



Teaching with Historic Places Lesson Plan

Shoe Making

School: Veterans Memorial School
Subject: Social Studies

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Grade: Elementary

Introduction:

This hands-on activity would be an excellent follow-up lesson after a visit to the Lynn Heritage State Park (which has a large focus on the shoe industry), but can be used to emphasize the skills needed by people and the difficulty of obtaining objects during the colonial period.

This lesson is intended to be one small part of a complete unit, that focuses on the local and regional historic sites, their purpose and significance and relevance to the colonial period of our country's history and how the study of these sites can tell us how the people lived during that time. This lesson assumes that students have some prior knowledge of the simplicity and difficulties of colonial life.



A shoemaking exhibit at the Lynn Heritage State Park.

Objectives:

- Students will have an understanding of colonial life and be able to identify and discuss the difficulties and differences of this era as compared to their lives.

Materials:

For the budget conscious:

- Brown paper grocery bags (each bag will yield 10 single sole pieces for an adult size foot)
- Cotton muslin cloth (1 yard of 54" wide yields lots of uppers)
- Hole punch (smaller than standard size)
- Some type of heavy cotton thread
- Plastic sewing needles



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- Some paper toweling.

For the luckier soles (pun intended):

- Suede or leather of different weights
- Different weight / color fabrics and/or glove weight leather
- A leather punch

Options:

The basic sole pattern found with this plan may be used or the students' feet can be traced.

A small shoe (for decorative purposes), can be made (reduce the pattern).

One pair of leather / fabric wearable shoes per student would be ideal (but most of us live in the real world).

Procedure:

1. Trace sole pattern onto material being used. 3 or 4 layers of paper or thin leather per sole are needed for strength and durability. If using thicker leather only 2 layers may be needed.
2. Cut out sole(s).
3. Glue soles together and let dry.
4. Trace upper part of shoe onto material (fabric / leather) being used.
5. Cut out upper(s).
6. Punch holes in soles $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edge and $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart, and punch holes in uppers $\frac{1}{4}$ " from edge and $\frac{1}{2}$ " apart. Depending upon the students, it may be easier to create a template for the holes.
7. Thread needle with cotton / linen thread.
8. With the outsides of uppers and soles facing each other, line up holes and begin stitching uppers and soles together at the heel of the shoe. Once the shoe begins taking shape, it may make it easier to stuff a little paper toweling (newspaper can rub off on the material) into the toe of the shoe.
9. Continue around entire sole until reaching the starting point.
10. Turn shoe right side out.
11. Try on and adjust stitching at back, tie thread, and trim off excess.




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Lesson Plan


UPPER MOCCASIN
CUT 2
cut on black lines

① Fold up and overlap 3 heel tabs




Fold side over other side and fold bottom tab up over both. Align (4) four holes and lace together starting on inside knot on the outside of moccasin.

② Knot end of lace, begin lacing upper moccasin to lower at star on outside of moccasin.



in through side, up through upper, back down into lower

③ Attach cuff – push lacing down through 1st hole in upper moccasin, through hole in lower and first hole in cuff piece (folded over lower edge) continue with in, out stitch around back of moccasin, to beginning, do not knot so fit can be adjusted.



★ If using leather / suede, holes should be punched.

* Pattern can be reduced and enlarged to fit.

CUFF / CUT 2

UPPER
CUT 2