

# *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

Here we have a stone, a brick and a block of wood. These three materials were used by tradespeople to build houses, fences and walls in Colonial America.



## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Many years ago, there were tradespeople who were experts in using each of the three materials: those who worked with stone were called masons; those who worked with brick were called bricklayers; and those who worked with wood were called carpenters.*



*The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*  
*Here is an example of a colonial house.*





## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*People who build houses today still use these materials. Today we sometimes call all of these tradespeople construction workers. This picture is an example of a modern house like those you might see today.*



## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Which parts of these houses were made with stone and made by the mason? Which parts were made of brick and built by the bricklayer? What was made of wood and done by the carpenter?*



# *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*What is your house made out of?*

*Listen carefully to learn more about the tools bricklayers, masons, and carpenters used.*





## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*In Colonial American towns, most people built their own homes with the help of their neighbors.*

*However, townspeople who were wealthy could hire tradespeople who helped build houses in colonial times, and who still build houses today: the bricklayer, the mason and the carpenter.*



## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*The bricklayer builds walls and houses using bricks. Bricks are made from clay--extremely fine, red soil that comes from the earth. A long time ago, people discovered that if you mixed clay with a little water, shaped it into a block, and then baked it in the hot sun, it would dry out and harden into a solid brick.*





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*In this picture, you can see a bricklayer laying bricks the way it was done three hundred years ago. He is using a special tool called a trowel to spread the mortar. Mortar is a really gooey, sticky material made of sand, water, and a type of crushed rock called lime. Once the bricklayer has spread mortar evenly with his trowel, he will add another brick to the wall.*



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*If the bricklayer is good at this trade, his wall will be straight and strong and will last for many years.*



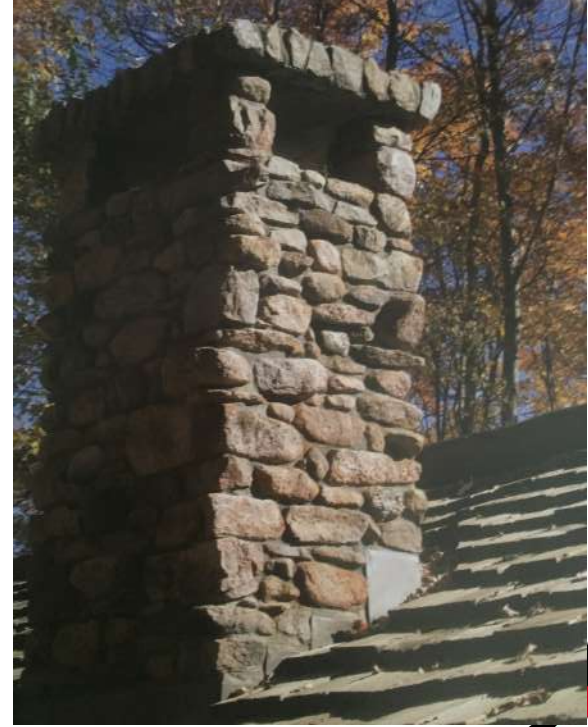
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## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*A stonemason, or mason for short, builds walls and houses with stones. Like the bricklayer, the mason can use mortar to stick stones together. Can you see the mortar in the spaces between the stones in this chimney? While bricks are mostly the same size and shape, stones come in all shapes and sizes. The mason has to be careful to make sure that each piece fits together closely with the pieces next to it.*



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*Can you see how the stones in this wall have been carefully fitted together, like pieces in a puzzle? To be able to fit the stones together so well, the mason had to chip away at them with a hammer and a sharp chisel, patiently reshaping the stones so that each one would fit perfectly into its space alongside the others.*





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*A chisel is a pointed tool used with a hammer to break off edges of stones. Patiently means acting without rushing. Why did the mason have to reshape the stones patiently?*

*In fact, these stones were fitted together so well that the mason did not need to use mortar to keep them in place.*





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*In an old colonial town, many masons were asked to build the foundations of houses. The foundation is the bottom or base of the house, the lowest part on which the rest of the house stands. The stones in the foundation must fit together snugly so that they never move or crack. The stones on each of the corners of the house, called cornerstones, are especially important.*



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*Strong cornerstones make a strong foundation--which makes a sturdy house that won't fall down!*



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## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Finally, can you tell what other material is used to build houses? That's right: wood. And who works with wood? Yes--the carpenter.*



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*Most carpenters begin with a diagram, or drawing, of what they plan to build. The diagram tells the carpenter how long, how wide, and how thick each wooden board needs to be, and it shows how the pieces need to be fitted together.*



## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Sometimes to save money and time, instead of using smooth wooden boards, carpenters would use rough logs to build houses.*





## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*The carpenter uses a lot of special tools. This picture shows a carpenter measuring a board with a special kind of ruler, called a square, that's good for measuring angles and straight edges.*



## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*The carpenter makes a mark on the board with a pencil to show him where to cut. Carpenters have to be careful to get their measurements exactly right; otherwise, if they cut the wrong sized piece of wood, or cut it at the wrong angle, the piece will not fit together correctly and the house will not stand up properly.*



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Most good carpenters measure their boards twice before cutting, just to make sure that they have marked the exact, right place. That's why carpenters have a saying: "Measure twice; cut once." It's basically to remind themselves to double check their measurements before cutting. Once they cut a board, they can't uncut it.





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Once the carpenter has cut the boards to the sizes he needs with his saw, he fastens them together with his hammer and nails. Then, he uses a tool called a level to check and make sure that everything is straight and even. So, what are some of the tools a carpenter uses?



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When a carpenter builds a house, he builds from the ground up. He begins by building the frame of the house. The frame gives the house its shape and holds everything together, like your skeleton gives your body shape. The frame holds up the walls, the roof, the doors and the windows.



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*If the carpenter does his job well, the end result will be a beautiful house that keeps rain and wind out for years and years. We know that many early American house builders were true experts at their trades because many of their buildings are still standing today, as straight and tall as ever.*





# *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Although we sometimes call them construction workers, bricklayers, masons, and carpenters still work together to build today's homes. Like colonial homes, modern homes can have parts that are built of brick, stone, and wood. But unlike colonial tradespeople, the tradespeople of today use electric power tools to make their work much easier to accomplish.*



# *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

*Which tradesperson builds using bricks?*

# The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

What kinds of tools and other materials does a bricklayer use? How does a bricklayer build a house or wall with bricks?



# *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

*Which tradesperson builds houses or walls using stones?*

# *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

*What kinds of tools or other materials does a stonemason use? Tell me how a mason builds with stones.*

# *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

*Which tradesperson builds objects using wood?*



# *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*Comprehension Questions:*

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

*Carpenters don't use mortar. How do they fasten, or attach, pieces of wood together?*

# The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Carpenters have a saying: "Measure twice; cut once." What does that mean?

# **Word Work**

*Explicit Vocabulary Instruction*



## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*In the read aloud you heard, "To be able to fit the stones together so well, the mason had to chip away at them with a hammer and a sharp chisel, **patiently** reshaping the stones so that each one would fit perfectly into its space alongside the others."*

*Say the word **patiently** with me.*

*Whisper patiently to the ceiling.*

*Whisper patiently to your neighbor.*

*Let's clap it out.*

## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

**Patiently** means waiting or doing something without rushing or hurrying.

*If you are quietly waiting for your turn to play, without pushing or complaining, you are waiting patiently.*

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*Tell me about a time that you waited patiently.  
Try to use the word patiently when you tell  
about it.*

*“I waited patiently when...”*



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*What's the word we have been talking  
about?*

*Let's clap it out.*

## *The House Builders: Bricklayers, Masons & Carpenters*

*I am going to read some scenarios about people. If you think the person is waiting patiently, give a thumbs up. If the person is not waiting patiently, thumbs down.*

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*A driver who honks the car horn and yells because the car in front of him is going slowly.*



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*A driver who lets another car go ahead  
of him before turning into a parking  
lot*

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*A boy standing quietly in a long line of people at the grocery store, while telling jokes to his mom*

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*A girl who grabs a toy out of her friend's hands because she wants to play with it right away*



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*A girl who says, "Let me know when  
you're finished playing with that toy"  
and sits quietly nearby*