Colonial Trades: Making Community Work

Pre-visit Activity

This is an exercise about work and trade in Dorchester around the time of the Revolution. It is a role-playing activity in which each student will take on the character of someone who actually lived in Dorchester. During the onsite program, students will play a bartering game in which they will be asked to play the part of their characters.

Goal: Students will learn about different kinds of work that people did in late-eighteenth-century Dorchester and about the ways in which individuals traded with each other within their community. They will also become familiar with who Samuel Pierce was.

Introduction: For over forty years (1767-1815) Samuel Pierce kept an account book in which he tracked many of his economic relationships with other people in Dorchester and the surrounding areas. For each individual he recorded what he received on a right hand page and what he gave on the facing page. In order to track the exchanges, monetary values were given to each good or service and the accounts were often carried over years. For this exercise, the monetary values have been removed and the exchanges have been simplified. Some of the character sheets do demonstrate the fact that both sides of a transaction did not always happen at the same time.

Process:

1.) Before passing out the character worksheets, please briefly go over the following points:
   a.) Trade, barter, and exchange are words that are used to describe when people trade goods or services instead of using money to purchase them. Tradespeople made various goods that they could then exchange with other people. According to The American Heritage Dictionary,

   Exchange: to provide goods or services in return for something of equal value
   Trade (verb): to give in exchange for something else
   Barter: to trade goods or services without the exchange of money
   Trade (noun): an occupation, especially one requiring skilled labor

   b.) Samuel Pierce was a farmer who lived in Dorchester around the time of the American Revolution. He kept an account book in which he recorded what he traded with other people in Dorchester

   c.) Samuel Pierce traded with other farmers, with hired hands, and with various tradespeople.

   d.) Each student will become an actual person from Dorchester who traded with Samuel Pierce.

2.) Pass out the worksheets. Tell the students that the front side of the worksheet will tell them about their character and that they should read the text and look at the images before answering the questions. After they have finished the front of the worksheets, explain to them that the back side of the worksheet will tell them about the trading that they do with Samuel Pierce. Explain that the graph comes from the account book and that once again they should read all of the text and look at the images before answering the questions. Explain to the students that when they visit the Pierce House they will have the opportunity to play their characters in a game about bartering.

3.) If there is time, the students can then be broken up into small groups and introduce themselves to each other stating their name and occupation and explaining what they exchange with Samuel Pierce.
Colonial Trades Character Sheets

Following are character sheets that are based on Samuel Pierce’s account book (1767-1815). The names and occupations are real. We have simplified the characters by classifying them as farmer, hired hand, or tradesperson. In rural Dorchester, many of the tradespeople probably also worked as farmers and some of the farmers also had a trade on the side. For example, Samuel Pierce was primarily a farmer but also did some carpentry and masonry work. When stated, the age and relationship to Samuel Pierce is real. The information contained in the graphs comes from Samuel Pierce’s account book. The rest of the information is based on what we know about farming, work, and home life in the late-eighteenth-century.
You are Samuel Howe, a shoemaker living in Dorchester. You make shoes with leather. You measure the leather and cut it into several pieces - three layers for the sole, or bottom, of the shoe; and another piece for the top. You then sew the pieces together with waxed thread. Your work is not very hard and you spend most of the day sitting at your work-bench. You are very busy though, as people often need new shoes for themselves and their children.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?  

What is the name of your job?  

What do you make?  

What do you like best about your job?  

A shoemaker sits in his shop sewing shoes.  

You make fancy shoes with buckles and tall boots for farmers.
Samuel Howe

Like most people in Dorchester, your favorite drink is apple cider and you have it with almost every meal. As a shoemaker, you don’t have enough time to make your own cider, but you know a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, who has extra cider that he made. You also know that he needs a new pair of shoes.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Howe gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Samuel Howe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 17, 1779</td>
<td>one pair of shoes</td>
<td>Nov. 3, 1781</td>
<td>6 barrels of cider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ____________________________________________

Where do these things come from? ____________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? _________________________________________

Why do you need this? _______________________________________________________

Samuel Pierce gives you cider in large wood barrels like this one.
Samuel Tolman
blacksmith

You are Samuel Tolman, a blacksmith in Dorchester. You are 30 years old. In your shop, you make metal tools, like axes, and iron shoes for horses and oxen. To make these things you take iron (a type of metal), heat it in a special oven called a forge, and then beat it with a hammer to change its shape. You have to hit the iron very hard and so you are very strong. The forge makes the inside of your shop very hot and you wear a long leather apron to protect yourself from the fire and the hot iron.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?

What is the name of your job?

What do you make?

What do you like best about your job?

A blacksmith hits hot metal with a hammer to change the metal’s shape.

A blacksmith puts a new iron shoe on a horse’s foot.
Samuel Tolman

Like most people in Dorchester, your favorite drink is apple cider. You have it with almost every meal. As a blacksmith you don’t have time to make your own apple cider. You know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, who makes more cider than he needs though. He will give you some in exchange for new iron shoes for his horse.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Tolman gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Samuel Tolman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 22, 1784</td>
<td>New shoes for a horse</td>
<td>June 15, 1785</td>
<td>One barrel of cider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ________________________________

Where do these things come from? ________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? ________________________________

Why do you need this? ________________________________

Samuel Pierce gives you cider in large wood barrels like this one.

As a blacksmith, you make horseshoes like this one. The metal horseshoes protect the horse’s hooves.
Ezekiel Tolman
shoemaker

You are Ezekiel Tolman, a shoemaker in Dorchester. You are 59 years old. You make shoes with leather. You measure the leather and cut it into several pieces - three layers for the sole, or bottom, of the shoe; and another piece for the top. You then sew the pieces together with waxed thread. Your work is not very hard and you spend most of the day sitting at your workbench. You are very busy though as people often need new shoes for themselves and their children.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?  

What is the name of your job?  

What do you make?  

What do you like best about your job?  

A shoemaker sits in his shop sewing shoes.  

You make fancy shoes with buckles and tall boots for farmers.
Ezekiel Tolman

Sometimes when you have free time you go fishing for eels in Half Moon Pond with friends. Whenever you bring eels home, your wife Sarah makes boiled potatoes to go with them and it is one of your favorite meals. While you can catch the eels yourself, you don’t have the time to grow the potatoes. Luckily you know a farmer, Samuel Pierce who grows potatoes. You also know that he needs new shoes for his children.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Ezekiel Tolman gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Ezekiel Tolman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 20, 1799</td>
<td>One pair of shoes</td>
<td>March 1799</td>
<td>One bushel of potatoes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce?

Where do these things come from?

What does Samuel Pierce give to you?

Why do you need this?

Eels are long fish that look like snakes. You catch them using a net.
You are Ebenezer Vose, a blacksmith in Dorchester. In your shop, you make metal tools, like axes, and iron shoes for horses and oxen. To make these things you take iron (a type of metal), heat it in a special oven called a forge, and then beat it with a hammer to change its shape. You have to hit the iron very hard and so you are very strong. The forge makes the inside of your shop very hot and you wear a long leather apron to protect yourself from the fire and the hot iron.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?

What is the name of your job?

What do you make?

What do you like best about your job?
Ebenezer Vose

Even though you are not a farmer, you own a cow. Everyday you milk your cow. Sometimes your wife also milks the cow and she makes butter and cheese out of the milk. Your wife is very good at making cheese. You also feed the cow hay everyday. Because you are a blacksmith you do not grow your own hay. You know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, though, and he grows hay. He also needs new iron shoes for his ox.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Ebenezer Vose gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Ebenezer Vose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 23, 1776</td>
<td>New shoes for an ox</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 1776</td>
<td>One load of hay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce?

Where do these things come from?

What does Samuel Pierce give to you?

Why do you need this?

Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart. The cart is pulled by an ox. This woman milks her family’s cow every morning.
Desire Tolman
shoemaker

You are Desire Tolman, a shoemaker in Dorchester. You are 37 years old. You make shoes with leather. You measure the leather and cut it into several pieces - three layers for the sole, or bottom, of the shoe; and another piece for the top. You then sew the pieces together with waxed thread. Your work is not very hard and you spend most of the day sitting at your workbench. You are very busy though, as people often need new shoes for themselves and their children. Sometime you also fix people’s old shoes.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?

What is the name of your job?

What do you make?

What do you like best about your job?
Like many of your neighbors, your family eats a great deal of barley, which is a grain like wheat. Your wife Sarah makes bread with barley and uses it to thicken her soup. As a shoemaker, you don’t have enough land to grow your own barley. Sometimes though, when you make shoes for a farmer like Samuel Pierce, he gives you barley in trade.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Desire Tolman gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Desire Tolman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1785</td>
<td>Two pairs of shoes</td>
<td>1785</td>
<td>Two bushels of barley</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? 

Where do these things come from? 

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? 

Why do you need this? 

Your wife cooks soup thickened with barley in a big pot in a fireplace like the one in the picture. She also bakes bread in a brick oven like the one on the right.
Mica Simmons
wheelwright

You are Mica Simmons, a wheelwright in Dorchester. You make wheels for horse carts used for hauling things like wood, and wheels for carriages that people use to travel in. Making wheels is complicated and requires a great deal of knowledge. You start with the center of a wheel, called a hub, which you carve out of wood. You then carve long spokes out of wood and hammer them into holes in the hub. To make the outside of the wheel, you carve seven pieces of wood so that they are long and curved and when set end to end form a circle, called a rim. After you attach the rim to the ends of the spokes, you add a tire made of iron that makes the wheel strong.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? ____________________________

What is the name of your job? ____________________________

What do you make? ____________________________

What do you like best about your job? ____________________________

A wheelwright puts spokes on a center hub.

Then the wheelwright carves pieces of wood so that they are rounded. Seven pieces like this will make the large circle called a rim.

This is what the wheel looks like after the rim is placed around the spokes.
Mica Simmons

Like most people in Dorchester, you eat a lot of corn. Most of the time you grind it into cornmeal and then your wife makes bread out of it. As a wheelwright you do not have time to grow your own corn. You do know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, though, and he grows extra corn. He also needs new wheels for his chaise. Say “shase” and look at the picture below.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mica Simmons gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Mica Simmons</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 1791</td>
<td>One pair of wheels for a chaise</td>
<td>Jan. 2, 1792</td>
<td>Two bushels of corn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ________________________________

Where do these things come from? ________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? ________________________________

Why do you need this? ________________________________

This carriage is called a chaise. Samuel Pierce and his wife Elizabeth ride a chaise like this one to go to church and visit friends.

This woman shapes a loaf of bread that she will bake in the brick oven on the right.
Timothy Foster
wheelwright

You are Timothy Foster, a wheelwright in Dorchester. You make wheels for horse carts used for hauling things like wood and wheels for carriages that people use to travel in. Making wheels is complicated and requires a great deal of knowledge. You start with the center of a wheel, called a hub, which you carve out of wood. You then carve long spokes out of wood and hammer them into holes in the hub. To make the outside of the wheel, you carve seven pieces of wood so that they are long and curved and when set end to end form a circle called a rim. After you attach the rim to the ends of the spokes, you add an iron tire that makes the wheel strong.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?

What is the name of your job?

What do you make?

What do you like best about your job?

A wheelwright puts spokes on a center hub.

Then the wheelwright carves pieces of wood so that they are rounded. Seven pieces like this will make the large circle called a rim.

This is what the wheel looks like after the rim is placed around the spokes.
Timothy Foster

While most of the time you eat pork, your family also likes to eat beef. You get your beef directly from the farmer who raised and killed the cow. You know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, who raises cows and needs new wheels for his horse cart.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Timothy Foster gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Timothy Foster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 16, 1786</td>
<td>One pair of wheels for a horse cart</td>
<td>May 30, 1786</td>
<td>Beef</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? __________________________________________

Where do these things come from? _____________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? _________________________________________

Why do you need this? _____________________________________________________

Samuel Pierce uses a horse cart like this one to haul goods to and from Boston.

Samuel Pierce raises cows for milk and meat. Some of the milk and meat his family eats and some of it he trades with other people like you.
John Tolman
wheelwright

You are John Tolman, a wheelwright in Dorchester. You are 42 years old. You make wheels for horse carts used for hauling things like wood and wheels for carriages that people use to travel in. Making wheels is complicated and requires a great deal of knowledge. You start with the center of a wheel, called a hub, which you carve out of wood. You then carve long spokes out of wood and hammer them into holes in the hub. To make the outside of the wheel, you carve seven pieces of wood so that they are long and curved and when set end to end form a circle called a rim. After you attach the rim to the ends of the spokes, you add an iron tire that makes the wheel strong.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?

What is the name of your job?

What do you make?

What do you like best about your job?

A wheelwright puts spokes on a center hub.

Then the wheelwright carves pieces of wood so that they are rounded. Seven pieces like this will make the large circle called a rim.

This is what the wheel looks like after the rim is placed around the spokes.
John Tolman

Like most people in Dorchester, your favorite drink is apple cider. You have it with almost every meal. As a wheelwright you don’t have time to make your own apple cider. You know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, who makes more cider than he needs. You also know that one of the wheels on his horse cart broke recently.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>John Tolman gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to John Tolman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1780</td>
<td>New wheel for a horse cart</td>
<td>Oct. 20, 1780</td>
<td>28 barrels of cider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ________________________________

Where do these things come from? ________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? ________________________________

Why do you need this? ________________________________

Samuel Pierce uses a horse cart like this one to haul goods to and from Boston.

Samuel Pierce gives you cider in big wood barrels like this one.
Sarah Tolman
weaver

You are Sarah Tolman, a weaver in Dorchester. You are 28 years old. You take wool and linen yarn and weave it into cloth on a big loom (look at the picture below to find out what a loom looks like). All day long you sit at your loom and weave cloth. Your customers use your cloth to sew their own clothes, tablecloths, sheets, and other things for their homes.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? ____________________________

What is the name of your job? ________________________

What do you make? _________________________________

What do you like best about your job? __________________________

You work at a loom like the one in this picture. Your loom has a bench built into it so that you can sit while you work.
Sarah Tolman

While most of the time you eat pork, your family also likes to eat beef. You get your beef directly from the farmer who raised and killed the cow. You know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, who raises cows and who needs cloth. His wife is going to make him a new pair of pants.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Sarah Tolman gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Sarah Tolman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 17, 1774</td>
<td>16 yards of wool cloth</td>
<td>Dec. 6, 1775</td>
<td>88 pounds of beef</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce?

Where do these things come from?

What does Samuel Pierce give to you?

Why do you need this?

Samuel Pierce raises cows for milk and meat. Some of the milk and meat his family eats and some of it he trades with other people like you.

These women are sewing clothes for their family. Samuel Pierce’s wife sews most of the clothes that her family wears.
You are Justillion Soper, a weaver in Dorchester. You take wool and linen yarn and weave it into cloth on a big loom (look at the picture below to find out what a loom looks like). All day long you sit at your loom and weave cloth. Your customers use your cloth to sew their own clothes, tablecloths, sheets, and other things for their homes.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? 

What is the name of your job? 

What do you make? 

What do you like best about your job? 

You work at a loom like the one in this picture. Your loom has a bench built into it so that you can sit while you work.
**Justillion Soper**

Even though you are not a farmer, you own a cow. Everyday you milk your cow. Sometimes your wife also milks the cow and she makes butter and cheese out of the milk. Your wife is very good at making cheese. You also feed the cow hay everyday. Because you are a weaver you do not grow your own hay. You know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, though, and he grows hay. Right now he needs some cloth, because his wife wants to sew him some new pants.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Justillion Soper gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Justillion Soper</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 15, 1775</td>
<td>12 yards of wool cloth</td>
<td>Sept. 9, 1775</td>
<td>One load of hay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ____________________________________________

Where do these things come from? ____________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? ____________________________________________

Why do you need this? ____________________________________________

---

This woman milks her family’s cow every morning.

These woman are sewing clothes for their family. Samuel Pierce’s wife sews most of the clothes that her family wears.
Thomas Leeds Sr.
shoemaker

You are Thomas Leeds, a shoemaker in Dorchester. You make shoes with leather. You measure the leather and cut it into several pieces - three layers for the sole, or bottom, of the shoe; and another piece for the top. You then sew the pieces together with waxed thread. Your work is not very hard and you spend most of the day sitting at your workbench. You are very busy though as people often need new shoes for themselves and their children. Sometime you also fix people’s old shoes.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? ____________________________________________

What is the name of your job? _______________________________________

What do you make? _________________________________________________

What do you like best about your job? ________________________________

A shoemaker sits in his shop sewing shoes.

You make fancy shoes with buckles and tall boots for farmers.
Like most people in Dorchester, you and your family really enjoy eating apples. Your wife bakes them in pies, makes apple sauce, and stores apples in your cold cellar so that you can eat them during the winter. You don’t have any apple trees of your own, but you know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, who grows more apples than his family can eat. He also needs a new pair of shoes.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Thomas Leeds gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Thomas Leeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 21, 1790</td>
<td>One pair of shoes</td>
<td>Oct. 1796</td>
<td>One barrel of apples</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ____________________________________________

Where do these things come from? ____________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? ________________________________________

Why do you need this? _____________________________________________________

Samuel Pierce gives you apples in a wood barrel like this one.
Elizabeth Pierce
spinster

You are Elizabeth Pierce, a spinster living in Dorchester. You are 59 years old and Samuel Pierce’s aunt. You take wool from your sheep and spin it into yarn that people can use to knit hats and socks or to weave cloth. It takes a great deal of skill to make the yarn come out even and you spend many hours working at your spinning wheel.

Questions to answer

What is your new name?

What is the name of your job?

What do you make?

What do you like best about your job?

An old woman sits and works at her spinning wheel. The tall frame behind her is called a winder. When she finishes spinning some wool into yarn, she winds it around the winder.

She then takes the yarn off of the winder.

Then she ties the yarn into a skein.
Elizabeth Pierce

You are an older woman and your husband died several years ago. You own a cow for milk, but you can no longer do the heavy work of feeding and milking it. Samuel Pierce, a farmer in Dorchester, keeps your cow at his house. He feeds and milks it for you and in exchange you give him some of the yarn that you have spun. His wife Elizabeth needs wool yarn to knit socks for her family.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Elizabeth Pierce gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Elizabeth Pierce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1780</td>
<td>13 skeins of wool yarn</td>
<td>Dec. 10, 1780</td>
<td>Keeping and feeding a cow</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ____________________________

Where do these things come from? ____________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? __________________________________________

Why do you need this? ________________________________________________

This woman milks her family’s cow everyday.

Samuel Pierce’s wife Elizabeth knits socks for her family. The sock in the picture isn’t finished yet and you can see the needles.
Abiel Foster
spinster

You are Abiel Foster, a spinster living in Dorchester. You take wool from your sheep and spin it into yarn that people can use to knit hats and socks or to weave cloth. It takes a great deal of skill to make the yarn come out even and you spend many hours working at your spinning wheel.

Questions to answer

What is your new name? ____________________________

What is the name of your job? ____________________________

What do you make? ____________________________

What do you like best about your job? ____________________________

An old woman sits and works at her spinning wheel. The tall frame behind her is called a winder. When she finishes spinning some wool into yarn, she winds it around the winder.

She then takes the yarn off of the winder.

Then she ties the yarn into a skein.
Abiel Foster

In your kitchen is a large fireplace where you cook all of your meals. It takes a lot of firewood to keep the fire going and there are no trees near your house that would make good firewood. You know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, though who owns many trees for firewood. His wife needs wool yarn to knit socks for her family.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Abiel Foster gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Abiel Foster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 15, 1776</td>
<td>29 skeins of wool yarn</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 1773</td>
<td>Firewood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce?

Where do these things come from?

What does Samuel Pierce give to you?

Why do you need this?

You do all of your cooking in a big fireplace like this one. It takes a lot of wood to keep the fire going.

Samuel Pierce’s wife Elizabeth knits socks for her family. The sock in the picture isn’t finished yet and you can see the needles.
Zebulon Crane
hired hand

You are Zebulon Crane, a hired hand in Dorchester. Being a hired hand means that you do farm work, but you do not own a farm of your own. The farmers in Dorchester hire you to work on their farms. Sometimes a farmer only needs you to work for a single day, but you like it better when they offer to pay you to work for a whole month or even a whole year. To pay you for your work, the farmers give you some money and also some goods, like clothes and vegetables.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? ________________________________

What is the name of your job? ____________________________

What do you do? ______________________________________

What do you like best about your job? ____________________

Hired hands cut down trees and chop them into pieces for firewood.

A hired hand plants seeds.

A hired hand helps a farmer haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.
Zebulon Crane

Samuel Pierce is a farmer that lives in Dorchester. Last month he gave you a load of wood to use in your fireplace. In exchange you agreed to help him chop wood.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Zebulon Crane gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Zebulon Crane</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 13, 1776</td>
<td>One day chopping wood</td>
<td>Nov. 24, 1776</td>
<td>A load of wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? ____________________________

Why does he need you to do this? ____________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? _________________________

Why do you need this? _________________________________

You help Sam Pierce to chop wood in the winter. When there is snow on the ground, the wood can be piled on a sled and the oxen pull the sled over the snow.

In your house is a fireplace where your wife does all of the cooking. It takes a lot of firewood to keep the fire going all the time.
Philip Withington
farmer

You are Philip Withington, a farmer living in Dorchester. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? 

What is the name of your job? 

What do you do? 

What do you like best about your job?

A farmer plants seeds.  

Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.  

Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Philip Withington

Sometimes when you are not very busy working on your farm, you help other farmers with their work. Then when you get really busy on your farm, some of them help you. This fall you need to build a new chimney for your house. You know a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, who is very good at building chimneys. He has agreed to come and help you build your chimney. In exchange you will help him to kill and butcher one of his cows.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Philip Withington gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Philip Withington</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1787</td>
<td>Butcher a cow</td>
<td>Nov. 7, 1787</td>
<td>One day work on a chimney</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? ________________________________

Why does he need you to do this? ________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? ________________________________

Why do you need this? ________________________________

A farmer carefully removes the intestines from a cow before cutting the meat into pieces. This man is building a chimney out of brick.
Elisha Davenport
farmer

You are Elisha Davenport, a farmer living in Dorchester. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? ___________________________________________________________________________

What is the name of your job? __________________________________________________________________

What do you do? _______________________________________________________________________________

What do you like best about your job? __________________________________________________________________

A farmer plants seeds. Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart. Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Elisha Davenport

Sometimes when you are not very busy working on your farm, you help other farmers with their work. Then when you get really busy on your farm, some of them help you. A farmer you know, named Samuel Pierce, needs help mending the fence around the pasture where he keeps his cows. If he doesn’t mend the fence today, his cows will wander out of the pasture. You have agreed to help him fix his fence and he has agreed to help you plow your fields in exchange.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Elisha Davenport gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Elisha Davenport</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 13, 1784</td>
<td>One day mending a fence</td>
<td>May 17, 1784</td>
<td>Half a day plowing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? ____________________________________________________________

Why does he need you to do this? __________________________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? ________________________________________________________

Why do you need this? ____________________________________________________________________

Oxen pull the plow. The plow breaks up the ground, and then the farmer plants his seeds.

One man sets a post for a fence into the ground. The other holds the cross beams that will run from one post to the next.
Daniel Leeds
farmer

You are Daniel Leeds, a farmer living in Dorchester. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? 

What is the name of your job? 

What do you do? 

What do you like best about your job? 

A farmer plants seeds.  
Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.  
Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Like most people in Dorchester, your favorite drink is apple cider and you have it with almost every meal. You don’t grow enough apples on your farm to make cider, but you know a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, who makes more cider than his family can drink. This year you have extra rye flour. Rye flour is like wheat and makes delicious bread. Samuel Pierce has agreed to give you some of his cider in exchange for your rye flour.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Daniel Leeds gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Daniel Leeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3, 1777</td>
<td>10 bushels of rye flour</td>
<td>Oct. 16, 1777</td>
<td>3 barrels of cider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ________________________________

Where do get this? ______________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? ______________________________

Why do you need this? __________________________________________

A farmer’s wife is shaping a loaf of bread that she will bake in the brick oven on the right.

Samuel Pierce gives you cider in big wood barrels like this one.
Jonathon Pierce
farmer

You are Jonathon Pierce, a farmer living in Dorchester. You are 32 years old and Samuel Pierce’s cousin. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?  

What is the name of your job?  

What do you do?  

What do you like best about your job?

A farmer plants seeds.  

Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.  

Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Jonathon Pierce

You grow hay to feed to your cows. This year you have grown more hay than you will need. You would like to sell some of it in the market in Boston, but you do not have time to take the hay to Boston yourself. You know a farmer, Samuel Pierce, who goes to Boston often. He has agreed to take your hay to Boston for you and you have agreed to give him a young cow that you raised in exchange.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Jonathon Pierce gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Jonathon Pierce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1781</td>
<td>One heifer (a young cow)</td>
<td>March 26, 1781</td>
<td>Carting hay to Boston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? ___________________________________________

Where does this come from? ___________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? ___________________________________________

Why do you need this? ___________________________________________

You raise cows for both meat and milk. Some of the meat and milk your family eats. Sometimes when you trade with people you give them milk, meat, or even a whole cow.

Samuel Pierce uses a horse cart like this one to haul goods to and from Boston.
Clark Roberts
hired hand

You are Clark Roberts, a hired hand in Dorchester. Being a hired hand means that you do farm work, but you do not own a farm of your own. The farmers in Dorchester hire you to work on their farms. Sometimes a farmer only needs you to work for a single day, but you like it better when they offer to pay you to work for a whole month or even a whole year. To pay you for your work, the farmers give you some money and also some goods, like clothes and vegetables.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?__________________________________________________________

What is the name of your job?_____________________________________________________

What do you do?_________________________________________________________________

What do you like best about your job?______________________________________________

Hired hands cut down trees and chop them into pieces for firewood.

A hired hand plants seeds.

A hired hand helps a farmer haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.
Clark Roberts
The farmer Samuel Pierce has a large farm and he is always very busy in May when he plants his vegetables and his corn seeds. This May he is sick and can’t do all of the work by himself. He wants you to work for a month to help him with the planting. While you are working he will give you shoes and clothes and then when the month is over he will also pay you some money. The work will not be easy. You will do many different jobs on the farm and have to do whatever Samuel Pierce tells you to do, but he is offering you many things in exchange for your work.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Clark Roberts gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Clark Roberts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1785</td>
<td>Work for one month</td>
<td>May 1785</td>
<td>Trousers (a pair of pants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>One pair of shoes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>June 11, 1785</td>
<td>Cash</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? _____________________________________________

Why does he need you to do this? _____________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? _________________________________________

Why do you need this? _______________________________________________________

One of the jobs that you do for Sam Pierce is mowing hay. You use a large tool called a scythe like the one in the picture. You swing the scythe close to the ground to cut the hay.
Abiather Wilson
farmer

You are Abiather Wilson, a farmer living in Dorchester. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?  

What is the name of your job?  

What do you do?  

What do you like best about your job?  

A farmer plants seeds.  

Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.  

Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Abiather Wilson

Like most people in Dorchester, your favorite drink is apple cider and you have it with almost every meal. You don’t grow enough apples on your farm to make cider, but you know a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, who makes more cider than his family can drink. Samuel Pierce has agreed to give you some of his cider if you spend a day mowing hay on his farm.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Abiather Wilson gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Abiather Wilson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 10, 1782</td>
<td>One day of mowing hay</td>
<td>July 10, 1782</td>
<td>Half barrel of cider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? ____________________________

Why does he need you to do this? ______________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? __________________________

Why do you need this? ________________________________

To mow hay you use a large tool called a scythe like the one in the picture. You swing the scythe close to the ground to cut the hay.
George Payson
housewright

You are George Payson, a housewright living in Dorchester. You build houses and barns for people. Building a house or a barn is complicated and requires a great deal of knowledge. You first build a frame and then cover it with boards for the walls and the floors and then you add a roof that you protect by covering with shingles. You make the window frames and doors and build staircases. Sometimes people who already own a home or a barn ask you to make repairs for them.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name?_____________________________________________________

What is the name of your job?_________________________________________________

What do you make?___________________________________________________________

What do you like best about your job?__________________________________________

A housewright makes a door for a house that he is building.
You are building a house and need to buy shingles in Boston. You don’t have time right now to go all the way to Boston, but you know a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, who often goes to Boston and he has agreed to bring your shingles back to Dorchester in his cart. In exchange, you have agreed to replace the rotten wood floor in his old barn.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>George Payson gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to George Payson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 3, 1794</td>
<td>Three days of working on Samuel Pierce’s barn</td>
<td>Dec. 24, 1793</td>
<td>Carting 10,000 shingles from Boston</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? ____________________________________________________________________

Why does he need you to do this? ____________________________________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? __________________________________________________________________

Why do you need this? ______________________________________________________________________________
David Thompson
hired hand

You are David Thompson, a hired hand in Dorchester. Being a hired hand means that you do farm work, but you do not own a farm of your own. The farmers in Dorchester hire you to work on their farms. Sometimes a farmer only needs you to work for a single day, but you like it better when they offer to pay you to work for a whole month or even a whole year. To pay you for your work, the farmers give you some money and also some goods, like clothes and vegetables.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? _____________________________________________

What is the name of your job? _______________________________________

What do you do? ___________________________________________________

What do you like best about your job? _________________________________

Hired hands cut down trees and chop them into pieces for firewood.

A hired hand plants seeds.

A hired hand helps a farmer haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.
David Thompson

The farmer Samuel Pierce has a large farm and he has decided that for the next year he is going to need someone to help him. The work will not be easy. You will do many different jobs on the farm and have to do whatever Samuel Pierce tells you to do, but he is offering you many things in exchange for your work, and you are glad to have a job that will last for a whole year.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>David Thompson gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to David Thompson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1789 cash</td>
<td>Work for one year</td>
<td>1789</td>
<td>Shoes, clothes, an ax, and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? ________________________________________________

Why does he need you to do this? _________________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce give to you? ______________________________________________

Why do you need this? ____________________________________________________________

One of the jobs that you do for Sam Pierce is mowing hay. You use a large tool called a scythe like the one in the picture. You swing the scythe close to the ground to cut the hay.
Edward Foster
farmer

You are Edward Foster, a farmer living in Dorchester. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? ______________________________________________________

What is the name of your job? ________________________________________________

What do you do? _____________________________________________________________

What do you like best about your job? __________________________________________

A farmer plants seeds.  Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.  Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Edward Foster

Like most people in Dorchester, your favorite drink is apple cider and you have it with almost every meal. You grow apples on your farm, but you don’t have a cider mill to press the apples and make cider. You know a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, though, and if you give him your apples he will make them into cider for you using his cider mill. Two months ago you spent a day helping him by mowing the hay in his fields. In exchange, he has agreed to use his press to make cider out of your apples.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Edward Foster gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Edward Foster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 7, 1780</td>
<td>One day of mowing hay</td>
<td>Nov. 13, 1780</td>
<td>Making 5 barrels of</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? ________________________________

Why does he need you to do this? ________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? ________________________________

Why do you need this? ________________________________

This is a cider mill. Apples are put in the center. Then the man on the left uses the long lever to squeeze the juice out of the apples.

To mow hay you use a large tool called a scythe like the one in the picture. You swing the scythe close to the ground to cut the hay.
Thomas Leeds Jr.
farmer

You are Thomas Leeds, a farmer living in Dorchester. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? _______________________________________

What is the name of your job? ____________________________________

What do you do? ________________________________________________

What do you like best about your job? ______________________________

A farmer plants seeds. Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart. Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Sometimes when you are not very busy working on your farm, you help other farmers with their work. Then when you get really busy on your farm, some of them help you. This fall a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, needs help picking apples from his orchards. You have agreed to help and in exchange Samuel Pierce has agreed to plow your garden next spring.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Thomas Leeds gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Thomas Leeds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 20, 1793</td>
<td>One day picking Pierce’s apples</td>
<td>April 10, 1794</td>
<td>Plowing Leeds’ garden</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? __________________________________________________________________________

Why does he need you to do this? __________________________________________________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? __________________________________________________________________________

Why do you need this? _______________________________________________________________________________________

Oxen pull the plow. The plow breaks up the ground, and then the farmer plants his seeds.

Two farmers pick apples and load them into a cart.
Joseph Howe
farmer

You are Joseph Howe, a farmer living in Dorchester. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? ______________________________________________________

What is the name of your job? _________________________________________________

What do you do? _____________________________________________________________

What do you like best about your job? _________________________________________

A farmer plants seeds. Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart. Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Like most people in Dorchester, your favorite drink is apple cider and you have it with almost every meal. You grow apples on your farm, but you don’t have a cider mill to press the apples and make cider. You know a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, though, and he will let you use his cider mill. In exchange you have agreed to give him a calf (baby cow) when your cow gives birth in the spring.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Joseph Howe gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Joseph Howe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 1800</td>
<td>A calf</td>
<td>Nov. 26, 1799</td>
<td>Use of Pierce’s cider mill to make cider</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you give to Samuel Pierce? _________________________________

Where does this come from? _______________________________________

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? _________________________________

Why do you need this? ___________________________________________

This is a cider mill. Apples are put in the center. Then the man on the left uses the long lever to squeeze the juice out of the apples.

Samuel Pierce raises cows for both meat and milk. Some of the meat and milk his family eats. Some of it he trades with other people.
Robert Pierce
farmer

You are Robert Pierce, a farmer living in Dorchester. You are 45 years old and one of Samuel Pierce’s cousins. Most of the people who live in Dorchester are farmers like you. You grow corn, hay, apples, grains (like wheat, rye, and barley), and many vegetables like potatoes and carrots. You also raise animals like cows and pigs. The cows give you milk during the spring and summer and in the winter you kill the pigs and some of the cows for meat for your family to eat.

Questions to answer:

What is your new name? ________________________________

What is the name of your job? ________________________________

What do you do? ________________________________________

What do you like best about your job? ________________________________

A farmer plants seeds.  Two farmers haul a load of hay piled high on a cart.  Farmers milk their cows twice a day.
Robert Pierce

Sometimes when you are not very busy working on your farm, you help other farmers with their work. Then when you get really busy on your farm, some of them help you. This spring you need some extra help plowing your fields. You know a farmer, named Samuel Pierce, who has some extra time. He has agreed to come and help you plow your fields. In exchange you will help him to kill two of his hogs (male pigs) next winter.

Look at the diagram below from Samuel Pierce’s account book.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Robert Pierce gave to Samuel Pierce</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Samuel Pierce gave to Robert Pierce</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1781</td>
<td>Killing two hogs</td>
<td>May 28, 1781</td>
<td>One day plowing Robert Pierce’s fields</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Questions to answer:

What do you do for Samuel Pierce? 

Why does he need you to do this? 

What does Samuel Pierce do for you? 

Why do you need this?

A farmer carefully removes the intestines from an animal before cutting up the meat.

Oxen pull the plow. The plow breaks up the ground, and then the farmer plants his seeds.