

Session 4 Extension Activity: Journey of an Apprentice



In the middle ages many boys and girls were apprentices. An apprentice was a student who was learning a skilled job such as making barrels, cutlery, clothing, or armor. Trades such as seamstress, haberdasher, shoemaker, goldsmith, butcher, blacksmith, tanner, carpenter, weaver, mason, and cooper required a young person to go through an apprenticeship of several stages.



A sponsor, who was typically the child's mom or dad, would approach a shop owner or the guild to set up an apprenticeship. Once a place had been found, the child would spend many years learning the basics of the trade by living and working with the shop owner. Once the child was in his or her late teens and had gained the skills and could work independently, he became a journeyman. This meant he or she could work at the trade for payment. To become a master, the journeyman would make a masterpiece. This position allowed a person to own his or her own shop.

On the next page, trace the stages of an apprenticeship from child to master.

