



## COLONIAL TOOLS AND WEAPONS

Life in Colonial times could be very difficult. The right weapons or tools for a job made it a little easier.

A sickle is a tool with a sharp blade. It has a short, wooden handle. It was used to cut grass or grain. Sickles were very helpful when clearing tall grasses for a new home or garden.

An ax, or axe, is another useful tool. Colonial axes had long wooden handles. The top of each axe was made out of hard silver. It could be used for chopping wood. If you wanted to build a cabin, you needed an axe.

Pistols and rifles were just as important as the other tools. They were used to protect the families from wild animals and bandits. Rifles were also used for hunting. They had long, wooden barrels. They were very heavy.

Tools and weapons were important for getting food, staying safe, and making life easier. Life depended on good tools.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which tool was used for cutting grasses and wheat?
  - a. rifle
  - b. axe
  - c. sickle
  - d. pistol
  
2. If you wanted to hunt animals, you would use . . .
  - a. a rifle.
  - b. an axe.
  - c. a rope.
  - d. a sickle.
  
3. The author's purpose for this passage is to . . .
  - a. entertain the reader with funny information about tools.
  - b. inform the reader about the job of the axe.
  - c. show the importance of tools and weapons to the Colonial families.
  - d. teach the reader how to use a sickle.
  
4. Another name for an *ax* is . . .
 

a. a wagon.	c. a sickle.
b. an axe.	d. a horse.