

Mission: Impossible?—Character Identities

Directions: Give one of the following identities to each member of your class. You will need to duplicate some of these identities for larger classes.

Farmer in Georgia: You and your family barely survive producing wheat on a small farm.

Cooper in South Carolina: You are a cooper who makes containers for such goods as flour and gunpowder.

Shoemaker in North Carolina: You have just completed your apprenticeship, and you are working for wages in a shoemaker's shop.

Baptist minister in Virginia: You live in a state which legally requires citizens to worship in and pay taxes to the Anglican Church.

Merchant in Massachusetts: You are a wealthy merchant in Boston whose business was greatly affected by the closing of the Boston Harbor after the Boston Tea Party. While much of your business consists of legal trading, you have also made money smuggling goods from Holland.

Farmer in Pennsylvania: You own a small wheat farm in Pennsylvania. You are able to support your family and sell excess crops for additional income.

Lawyer in Connecticut: Though you did not attend a school of law, you passed the bar exam and later served as the justice of the Superior Court of Connecticut.

Dock Worker in Georgia: You help load products such as lumber onto ships for export.

Plantation owner in South Carolina: You own a rice plantation which relies on the labor of 85 slaves.

Newspaper Editor in New York: You run a small newspaper in New York, and you are famous for writing editorials which criticize the government.

Small farmer in North Carolina: You are a wheat farmer, and you also raise livestock to sell to the northern colonies.

Blacksmith in Maryland: You own a blacksmith shop and are known for producing high quality goods.

Farmer in Rhode Island: You are a poor farmer in Rhode Island, and you struggle to grow crops such as corn and pumpkins in rocky soil.

Farmer in Delaware: You own a small wheat farm in Delaware. Your crop was destroyed last growing season, so you are struggling to feed your family and pay taxes.

Laborer in New Hampshire: You earn low wages working as a laborer for a shipbuilder in New Hampshire. You were recently injured in an accident and are unsure when you will be able to work again.

Miller in New Jersey: You work as a miller and grind wheat into flour.

Fisherman in New Hampshire: You own a small fishing boat and make a living selling fish.

Sailor in Connecticut: You are a sailor on a whaling ship in Connecticut. You work for small wages, and the owner of the ship has made a fortune selling whale oil.

Silversmith in Massachusetts: You are a silversmith in Massachusetts, and you own a successful shop in Boston.

Tavern Keeper in Rhode Island: You provide food, drink, and lodging for travelers in Rhode Island.

Indentured servant in Virginia: You are an indentured servant working at the Occoquan Iron Works in Virginia. The work is hard and several servants have run away.

Gunsmith in Pennsylvania: You make a living creating rifles for hunting and defense.

Carpenter in Maryland: Your job is to work with wood in order to build structures such as houses and barns.

Tailor in Delaware: Your job is to create clothing for the wealthier citizens who can afford to pay for your services.

Farmer in New Jersey: You own a 50 acre wheat farm in New Jersey, and you generally have enough extra crops to sell to others.

Seaport laborer in New York: You are a recent immigrant to the colonies, and you work for low wages loading and unloading ships at the docks.