Historic Christ Church & Museum

FIELD TRIP GUIDE

NAME

christchurch1735.org
HISTORY

Christ Church was completed in 1735, when George Washington was only three years old. It is one of the most important buildings ever constructed in America. The church has a cross-plan design, meaning it is shaped like a cross. Its style of architecture is Georgian. About 500,000 bricks were used in its construction. They were fired in large kilns set up near the churchyard. Slaves, indentured servants, and other skilled craftsmen all worked to build Christ Church. Robert Carter gave money in his will to pay for the church.

When Christ Church was built, Virginia was still a colony of England. The Anglican Church, or Church of England, was the official religion in Virginia. People living in areas around Christ Church were considered part of its parish. They were required to attend church at least once every month. If they did not, the churchwarden, a man who enforced church laws and cared for the church, could present them to the county court, where they could be fined or whipped.

A group of twelve men known as the vestry governed Christ Church. The vestry hired the minister, or parson as he was also known; made repairs to the church; oversaw the marking of property lines; and helped the parish’s poor and orphaned. With the local sheriff, the vestry collected parish taxes. Parishioners paid their taxes in tobacco notes. Tobacco was a cash crop in the colony; it was grown to sell for money. The minister earned 16,000 pounds of tobacco a year and had rights to a farm and house on the parish glebe lands. A sexton cleaned the church and maintained its grounds.

Sundays were an important day in colonial Virginia. People from all areas of the parish came together in the churchyard. They discussed things like tobacco prices and the latest manufactured goods that had been shipped in, or imported, from England. During the service, the clerk, who sat in the first level of the pulpit, read announcements for the parish community. Sometimes he read laws passed by the General Assembly or proclamations from the governor. After church, wealthy planters known as the gentry would invite people to their plantations for dinner.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the architectural style of Christ Church? __________________________

2. About how many bricks did it take to build Christ Church? __________________

3. When Christ Church was completed, Virginia was a colony of what country? ______

4. Where could you be taken if you failed to attend church? _____________________

5. Name two of the vestry’s jobs: _____________________________________________

6. What did colonial Virginians use to pay their taxes? __________________________

7. What did colonists import from England? _________________________________

8. Who read parish announcements from the pulpit? __________________________
TIMELINE OF VIRGINIA HISTORY

The completion of Christ Church in 1735 was just one of many important events in colonial Virginia. Listed in the right-hand column are some other significant events in the colony's history. Draw a line from the year on the left to match it with the event on the right.

1607  
1619  
1663  
1699  
1732  
1735  
1754-1763  
1775  

Robert Carter born  
French and Indian War  
English settle Jamestown  
American Revolution begins  
Christ Church completed  
Capital of Virginia moved to Williamsburg  
George Washington born  
House of Burgesses first meets  
First Africans arrive in colony

Look at the bricks below. Each brick on the left, a header, has a date in it. Each brick on the right, a stretcher, is empty. Put the events listed above in order in the stretcher bricks below.

DID YOU KNOW?

Robert Carter died the same year George Washington was born. What year was that?

DID YOU KNOW?

Christ Church was begun in 1730. How many years did it take to build?
The map on the opposite page is based on a map made in 1751 by Thomas Jefferson’s father, Peter Jefferson. It shows the eastern region of Virginia, which is known as the Tidewater. Use this map to answer the questions below.

1. Locate the four main rivers of the Tidewater region.
   
   What river is the farthest north? ________________________
   
   How do we spell this river today? ________________________
   
   What river is the farthest south? ________________________
   
   What site on this river did the English settle in 1607? ______________

2. Find Christ Church on the map and circle it. Christ Church is located on a peninsula called the Northern Neck. A peninsula is a body of land surrounded on three sides by water. Name the three bodies of water which form the Northern Neck.
   ________________________

3. Which two plantations on the Northern Neck are closest to each other?
   ________________________

4. Robert Carter lived on a plantation located just south of Christ Church. What was this plantation called?
   ________________________

5. Williamsburg, which became the capital of Virginia in 1699, is also located on a peninsula formed by two rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. Name the two rivers.
   ________________________

6. When Robert Carter traveled to the capital at Williamsburg, he often stopped at Rosewell, his son-in-law’s plantation on the York River, and then took a small boat over to Williamsburg. Draw the route by water Carter would have taken to get to Rosewell and then Williamsburg.

7. Robert Carter’s son John lived at Shirley Plantation. Is Shirley east or west of Williamsburg?
   ________________________

8. If Carter had traveled north across the "Patowmack" River, in what colony would he have been?
   ________________________
BRICKMAKING

One of the most important jobs in building Christ Church was brickmaking. Brickmakers produced about 500,000 bricks to construct the church. Because transporting bricks great distances was both expensive and labor intensive, brickmakers in colonial Virginia usually made their bricks close to the building site. At Christ Church, the bricks were made in a brickyard just south of the church.

The first step in making bricks was finding good clay. After selecting and digging the clay, brickmakers chopped up the large chunks and removed any unwanted materials, such as small stones. They then mixed the clay with sand and water in a process called tempering. Once mixed well, temperers loaded the clay onto molding tables and kneaded it like dough to prepare it for molding. Molders shaped the clay in wooden molds which were lined with sand to prevent the clay from sticking. The molder used a straight-edged stick to scrape the excess clay from the top of the mold in what was known as striking.

A person called the off-bearer then carried the mold to a drying bed and gently lifted it to release the bricks. The bricks would dry for several days on the beds. They would then be transferred and stacked in a hackstead to dry for two to three more weeks. After drying, the bricks were placed in kilns and burned or fired from four to seven days at temperatures reaching as high as 2,000°F. Once the kiln had cooled, brickmakers separated out the “well-burnt,” hard bricks which were usable from those which were soft and under-fired. Brickmakers could then re-fire the soft bricks.
BRICKMAKING CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use the “brickmaking” word list below to complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS
1. Scraping excess clay from mold
2. Area where drying bricks stacked
3. Temperers placed mixed clay here
4. Carried mold to drying bed
5. Mixing clay
6. Bricks made here

DOWN
1. Put in mold to prevent clay from sticking
2. Person who shaped clay into bricks
3. Made 500,000 at Christ Church
4. Bricks' main ingredient
5. Off-bearer took bricks here
6. Burned in kiln
GEORGIAN: of the architectural style during the reigns of Kings George I-George IV of England

WATERTABLE: a course of sloped bricks that marks the transition from the foundation to the walls above

SYMMETRY: features seen on one side are exactly the same on the other

RUBBED BRICKS: bricks that have been rubbed by stones, brushes, or other bricks to produce a smooth surface and rich, red color

THE ARCHITECTURE OF

Building Christ Church was an enormous job. The builder, or undertaker as he was called in colonial Virginia, used different shapes, designs, and colors to make Christ Church a unique
HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH

structure. Study the terms and figures on the sides of the church. When you visit Christ Church, you will need them to help you draw the main architectural features of the building.
The Carter tombs were some of the largest and most elaborately carved tombs in colonial Virginia. Those of Robert Carter (died in 1732) and his second wife, Betty Landon Carter (died in 1719), are made of marble. That of Judith Armistead Carter, Robert’s first wife (died in 1699), is made of limestone.

Though the tops are not original, they do contain the original inscriptions. Robert Carter’s inscription was written in Latin; the others were written in English. Another name for these tombs is sarcophagi, a word often used to describe tombs of ancient Greece and Rome.

Can you find sarcophagi and the other bolded words above in the scrambled words below? Good Luck!

E M S I N L T E O = 

A N L T I = 

A L M R E B = 

S M T O B = 

D R C V A E = 

G A I R S H O C A P = 

T R C R A E = 

P S N I T O I R I C N = 
JOBS IN CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

There were many different jobs connected to Christ Church Parish in the colonial period. Below is a description of some of the most important of them. Match the letter next to each job description with the person below who did the job. What job would you have wanted to do most if you had lived in Christ Church Parish in the colonial period?

A. One of two vestrymen chosen each year for this position, this person supervised many aspects of the church and parish life.

B. Often a poor member of the parish, this person kept the church clean. This job could be held by a man or woman.

C. Hired by the vestry, this person assisted the minister in the service & kept parish records. He was also known as the reader.

D. Also called a parson in colonial Virginia, this man led the service on Sunday. He earned 16,000 pounds tobacco each year.

E. One of a select group of twelve, this man helped hire the minister, care for church property, look after the poor, and set annual parish taxes.

F. Appointed by the vestry, this person walked and marked parish property lines once every four years.

____ CLERK
____ PROCESSIONER
____ CHURCHWARDEN
____ Sexton
____ MINISTER
____ VESTRYMAN

11
CHRIST CHURCH PARISH MAZE

During the colonial period, the minister of Christ Church also served as the minister of nearby St. Mary’s White Chapel, which in 1752 formally became part of Christ Church Parish. Every other Sunday, the minister would travel across the parish to preach at St. Mary’s White Chapel. See if you can help him find his way through the parish maze and reach the church in time!
INVENTORIES IN COLONIAL VIRGINIA

Most people who lived in colonial Virginia had very few possessions. Often they owned just the basic necessities to survive: a few farm animals, a small collection of tools, a little household furniture, and some clothing. When someone died, the court ordered that an inventory be made of that person’s estate. An inventory listed an individual’s possessions and the estimated value of them. These inventories allow us to see what types of things people owned in colonial Virginia.

Look at the inventory below. It was made of Robert Wells’ estate in 1736. Wells was a common man who lived in Lancaster County. What types of things did he own? What types of items are missing? What type of work do you think he did? Compare Wells’ possessions with yours today. Do you think you could survive with what Wells owned? Would you like to have lived back in 1736?

In obedience to an order of Court dated the 14th of July 1736 Wee met and Valued the Estate of Robert Wells what was Offer’d us the 7th Sep. 1736.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Description</th>
<th>Item Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Cow</td>
<td>box Iron &amp; heat'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 heifer</td>
<td>1 bed, bedsted, rug and cord</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Calf</td>
<td>1 old bed, bedstead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 old mare</td>
<td>2 blankets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 head of hogs</td>
<td>1 old Cupboard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 head of Sheep</td>
<td>a pcel of woodware</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Axes</td>
<td>2 old chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Pestle</td>
<td>1 spinning wheel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 lbs. of old Iron</td>
<td>6 lbs. of wool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 1/2 lbs. of old pewter</td>
<td>1 lb. of cotton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42 lbs. pot Iron</td>
<td>1 fat pot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 p' pot hooks</td>
<td>1 old Chest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pretend your local court has ordered that an inventory be taken of your possessions. Use the space below to list the things you own. Think about what is in your room, like clothes, computers, and furniture, or what might be in your garage or outside, like bikes, soccer balls, and other games. Do you have any of the same possessions that Robert Wells had in 1736? Do you think Wells would know how to use the things you use today?

In obedience to an order of Court dated the [ ] of 2016 Wee met and Valued the Estate of ___________________________ as followeth
VIRGINIA GAZETTE

In 1736, William Parks published the first newspaper in colonial Virginia. The Virginia Gazette offered information on local events as well as news from England. Some planters used the paper to post advertisements for runaway servants and slaves. Historians use these runaway advertisements to learn about the people of the past.

Look at the advertisement below. It was placed in the Virginia Gazette in 1773 by Rawleigh Downman, who was trying to find a servant who had run away from Lancaster County. Study the ad carefully, and then use it to answer the questions below.

December 30, 1773

RUN away from the Subscriber, last October, an English Convict Servant, named JOSEPH LLOYD, by Trade a House Carpenter and Joiner, but understands little of his Business, about twenty one Years of Age, five Feet eight or nine Inches high, a little round shouldered, short light brown Hair, has had the Smallpox favourably, the Pits being few, broad, and shallow. Took with him a German Osnabrug Frock and Waistcoat, a Shirt, two Pair of long Breeches, a white Shirt of Irish Linnen, a Frock of blue Fearnought with plain white Metal Buttons, a black and white Virginia Cloth Waistcoat Kersey wove, and a Pair of black Cloth Breeches. THREE POUNDS Reward will be paid for conveying him to me at Morattico, Lancaster County, and in Proportion for securing him in Jail, and giving timely Notice thereof, besides what the Law allows. Master of Vessels are hereby forwarned on carrying him out of the Colony, nor detain him on Board any Vessel.

RAWLEIGH DOWNMAN

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the name of the servant who ran away? __________________________

2. Where was he from? __________________________

3. What was his trade? __________________________

4. About how old was he? __________________________

5. What disease had he had recently? __________________________

6. Name two articles of clothing he took with him when he ran away. __________________________

7. How much reward did Rawleigh Downman offer for Lloyd's capture? __________________________

8. Why do you think Lloyd ran away? __________________________
IF YOU LIVED IN CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

Imagine you lived in Christ Church Parish in the year 1735. The story below describes what your life may have been like, but some of the most important words are missing! Use the word list at the bottom to complete the story.

My name is ________________. I live in Christ Church ____________.

which is located in Lancaster County in the _______________ of Virginia. I

live on a small plantation near the _________________ River.

My family and I live there along with an ______________ servant

named James who has four years left to serve and a ______ named Ben. We

raise __________ and __________ as our main crops. We

also have some livestock like __________ and __________.

We go to __________ at least once every month. We are required to do

so by the ______ of Virginia. Sometimes in church we hear the clerk read new

laws passed by the General __________ or ______________

issued by the Governor. In the churchyard, we hear news from

the community and talk about things like the ______ of tobacco or wheat and

the latest goods that have been __________ from __________.

WORD LIST

Assembly | corn | indentured | proclamations
--------- | ---- | ---------- | -------------
cattle   | England | laws | Rappahannock
church    | hogs | Parish | slave
colony    | imported | price | tobacco
HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH WORD SEARCH

The words can be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards, & backwards. Good Luck!