Colonial Days

Activity Suggestion Sheets

MOUNT * VERNON

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S

THE MOUNT VERNON LADIES' ASSOCIATION

Textiles

- **Find wood chip**s to make natural dyes.

 Predict what color the fabric will turn if you dye it overnight. Then, use a white piece of fabric to see what color your fabric becomes!
- Watch a video how string and yarn was made in the 18th century. Then, print out pictures of this colorful 18th century quilt or Martha Washington's homemade quilt. Use these pictures as inspiration to create your own 18th century quilt by gluing down yarn, scraps of fabric, tissue paper, cotton balls, or pom-poms onto a piece of paper.

Enslaved and hired weavers at Mount Vernon made basic textiles, such as stockings and linens. Other materials, such as silk, were imported from England.



Foodways

- Make butter the old fashioned way! Find a small jar and fill it about halfway with cream. Then, try different ways to shake it. After a while, butter should form in the jar. Salt the butter, and spread it on crackers to enjoy. While you're eating the butter, see the ways butter was used in colonial cooking.
- Think about your favorite food. Why do you like it? Watch a video on what Washington's favorite food was, and compare your favorite food to his by drawing pictures of both. What ingrediants are similar? What are different? Watch a video on how to make his favorite food, and try making it yourself.
- Watch Feeding the Animals at Mount Vernon.
 Pick your favorite animal and draw what they
 do at Mount Vernon (such as providing wool,
 pulling a plow, or running in a treading barn) or
 what their habitat at Mount Vernon looks like.

Colonial Spices

Find a few spices in your pantry, like cinnamon, salt, rosemary, and ginger. Ask an adult to pour a bit of each spice into its own small cup or bowl. Smell the spices. Which spices do you recognize? What spices are unfamiliar?

Use this **spice worksheet** and look to see what spices you have that were used in the 18th century. Check off the ones you have in your pantry, and put a star next to the one that is your favorite.







TEXTILES

ARCHAEOLOGY

FOODWAYS

Archaeology

- Individually or in groups, look at the artifacts in this artifact guide or at archaeology online. Think about what you see. What do you notice that are the same between objects? Why do we call these objects "archaeology artifacts"? Then, select an object (such as the persimmon seeds, punch bowl, or marble) and draw what it might have looked like in the 18th century. Make sure you point to the pieces that helped you figure it out!
- Ask an adult to bury 2-3 objects for you. Wait
 for a few days, and then dig and clean the
 objects. Using poster board, paper, markers.
 and other supplies, create an exhibit that
 shows the object, where it was found, and
 what it might be used for.