

Bartering in Jamestown

Standards of Learning

Social Studies: VS.3, VS.4

Objective

Students will:

- Identify occupations, as well as goods and services found in Jamestown
- Participate in a bartering exercise

Materials

- Job descriptions (found at bottom of lesson)
- Construction paper
- Markers/crayons

Background Knowledge

The objective of this lesson is to teach students about the settlers' occupations and the use of bartering in Jamestown. Students will be assigned occupations, create an advertisement for their goods, or services, and barter with classmates to obtain identified supplies.

This lesson can be easily adapted to teach about trade in Mali.

Procedure

1. Brainstorm with the class what you (or the settlers) would need to bring to Jamestown in order to be successful. Focus on what occupations and skills would be needed. Discuss money, barter, and trade and write the definitions on the board.
2. Hand out the list of occupations and review it as a class. Discuss what each occupation could contribute to the colony (goods or services).
3. Assign each student an occupation. Have the students brainstorm goods or services they could use to barter and trade in the economy.
4. Have each student make an advertisement with a picture and paragraph describing his or her goods or services.
5. Develop a list of supplies each student would need for his or her home in Jamestown as well as for their occupation. Allow the class 10-15 minutes to barter and trade with each other to obtain these items. Have students record their purchases and sales to see what they have or still need.
6. After the bartering exercise, discuss the trading process as a class.
 - a. What occupations had an easy time trading? Which had a difficult time?
 - b. Did everyone get everything they needed? Why or why not?
 - c. What would have made it easier to get all the things they needed?
 - d. How would this activity have been different if you were using money?

Extension

Compare different forms of money used throughout American history. Examples: tobacco, notes, wampum, dollars

References

www.historyisfun.org

www.vcdh.virginia.edu/teaching/jamestown/jobs.html



Job Descriptions

Councilor – person chosen by the king to advise and assist in governing the colony

Preacher – person responsible for the spiritual health of the colony; conducted services and performed religious rites for the settlers

Carpenter – craftsman who made supplies out of wood, including furniture, tools, farm implements, wagons, and houses; also took care of the wooden hulls of ships and repaired damage

Blacksmith – craftsman who made iron tools for farming and building

Barber – trimmed beards and cut hair; also assisted with surgeries and dental operations

Bricklayer – craftsman who made and arranged bricks for buildings

Mason – builder and worker in stone; cut stone to fit buildings

Tailor – made garments from cloth and leather

Laborers – worked to grow whatever their gentleman masters wanted, generally corn or tobacco; built houses and performed other essential tasks

Fueller – supplied wood for fires, the major source of light, heat, cooking, etc.

