

Somerset Historical Center

Life in the Glades – The Early Years

Teacher’s Guide to Vocabulary Words

Bartering	Log Cabin	Packhorse
Flax	Log House	Apprentice
Linen	Chinking	Artisan
Linsey-woolsey	Daubing	Indentured servant

Bartering – To trade goods or services without using money

Flax – A tall, slender plant processed to extract fibers for making linen cloth.

Linen – A fabric made from the flax plant. Once the flax fibers were spun into thread, it was called linen. It produced a durable cloth used for clothing and bedding.

Linsey-woolsey – A fabric made by weaving together linen thread with woolen yard on the loom.

Log cabin – A small one-story log structure built with round logs, usually having a dirt floor and no glass in the windows, often replaced with a larger, more comfortable log house.

Chinking – Billets (small pieces) of wood or flat stones wedged in the large openings between the logs of a cabin or house. It serves as a framework and helps to hold the daubing in place.

Daubing – A plaster of sticky clay, mixed with straw or animal hair to help hold it together. It was plastered over the chinking to seal the spaces between the logs.

Log house – A larger, upgraded dwelling from the log cabin. The log house would be two stories high, contain glass windows, hewn logs, and wooden floors.

Packhorse – A horse that was used to carry goods over trails too narrow or rugged for a wagon. Food and supplies were packed and tied onto a special wooden “packsaddle.” A packhorse could carry about 200 pounds of goods.

Apprentice – A young person who is learning a trade from a master artisan. Usually several years are spent learning the skills involved.

Artisan – A skilled workman or craftsman who handcrafts useful products or utensils. Blacksmiths, coopers, cordwainers and tinsmiths are all considered artisans.

Indentured servant – A person bound by a written contract to work for another, usually learning a trade or craft in the process. The indentureship usually lasted several years with the promise of goods or money given to the person upon the completion of their contract.