



Colonial Family Educational Program

Grades K-3

Teacher's Guide



**Colonial National Historical Park
Yorktown**

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Virginia Standards of Learning: Colonial Family Program

- K.2 The student will describe everyday life in the present and in the past and begin to recognize that things change over time.
- K.4 The student will use simple maps and globes to
 - a) develop an awareness that a map is a drawing of a place to show where things are located;
 - b) describe places referenced in stories and real-life situations;
 - c) locate land and water features.
- K.5 The student will develop an awareness that maps and globes
 - a) show a view from above;
 - b) show things in smaller size;
 - c) show the position of objects.
- 1.10 The student will apply the traits of a good citizen by
 - a) working hard in school;
 - b) taking responsibility for one's own actions;
 - c) valuing honesty and truthfulness in oneself and others.
- 1.12 The student will recognize that communities in Virginia include people who have diverse ethnic origins, customs, and traditions, who make contributions to their communities, and who are united as Americans by common principles.
- 2.3 The student will identify and compare changes in community life over time in terms of buildings, jobs, transportation, and population.
- 3.5 The student will develop map skills by:
 - a.) locating specific places on a simple letter-number grid system.
- 3.6 The student will interpret geographic information from maps, tables, graphs, and charts.

True and Not True

Students always ask about which parts of the stories they read and hear are true. This page separates fact from fiction in the stories from the Colonial Family program.

Thomas Nelson, Jr. was a real person. He was a wartime governor for Virginia (1781), general of the Virginia Militia, and one of 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. He grew up in the house used for the Colonial Family program. It was built by his grandfather, also named Thomas Nelson. Most of the floors, woodwork, and structure of the house remain the same. When you visit the Nelson House, you stand on the same floors upon which Tom walked!

Thomas probably had a tutor when he was younger. He was then sent to Gloucester to be taught at a school run by Reverend Yates of Abingdon Parish. At age 14, Tom was sent to England to be educated. This was the custom of the time for those colonists with enough wealth. William, Tom's father, did not appear to have been completely pleased with Tom's education there, as he sent none of his other sons to England for schooling. According to William Nelson, Thomas came back "inclined to Juvenile Diversions."

The *Joseph and John* was a real ship that often sailed out of Yorktown, and was indeed captained by the Stowell men. Grace Church was then known as York-Hampton Parish, where the Nelsons faithfully attended.

Tizzy is a make-believe character. While it is true that the Nelsons owned, sold, and imported slaves, their stories were not recorded. When Thomas Nelson Jr. died in 1789, his inventory records ownership of 52 enslaved people at the Nelson Family's Yorktown properties. Four of these were children. The life of an enslaved person was harsh even under the best of masters.

The Nortons were a real family from colonial Yorktown. They represent a typical "middling sort" family from the colonial era with one exception: they would likely have had either slaves or servants in the employ of the family.

These stories were set in the years before the Revolution. Approximately 80% of the town of Yorktown was destroyed during the 1781 siege. The Nelson House still bears the scars from cannon fire. The Nelson House also bears marks from the Civil War, as it was used as a hospital by both sides! Please visit again to find out more: a rich history awaits you at Colonial National Historical Park!

A Day in the Life of James and Mary Norton

Once upon a time the Norton family lived in Colonial Yorktown. Early in the morning James and Mary would go down to the wharf on Water Street to look at the big ships. The ships came from a far-away land called England. These ships brought food, clothes, and other things the families at Yorktown needed. The ships returned to England loaded with large wooden barrels of tobacco from Virginia. These barrels were called hogsheads.



Mr. John Norton, the children's father, was a merchant. He traded tobacco for goods from England. Tobacco was grown on nearby farms called plantations. Tobacco was money to the families of Yorktown. James and Mary liked to visit their father's store to see all the things he sold. He had barrels of flour, salt and bolts of cloth of many colors. The shelves were lined with brass and iron pots, pans, and other cooking items. The children asked questions about new items. Even when Mr. Norton was busy, he always had time to answer their questions.

After the children visited the store, they walked down Main Street to their home. There Mary learned cooking and sewing from her mother, Mistress Anne Norton. James had to study his numbers and reading. He practiced his writing on a small slate. He studied for the time when he would be an apprentice in his father's store. The children worked hard because they wanted their parents to be proud of them.

After lunch they would play games outdoors. If it rained, they would play in front of the large kitchen hearth. Most of the children's toys were made by their parents. Mary played with corn husk and wooden dolls, tops and puzzles. James played with little wooden animals, iron hoops that he rolled down the street, and marbles.

When Father returned home from the store, the family had a fine meal in the dining room. After the evening meal, they sat around the fireplace. Mistress Anne, the children's mother, spun wool on her spinning wheel. John Norton read out loud the family Bible. Sometimes he told of news the sea captains brought when they visited his store. When it was dark, the children prepared to go to bed. Tomorrow would be another adventure.

What am I?

Name: _____

Use the words in the list to fill in the blanks next to the clues. Each word will be used only once.

Wharf	Hogshead	Apprentice	Merchant
Hearth	Sea Captain	Plantation	Tobacco

1. I am built of wood in the water. Ships come to me. What am I?

2. I sell goods in a store to customers. Who am I?

3. I keep the family warm in the winter. All the meals are prepared here. What am I?

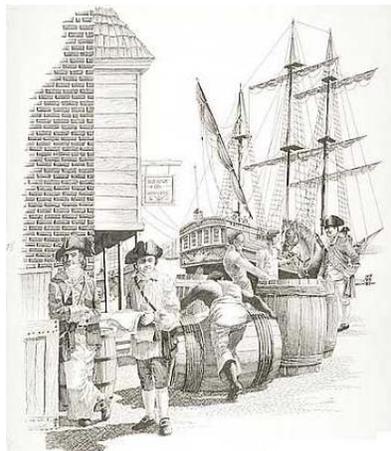
4. I am round and heavy and filled with tobacco. What am I?

5. I am a large farm where tobacco grows. What am I?

6. I sail the big ships across the ocean. I bring news to the people. Who am I?

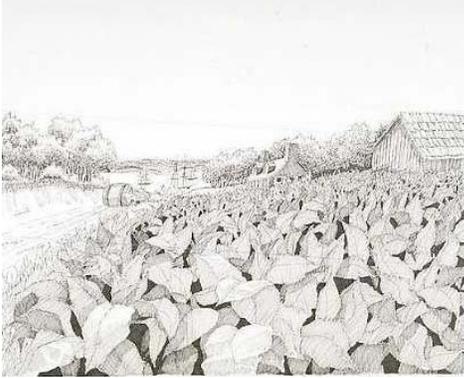
7. I am a large golden leaf. People smoke me. What am I?

8. I am a young boy who learns a trade by working with a craftsman. Who am I?



Young Tom and the Nelson Family

Young Tom ran towards the waterfront at Yorktown as fast as his little eight year old feet could carry him. A ship! A ship! A ship brought strange and wonderful things from far away. Thomas loved to watch the great ships being loaded and unloaded. After the ships were unloaded, great barrels of tobacco called “hogsheads” were rolled on to them to be taken to England. Tobacco was grown on many plantations nearby. Tobacco was so important in Virginia that people who lived there even used it like money! There was always something new and exciting to see at the waterfront.



“Wait, Thomas!” a voice cried. Thomas heard a shout from Tizzy, an enslaved girl that belonged to the Nelsons. “Master William wants you at the store-right away!” Tizzy panted. “He needs you to carry a message to the wharf.”

“Very well, Tizzy.” Thomas grinned. The wharf was exactly where he wanted to go! Thomas climbed the bluff toward his father’s store. As he walked into the store, he took a deep breath. Tom loved the smell of his father’s store. He felt so lucky that his father was a merchant. Tom liked to look at all of the interesting items there. The bolts of bright cloth, barrels of flour, and shiny pots and pans were always a sight to behold.

The books were Father’s favorite. Often Father spent his evening in front of the hearth, reading adventure stories from the Bible or other books. Thomas shivered as he remembered how he listened to his father read about young David cutting off a giant’s head.

“Thomas! Are you listening, son?” William asked. Thomas looked up to the smiling face of his father. Thomas knew he had to listen with care. He wanted to be a good helper. “Thomas, take this letter to Master Stowell, of the ship the *Joseph and John*. Then you must return home at once. Your tutor is waiting for you.”

Thomas was taught by a teacher that came to his home. Some other boys learned by working as an apprentice, or helper, some went away to school, and some boys never learned! “Yes, father,” sighed Thomas. Tom wanted to play, not study, but he knew he had to obey his father.

After Tom took the message to Captain Stowell, he dragged himself back to his home. He looked up with pride at the fine house. *This is the finest home in Yorktown*, Thomas thought. It was a large brick house with shiny glass windows and not one, but two tall chimneys.

Thomas pulled open the heavy front door. His mother was sewing in the drawing room while Tizzy spun wool on the big spinning wheel. Mother stayed very busy. With such a large house and big family, she needed the help of many slaves and servants. They helped Mother take care of cooking, sewing, gardening, cleaning and Tom's younger cry-baby brothers.



“Thomas, your tutor is waiting in the back parlor,” Mother said. Thomas thought he heard a smile in her voice. “Yes, Mother,” answered Thomas. Perhaps Mistress Nelson heard the unhappiness in his voice, for she looked up from her sewing.

“Thomas, have you noticed the great respect that the people of Yorktown show your father? If you wish for that same respect to be yours one day, then you must earn it. Respect does not come easily. It comes from doing the work that is hard. Are you afraid of hard work, Thomas?” Thomas thought about this question before he spoke. “No, Mother. I am sorry, Mother. I am ready to begin my lesson.” After all, he thought, the ship would still be there tomorrow.

Young Thomas Nelson grew up to become a soldier, a general, and even a governor for Virginia! If you look on the Declaration of Independence, you can see where Thomas Nelson signed it. His hard work indeed earned the respect of millions of grateful Americans.

Tizzy's Story

Tizzy looked sad as she watched Thomas leave the drawing room. Thomas had to go to the back parlor to read with his tutor. Tizzy just did not understand. She would give anything to learn to read and write. Thomas acted like learning was a punishment. "I wish I could read a story all by myself," Tizzy thought. "I would read stories of lands far away. I would read about places where people were happy and free." Tizzy was enslaved by the Nelson family and longed for freedom like others longed for water on a hot day.

Tizzy sighed when she thought of all of the chores that waited for her. She stopped the spinning wheel and placed the wool in the basket beneath. "Mistress Nelson?" Tizzy asked. "May I go to my chores now? I can come back to finish this spinning." Mistress Nelson frowned, but nodded. "Yes, Tizzy, but I do need for you to finish today." Mistress Nelson turned back to her own sewing and Tizzy curtsied as she left the front room.

Tizzy gathered her thoughts on the way to the poultry house. *Likely I should take care of the chicks first, she thought. Feed the chicks. Gather the eggs. Bring two buckets of water from the well to the kitchen. Help Nellie in the washhouse. Pick the beetles off of the beans in the garden. Bring wood to the kitchen house to help Cook. Wash the pans after the big folks eat. Go back to the spinning wheel to finish the wool. Fall down asleep and start all over again. Every day is nothing but work, Tizzy thought. Except Sunday, she thought with a smile. Sunday is what lets you live through the rest of them days.*

Sunday was Tizzy's favorite. Sunday was the only day for resting. On Sundays after the Nelsons left for worship service at Grace Church, old Nellie would fix up some beans and cornbread. They would sit quietly by the cozy hearth of her small slave cabin, and together would rest and talk. Tizzy loved to listen to Nellie's stories. Some were funny, some were frightening, and some were too strange to be believed! Often Nellie's stories had something to teach, if Tizzy listened carefully enough to find it.



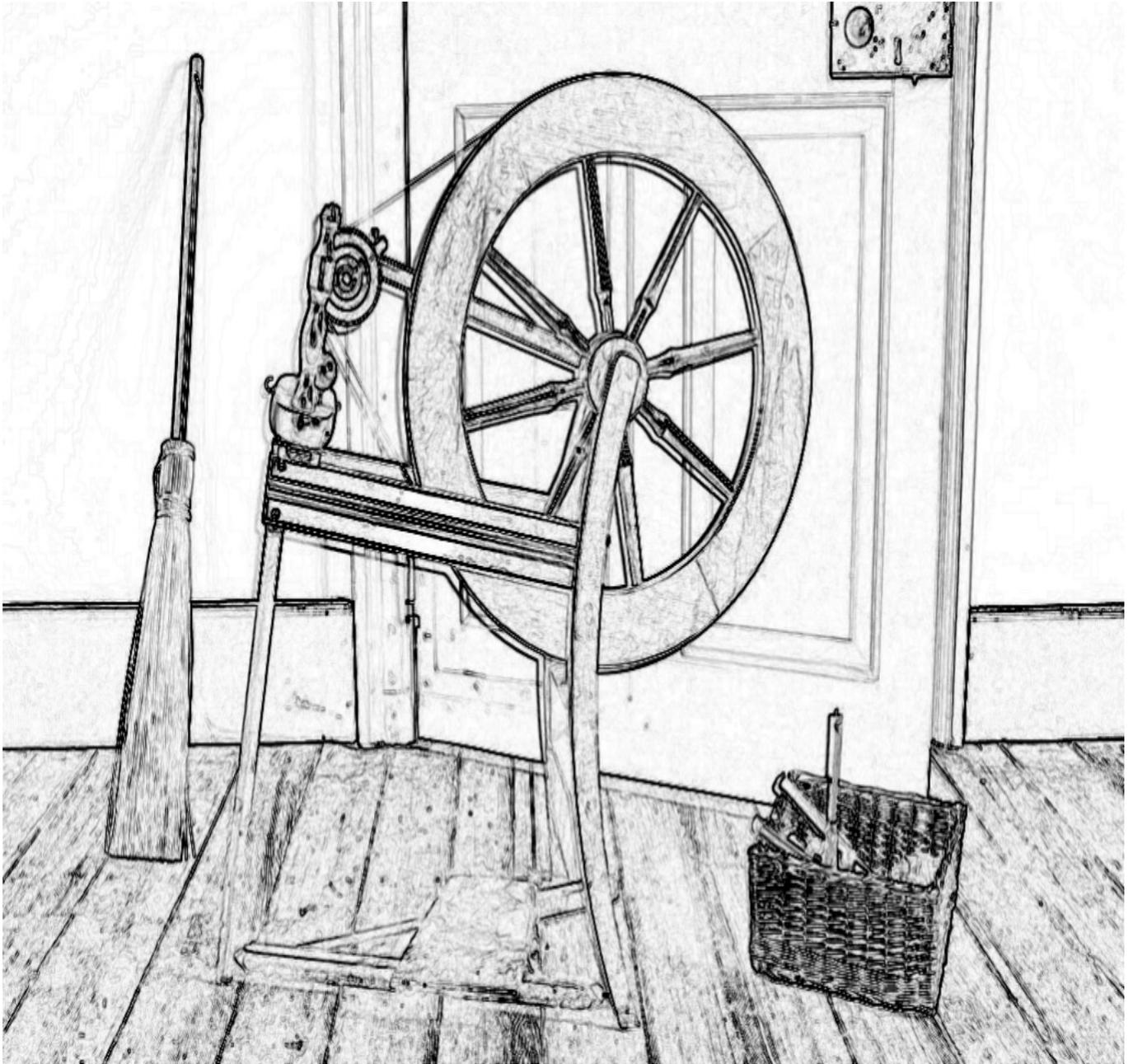
It seems like Nellie knew everything. She could wring a chicken's neck afore the chicken knew it was even caught. She knew how to get even the worst stains out of the wash. She could make a sweet potato pie as good as Cook. Nellie even knew all the old cures to fix a fever or a stomach ache. But when Tizzy asked Nellie why her dark skin made her worth less than a white person, Nellie shook her head. "Ain't no answer fo' that question, chile'," was her sad reply. "You just as soon ask that river out there. It don't have no answer either."





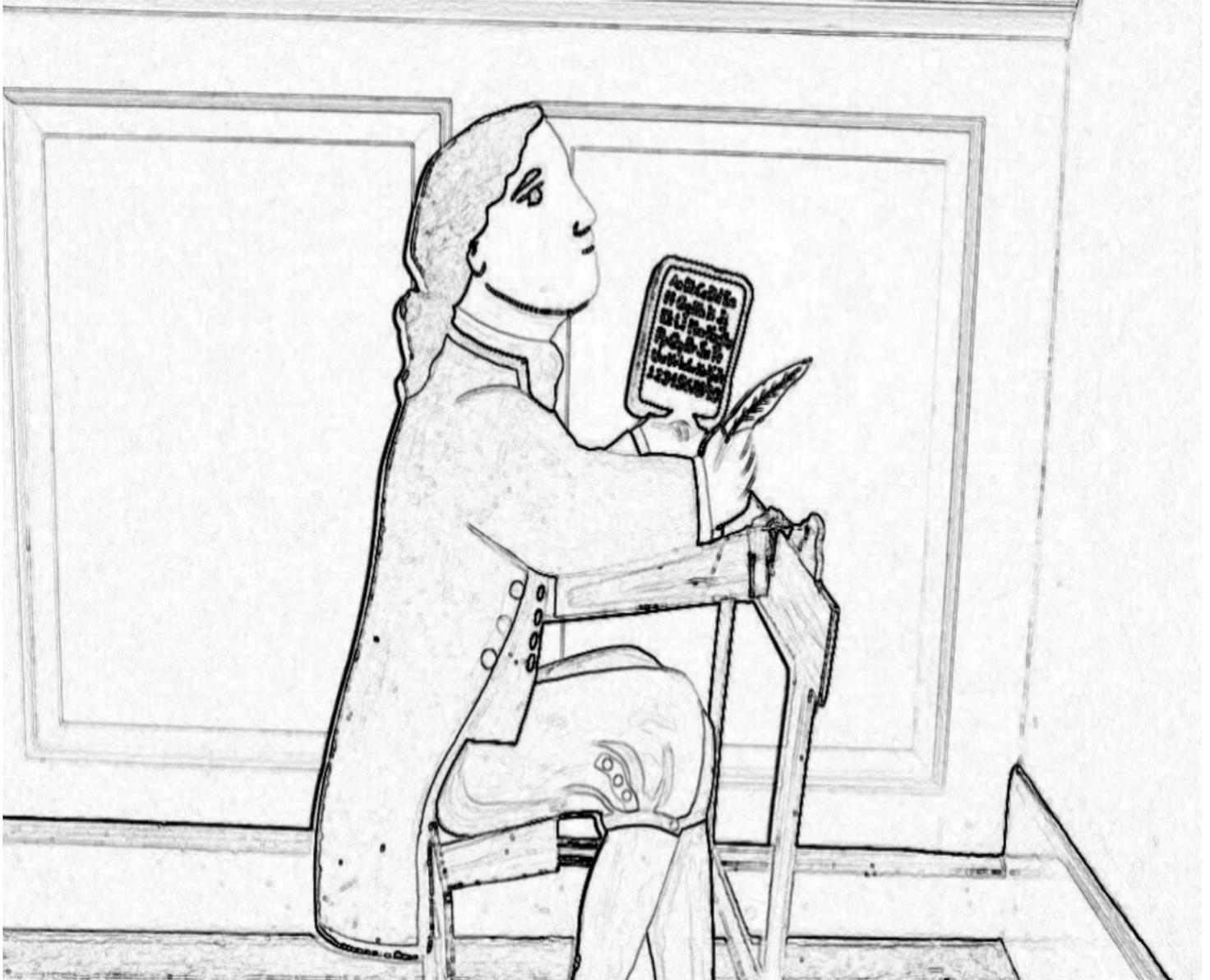
Tizzy gathered small sticks for the cook's fire. Tizzy had many chores and jobs to do for the Nelsons. She fed the chickens and weeded the garden. What chores or jobs do you do to help your family?

Name: _____



During colonial times, women used spinning wheels to spin wool into yarn. Sometimes they would sing or hum while they worked. What songs would you hum or sing to make your work more fun?

Name: _____



Young Tom at his desk

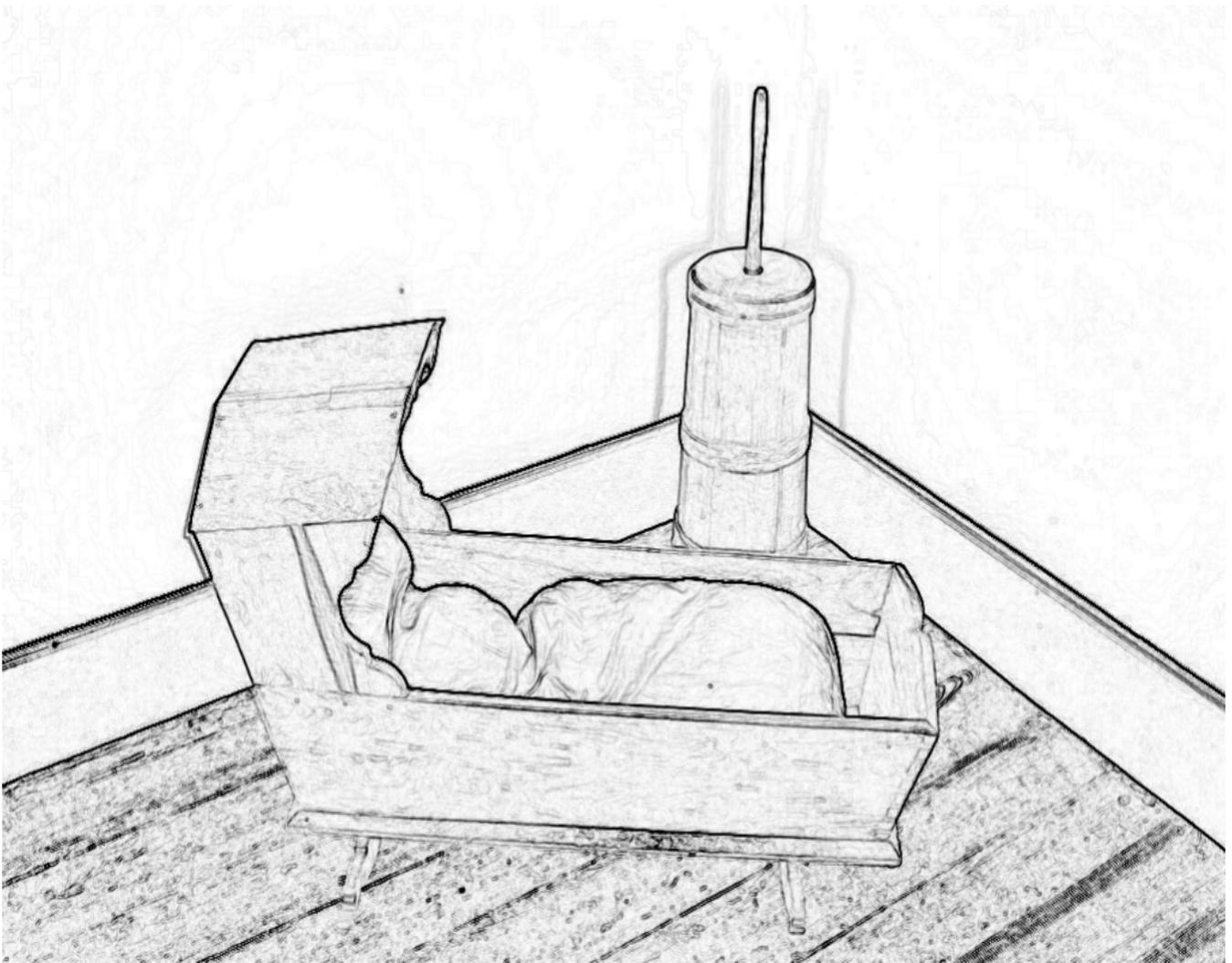
When Tom was young, he was taught by a tutor who came to his home. Who teaches *you*? Where are *you* taught?

Name: _____



A Colonial Hearth
What would *you* cook here for supper?

Name: _____



Babies in colonial times slept in cradles like this one. The churn behind the cradle was used to turn cream into butter. Churning butter and rocking cradles are jobs a child like you could help with!

Tom had **four** baby brothers. Write about your own family below.

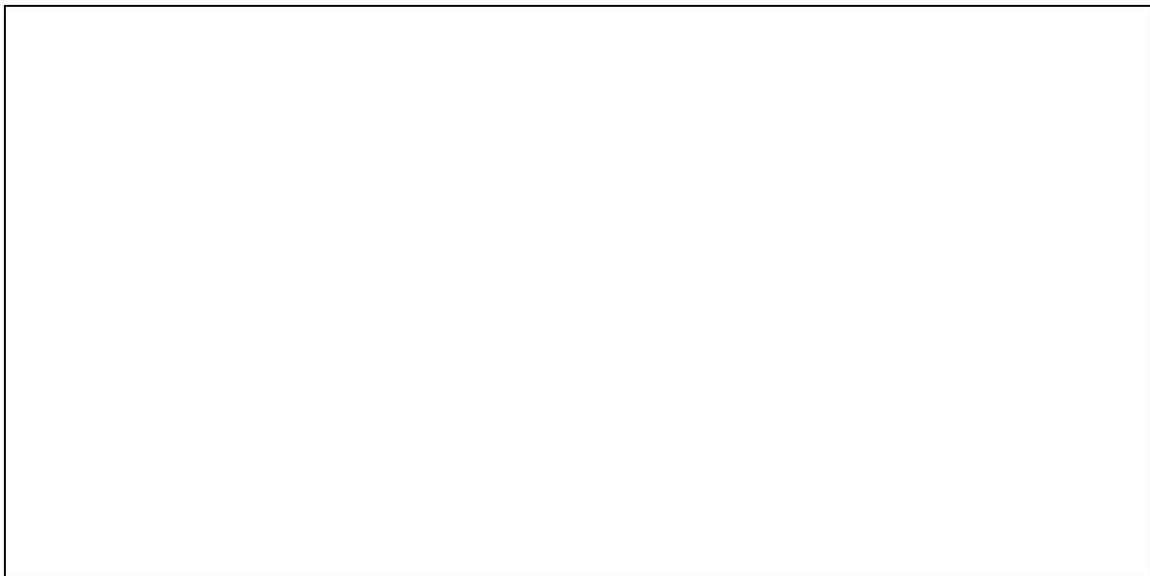
Name: _____



Master Norton took care of the goods at his store. Pretend you want to be an apprentice at the store. Below, tell Master Norton the reasons why you are a good person for the job.

Name: _____

Write a story about an adventure you think Thomas or Tizzy might have had.



Draw a picture of your story.

This story and picture were made by _____



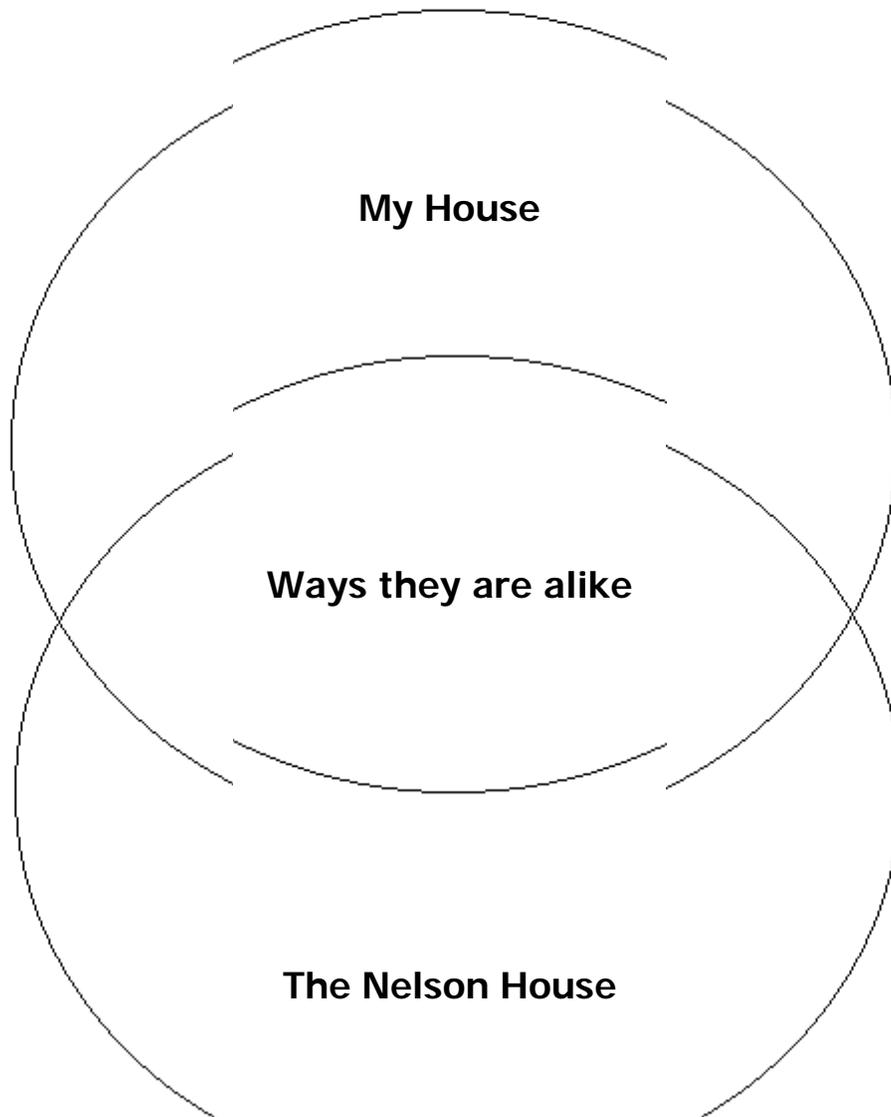
Thomas Nelson, Jr. did great things for America. What great things would you like to do for America? Remember, America still needs heroes!

Name: _____



Name: _____

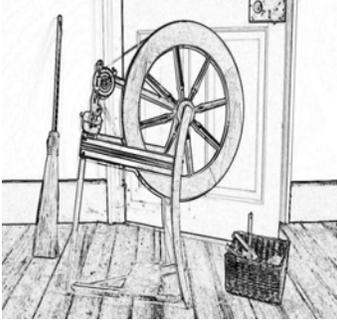
Color the Nelson House. Think about what you saw at the Nelson house. How are your home and the Nelson home alike? How are they different? Write your ideas in the circles on the next page.



What did you most like about the Nelson House?

What do you like most about where you live?

Name: _____



Colonial Math

Name: _____

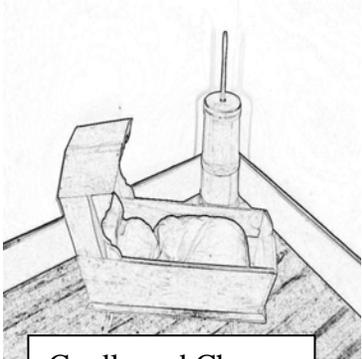
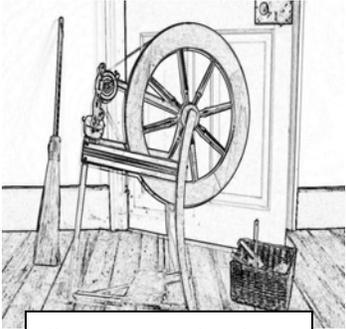
1. In the Nelson House in 1789, there were 87 dinner plates and 27 dessert plates. How many more dinner plates were there than dessert plates?

2. On the first floor of the Nelson House there were 12 chairs in the Nelson dining room, 14 chairs in the drawing room, and 10 more in the back rooms. How many chairs were on their altogether?

3. Upstairs at the Nelson House, there were 2 beds in the back right room, 1 bed in the front right room, 4 beds in the front left room, and 3 in the back left room. How many beds were there in the Nelson House altogether? _____
4. In the stables, there were 5 mules, 5 horses, and 12 cows. How many mouths were there to feed in the stable? _____
5. There were 52 slaves working for the Nelson family in 1789. Four of these were children. How many adult slaves were working for the Nelsons? _____
6. At the Nelson's slave quarters, there were 23 grown cows and 14 young cows. How many cows were there altogether?

7. There were also 20 old sheep and 9 young lambs at the slave quarters. How many more old sheep were there than young lambs? _____
8. Make up your own Nelson math problem. Write and solve your problem here:

Grid Map Practice at Yorktown

	A	B	C
1	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Colonial Hearth</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Poor Potter's Kiln</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Cradle and Churn</p>
2	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">General Cornwallis</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Yorktown Monument</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Cow</p>
3	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Spinning Wheel</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Nelson House</p>	 <p style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Grace Church</p>

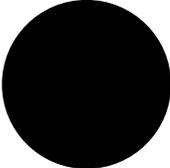
Look at the numbers and letters to find places and people from Yorktown. The first question is answered for you.

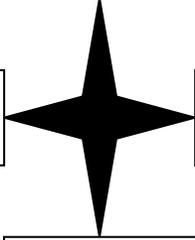
1. I can find the cow in box C-2.
2. I can find the spinning wheel in box _____.
3. I can find the Yorktown Monument in box _____.
4. I can find the Poor Potter's Kiln in box _____.
5. I can find the Nelson House in box _____.
6. I can find General Cornwallis in box _____.
7. I can find a colonial hearth in box _____.
8. I can find Grace Church in box _____.
9. I can find the cradle and churn in box _____.

Name _____

Can you find your way around this map?

Name: _____

	A	B	C
1	<p>START HERE:</p> 		 <p>Yorktown Monument</p>
2		 <p>Nelson House</p>	
3	 <p>Customhouse</p>		 <p>Grace Church</p>

NORTH

SOUTH
WEST **EAST**

Can you find your way around using this grid map?

10. Find the starting place.
11. Walk one block south.
12. Now walk one block east. Where are you? _____
13. Next walk one block south.
14. Now walk one block west. Where are you? _____
15. Walk two blocks east. Where are you? _____
16. Lastly, walk two blocks north. Where are you? _____

Suggestions for Further Reading

Christmas in Colonial and Early America (Christmas Around the World) (Christmas Around the World) by World Book Encyclopedia (1997)

A Colonial Williamsburg ABC by Amy Z. Watson and Louis S. Glanzman (1994)

Colonial Life (True Books: American History) by Brendan January (2000)

A Day in the Life of a Colonial Doctor (The Library of Living and Working in Colonial Times) by Laurie Krebs (2004)

A Day in the Life of a Colonial Sailmaker (The Library of Living and Working in Colonial Times) by Laurie Krebs (2004)

A Day in the Life of a Colonial Wigmaker (The Library of Living and Working in Colonial Times) by Kathy Wilmore (2000)

Life in Colonial America by Peter F. Copeland (2002)

Life in Colonial America (Building America) by Russell Roberts (2007)

Life in a Colonial Town (Picture the Past) by Sally Senzell Isaacs (2001)

The Working Life - Colonial Craftsmen (The Working Life) by Thomas Streissguth (Board book - 2004)

