

Somerset Historical Center

Life in the Glades – The Early Years Teacher’s Guide to Vocabulary Words

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

Bartering – To trade by exchange of goods or services rather than by the use of money.

Flax – A tall, slender plant whose fibers are spun to make linen.

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 – Early dwelling of a settler that was usually small, had a wooden chimney, dirt floor, and one window. This was often replaced with a larger permanent log house.

Chinking – Billets (small pieces) of wood or flat stones wedged in the large openings between the logs of a log structure. 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 applied over the chinking to seal the spaces between the logs.

Log house – A larger, upgraded dwelling from the log cabin. The log house usually was two stories high, contained glass windows, 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. Blacksmiths, coopers, cordwainers and tinsmiths are all considered artisans.

Indentured servant – A person bound by a written contract to work for another usually for several years. Sometimes working as an apprentice to a master to learn a trade.