

Trading in Virginia

Read how colonists exchanged goods and services.

VS.4.f "describing ways people exchanged goods and services in colonial Virginia."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each bold exchange-method label, and write the shown category number beside it: 1 for barter, 2 for tobacco as money, 3 for coins or paper money, and 4 for credit. Mark only the bold labels so you can compare the ways colonists exchanged goods and services.

Ways to Get What You Need

- ① In colonial Virginia, families needed food, cloth, tools, and help with work. They did not always use coins to get these things. In **barter**, two people traded goods or services directly. A farmer might give corn to a blacksmith. In return, the blacksmith could repair the farmer's hoe. No money changed hands during the trade.
- ② Tobacco was Virginia's main cash crop. Because many people wanted it, colonists sometimes used **tobacco as money**. A worker might receive tobacco for building a fence, then use that tobacco to get cloth from a shopkeeper. This was not barter. Tobacco had a value that could pay for goods or services in many places.
- ③ Colonists also used **coins** and **paper money** when they could get them. A person who lacked money might buy supplies on **credit**. The storekeeper wrote down the purchase, and the customer promised to pay later, often after selling a crop. These choices helped people exchange what they had for what they needed in their communities.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What did the farmer give, and what service did the blacksmith provide in the barter example?

2 Why was tobacco used as money instead of as part of a barter trade?

3 Name the two other forms of money named in the passage.

4 What did a customer promise to do when buying supplies on credit?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

YOUR TURN: Invent a colonial Virginia exchange for a service. Write 3 sentences that tell what work was done, what payment was given, and which exchange method was used.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each bold exchange-method label, and write the shown category number beside it: 1 for barter, 2 for tobacco as money, 3 for coins or paper money, and 4 for credit. Mark only the bold labels so you can compare the ways colonists exchanged goods and services. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did the farmer give, and what service did the blacksmith provide in the barter example?	The farmer gave corn, and the blacksmith repaired the farmer's hoe.
2	Why was tobacco used as money instead of as part of a barter trade?	Tobacco had a value that could pay for goods or services, rather than being traded directly for one specific good or service.
3	Name the two other forms of money named in the passage.	Coins and paper money.
4	What did a customer promise to do when buying supplies on credit?	The customer promised to pay later, often after selling a crop.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Samuel repairs a wagon wheel for a neighbor. The neighbor gives Samuel a bundle of tobacco as payment. They use tobacco as money to exchange a service.

Accept accurate, plausible exchanges that clearly include a service, a payment, and a correctly named method from the passage. For Your Turn, accept barter, tobacco as money, coins, paper money, or credit when the description matches the method.