

Many Colonial Lives

Read how work, freedom, and community shaped daily life.

SS3H3.c "Describe colonial life in America from the perspectives of various people: large landowners, farmers, artisans, women, children, indentured servants, slaves, and American Indians."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about each group, then write the numbers 1 through 8 beside the eight group names as you find them.

Life in the Colonies

- ① In the colonies, life depended on a person's work, wealth, and freedom. Some large landowners owned wide farms or plantations and directed workers. Many farmers worked their own smaller plots, planting crops and caring for animals. Artisans, such as blacksmiths and carpenters, made and repaired useful goods. Their shops served neighbors and sometimes trained apprentices.
- ② Many women kept households running by cooking, sewing, preserving food, and caring for children. Some also helped on farms, managed businesses, or made goods to sell. Children had chores and often learned skills from adults. Indentured servants agreed to work for a set number of years in exchange for passage to America, food, and shelter. Enslaved people were forced to work without freedom, and families could be separated.
- ③ American Indian nations had lived on this land for generations before colonists arrived. They farmed, hunted, fished, traded, and cared for their communities in different ways. Some traded with colonists, while others fought to protect their homes and lands. Colonists brought changes, including new trade goods, wars, and diseases. Looking at each group shows that colonial life was not the same for everyone.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the work of large landowners differ from the work of many farmers?

2 What did artisans do, and name one way women contributed to colonial life.

3 What was one important difference between indentured servants and enslaved people?

4 What did some American Indian nations do when colonists arrived, and what changes did colonists bring?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence scene about one day in colonial America. Each sentence must name a different group from the passage and show that group's work or challenge.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about each group, then write the numbers 1 through 8 beside the eight group names as you find them. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the work of large landowners differ from the work of many farmers?	Large landowners directed workers on wide farms or plantations. Many farmers worked their own smaller plots and cared for crops and animals.
2	What did artisans do, and name one way women contributed to colonial life.	Artisans made and repaired useful goods for neighbors. Women cooked, sewed, preserved food, cared for children, helped on farms, managed businesses, or made goods to sell.
3	What was one important difference between indentured servants and enslaved people?	Indentured servants agreed to work for a set number of years in exchange for passage, food, and shelter. Enslaved people were forced to work without freedom.
4	What did some American Indian nations do when colonists arrived, and what changes did colonists bring?	Some American Indian nations traded with colonists, while others fought to protect their homes and lands. Colonists brought new trade goods, wars, and diseases.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A child carries water after finishing a chore at home. An artisan repairs a neighbor's metal tool in a shop. An indentured servant works during the years promised in an agreement. An American Indian family trades goods but worries about wars near its land.

Accept accurate paraphrases supported by the passage. For the indentured servant and enslaved people question, answers must distinguish an agreed, limited term of service from forced labor without freedom.