

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRE/POST-VISIT ACTIVITY – Working in Early America

**DIRECTIONS:** Consider the following quote taken from the book, Colonial Craftsmen and the Beginnings of American Industry by Edwin Tunis:

*Social position was a great matter to our ancestors but it wasn't so rigidly fixed as it was in England. A smart, industrious American could get ahead not only financially but socially as well, particularly if he joined the "right" church and married the right girl. As a result, craftsmen penetrated every social level, but in the main, "substantial artisans" stood near the middle of the social structure.*

1. Use concentric circles to illustrate the success of the following colonial people. Put people of the highest social standing, based on their occupation, life choices, and family background, at the inner circle. Move those who would have been considered less successful towards the outer rings.
2. Once you have organized the colonists, think of some contemporary Americans that you could compare and contrast. Where would they be positioned on the circle? Why? How have things changed? How have things stayed the same?

**William Rogers (16??-1739)** – a.k.a the “poor potter of Yorktown”, Virginia. Married twice, fined for not going to church, established a successful pottery factory that exported goods to other North American colonies and the West Indies. Was an agent of York County’s court justices and a brewer. Both slaves and indentured servants worked in his factory.

**Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)** – a printer in Philadelphia (also a scientist, inventor, Founding Father, philanthropist, author, diplomat, politician, and postmaster (to name a few). Born the 15<sup>th</sup> child of a soap and candle-maker in Boston. He had an illegitimate son in addition to 2 children by his common law wife.

**John Goddard (1723/4-1785)** – 2<sup>nd</sup> generation cabinetmaker in Newport, Rhode Island. He apprenticed with Job Townsend and married his daughter. They were established Quakers. He had his own workshop and took commissions from famous and wealthy early Americans. He exported furniture to other colonies and the West Indies.

**Henry William Stiegel (1729-1785)** - glassmaker and ironmaster from Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Immigrated to America with his widowed mother and younger brother in 1750. Bought the land and built the town of Manheim, PA. Owned and ran two ironwork factories and one glasswork factory where he employed European artisans to make vessels and tableware. Nicknamed ‘Baron’ to reflect his extravagant lifestyle. Lived in a mansion.



**Martha Ballard (1735-1812)** – a midwife working in Maine. She traveled by horse or canoe to reach her patients. She had both medical and judicial responsibilities. She could read and write. She was married and had 9 children. Her husband was imprisoned for debt and her son was indicted for fraud.

**Paul Revere (1735-1818)** – a silversmith and an engraver in Boston, Massachusetts. His father was a Frenchman and his mother was descended from the Puritans. He left school at 13 to be apprenticed by his father. He was a Patriot in the American Revolution. He had a prominent and prosperous silversmith trade which he expanded to include more advanced technological developments for the purpose of mass production. He had 16 children between two wives.

**Nathaniel Dominy IV (1737-1812)** - clockmaker from East Hampton, New York. First of three generations of clock and furniture makers who shipped products locally and regionally. A rural craftsman who also built windmills and houses, repaired watches and guns, served as a town trustee, an inspector of schools, and a sealer of weights and measures. Married Hannah Baker and had one son who continued the trade.

**Jane Hunter Charlton (approx. 1746-1802)** – a milliner in Williamsburg, Virginia. She and her sister came from England in the 1760s. She likely had some schooling and was probably apprenticed in London. She leased her own shop and continued her trade after she was married to Edward Charlton, a barber and wigmaker. She was known to have sold goods to Martha Washington.

**Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784)** – a poet in Boston, Massachusetts. Kidnapped in West Africa and sold to an American family at the age of 8. She was raised and educated by the Wheatley family with their two white children. She was the first African American and the first U.S. slave to publish a book of poetry. She was freed from slavery, married and had three children. She met George Washington, who admired her writing. Her husband was imprisoned for debt. She died in poverty at the age of 31.

**Elizabeth Lord Lakeman (1767-1862)** – a young lace maker in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Her father was a respected soldier in the American Revolution and the French and Indian Wars. She married at 23, had 8 children and returned to lace making after raising her family.