer. My name was William. He asked what I was working on. I showed him the newspaper I was printing for tomorrow, and asked him if he was new to the town.

“My name is Earl and we just came here from Jamestown.”

I welcomed him. I said if there was anything I could do to help?

He said that he was looking for a place for his son to become an apprentice, and thought he might be good at printing. He asked if I wanted his 12 year old boy to be my apprentice. I asked Earl if his son could read. It would be nice if he could be a compositor someday.

“Yes, I taught him myself” he said.

I explained that printing is hard work and that sometimes I worked 14 hours to get the newspaper ready for morning. I asked him if Thomas was strong. Because needed a strong pressman. Earl said yes.

## Sample F

At the apothecary, Francis gave people medicine, spices, toothpaste and some food. Apothecaries also sometimes did surgery and were like doctors. People would come to them with illness and they would give them medicine to make them well. Sometimes medicines were made of flowers and other plants.

Francis was grinding spices, and a family walked in to his shop. There were four people two adults and two children. Francis said hello and asked if he could help them. They said they were just looking around. Francis hadn't seen them before. He noticed that the little girl had a cough and asked if he could take a look at her. He asked the little girl to open her mouth so he could see her throat. He told the father he could give her some medicine to help her cough. The family was happy.

## Sample G

Colonial basketmakers used white oak trees to make baskets. They had to cut the tree into flexible weaving splits. The wood had to be thin to make baskets. Basketmakers weave the wood into baskets.

Henry was cutting white oak into strips to make a basket. His daughter was weaving a basket by him. A family walked over and said "Hi." Henry wanted to know if they were new to the town. They said they were. Henry asked them if they had a place to live yet. They were moving into a house. Henry knew where the house was.

The next day Henry thought he would make a basket for the new family. His daughter watched so she could learn how to make baskets too. He used an ax, a wedge, a pocket knife and the splits to make the basket. He gave it to them at the end of the day.

## Sample H

The blacksmith was the person who made things out of iron or steel. Colonists needed lots of tools made out of metal. The blacksmith needed to heat up the metal in a forge. They it would be soft enough to pound into different shapes. Blacksmiths used a forge, anvil, hammer and other tools.

The blacksmith was in his shop with his journeyman and apprentices. He was using the bellows to make the fire hotter. He saw a family walk by and wondered if they were new to the town. He thought he would give them a tool for their house. After he did, they were friends.

## Sample I

Brickmakers were important in colonial times because lots of things were made from brick. Slaves and laborers made bricks. It was a hard job. When rich people made houses, they would make their slaves make the bricks instead of buying them. Sometimes a brickmaker was in charge of ordering the people around so they could make bricks. David Minitree was the brickmaker. He had people molding clay into bricks and then putting them in the kiln to make the bricks hard. He was making bricks for his boss and a new family came to town. He asked them if they wanted to learn how to make bricks. They could make bricks for their own house if they wanted. "Sure," the new people said. David helped them.

## Sample J

Peter was a cabinetmaker. Cabinetmakers made cabinets and made furniture. There were not many cabinetmakers in the colonies because only really rich people could buy nice furniture. Being a cabinetmaker took a lot of skill. Furniture was mostly plain but rich people wanted fancy furniture. Like special legs and carved places.

Peter had to work close to the window because there were no lights in his shop. They had to use the sun to see their work. A family came in the shop and said they were moving to the town and wanted furniture. Peter showed them what he could make. They said they would need a table and some chairs. Once they found a place to live they said they would come back and buy them.

“Good,” Peter said. “Come back soon.”

Peter had a good day. He was proud of his beautiful furniture.