

Make a Copy Book

Compiled by Teresa Potter, Colonial Williamsburg Master Teacher
From Resources from the Colonial Williamsburg Teacher Institute

Children practiced perfect handwriting in a copy book they would sometimes make themselves or purchase from a bookbinder. Each volume was stitched by hand. A heavy thread was used to sew the pages together and then it was covered with a beautiful, handmade cover. It took apprentice bookbinders several years to master the skills involved in this process.

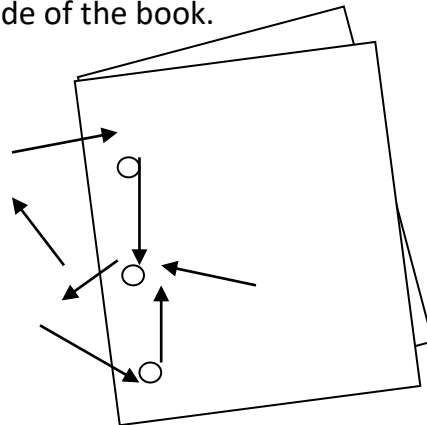
As soon as children were old enough to write, they recorded information in copy books used as diaries. They would keep track of what happened in their lives by writing down what happened each day, recording the weather, making a list of what work needed to be done, and keeping an expense book of how much money they earned and spent. Follow the directions to make your own copybook and record colonial sayings in your book.

Materials:

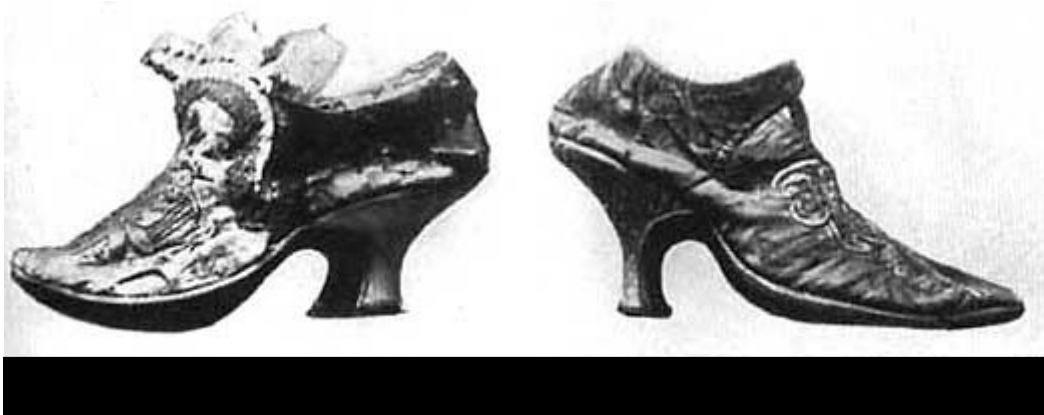
	Waxed paper
¼ cup flour	Wide-toothed combs or picks
1 ¼ cups water	String or yarn
Saucepan	Whole punch
Stove or portable burner	Glue
Whisk	Colonial Sayings
1-2 TBS. powdered tempera paint	<i>Puttin' on the Dog</i>
White 8 ½" by 11" tagboard	<i>Quill pens & ink or</i>
White 8 ½" by 11" copy paper	<i>Markers & crayons</i>

Directions:

1. Cover tables with protective paper.
2. Combine the flour and water in the pan and heat to boiling, whisking constantly. Remove the pan from heat.
3. Stir in the powdered paint and set aside to cool.
4. Pour paint into bowls and quickly pass out to students.
5. Students will brush a thin layer of colored paste all over the tagboard.
6. They will use the combs and picks to create designs in the paint.
7. Let the covers dry completely on a sheet of butcher paper or drying rack.
8. To make the inside papers, ask students to fold 3-4 sheets of the white copy paper in half. Next, punch three holes along the folded edge of each sheet, making sure that all the holes are in line along the left.
9. Cut a 2-foot piece of string & thread down through the center hole, leaving a 3" tail. Thread the string up through the top hole, and down through the center hole again, then up through the bottom hole. Tie a knot at the center hole.
10. When the cover is dry, students will glue it to the front and back pages of the book. Put a piece of waxed paper between the cover pages to keep them from sticking to the rest of the book.
11. Stack heavy books on top of the copy book to flatten the curled ends.
12. Read aloud *Puttin' on the Dog*.
13. Have the students choose 3-4 colonial saying and write them across the open pages of the inside of the book.



Puttin' on the Dog: Colonial Sayings



Directions: Match the colonial saying on the left to its meaning today on the right. Put the letter of the correct definition in the blank in front of the colonial saying.

1. _____ Save face
 2. _____ Crack a smile
 3. _____ Crawl into bed
 4. _____ Let your hair down
 5. _____ Jolly Roger
 6. _____ Powder room
 7. _____ Pen knife
 8. _____ Set the table
 9. _____ It's raining cats and dogs
 10. _____ Macaroni
 11. _____ Steal my thunder
 12. _____ Flip her wig
 13. _____ Chairman
 14. _____ Let's get cracking
 15. _____ Mind your P's and Q's
 16. _____ Sleep tight
 17. _____ Puttin' on the dog
 18. _____ Big shots
 19. _____ Gossip
 20. _____ When my ship comes in
- A. People of importance
 - B. When you have said or done something to "save" you from embarrassing yourself
 - C. A small knife
 - D. To relax
 - E. Get up into your bed
 - F. A symbol found on a pirate flag
 - G. Talking about people or events
 - H. Older term meaning stylish
 - I. To tell someone to worry about their own business and not yours
 - J. To get busy
 - K. When I get rich or lucky

- L. A room, often a ladies restroom, where you can fix hair and apply make-up
- M. What you do when you present your best
- N. To grin
- O. To put silverware and dishes on the table
- P. To get mad or throw a fit
- Q. When people take attention or credit away from you
- R. Person of highest authority on a committee or board
- S. When it rains or storms violently
- T. Get a good night's rest

Bibliography

Carson, Mary Kay. *Colonial America: A Complete Theme Unit Developed in Cooperation With the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation*. New York: Scholastic Professional Books, 1999.

Flynn, Norma Twilley. *"Puttin' on the Dog."* New York, New York: Dover Publications, 1988.