



Colonial Day Guide

How to Plan a Colonial Day at Your School

OKLAHOMA HISTORY CENTER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT



Written and printed by the Education Department
Oklahoma History Center
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Table of Contents

Things to do	2
Sample Parent Letter A	3
Sample Parent Letter B	4
Three-Cornered Hat Template	5
Mob Cap Instructions	7
After Colonial Day Activities	8



There are many steps involved in producing a Colonial Day at your school. The following are just suggestions, please use which steps and documents you would like and adapt them for your class!

1. Make sure your students know the contents before the day of your colonial program. It is essential that they have a strong foundation in the basics of colonial history in order to understand and enjoy the programming.
2. Meet with other grade level teachers, administrators, special class teachers, special education teachers, etc. in order to plan. See what each are willing to work with students on, and also who they may know that could help!
3. Set the date around the lesson. It always is best to have a Colonial Day when studying the Colonial Era to make it relevant and memorable for the students!
4. Conduct an overall plan. (Make it fun for everyone involved!)
 - a. Are the students doing the research and creating the colonial experience?
If so, set aside class time to teach them about the era and to make their projects.
 - b. Are you bringing in outside guests or having others present to the class? If the students are rotating in stations, make sure that the spaces are open for the date you need them. Also, make sure you have the necessary audio/visual equipment taken care of.
5. After you have the date set, contact local museums, historical societies, parents, and school volunteers to save the date!
6. Make a list of who is doing what and at what times. Organization is key in planning any event!
7. Send a note home to parents informing them what is going on in class and what may be asked of them to work on at home
8. Make sure the students are exposed to the Colonial Era in the classroom, and enlist your special class teachers to help! (music, art, P.E.) You can also book a trunk from the OHC to assist in classroom learning.
9. Follow up with your presenters. Always check and double check to make sure dates and times for guest presentations are correct in order to prevent any issues.

The Week Before

10. Follow up with other grade level teachers, administrators, special class teachers, special education teachers, local museums, historical societies, parents, and school volunteers who offered to help.
11. Immerse your students in Colonial Culture. Ask all subject teachers to use the Colonial Era somehow in their classrooms!
12. Make sure the students have what they need for Colonial Day. If they need clothing, see what you can do to help them. Even ask students who have participated in a Colonial Day before to donate some of their costumes!
13. Make hats, props, or whatever else is needed to ensure a great Colonial experience!

The Day Before

14. Remind your students of Colonial Day, and make sure they know what they are supposed to do (if student-led), what to wear, and who they may see. Build excitement for learning!

The Day of

15. Have fun! (This is easier said than done, but no matter how you do Colonial Day, your students will learn and love it!)

Sample letter to Parents A

Dear Parents,

As part of our study on Colonial American history, **the grade level or classroom teacher's name** students will be having a Colonial Day on **date**. The students are creating a colonial town which will include **#** centers depicting different features of Colonial life.

For this day, your child will need to be in Colonial costume. These may include items you have at home! Here is a list of suggestions:

Boys

White button-up shirt

Dark pants, such as sweat pants or baseball pants pulled up to the knee

Vest

Dark shoes

Long plain socks

Three-cornered hat

Girls

Long dress or skirt

White socks or tights

Dark shoes

White apron Mob cap

We look forward to learning about Colonial life during our Colonial Day, and we hope you visit us to share the experience that day!

Thank you for your support,

Teacher Name

Sample Letter to Parents B

Dear Parents,

As part of our study on Colonial American history, the **grade level or classroom teacher's name** students will be having a Colonial Day on **date**. The students are going to have some special guests depicting different features of Colonial life **including list of presenters if you wish**.

For this day, your child will need to be in Colonial costume. These may include items you have at home! Here is a list of suggestions:

Boys

White button-up shirt

Dark pants, such as sweat pants or baseball pants pulled up to the knee

Vest

Dark shoes

Long plain socks

Three-cornered hat

Girls

Long dress or skirt

White socks or tights

Dark shoes

White apron

Mob cap

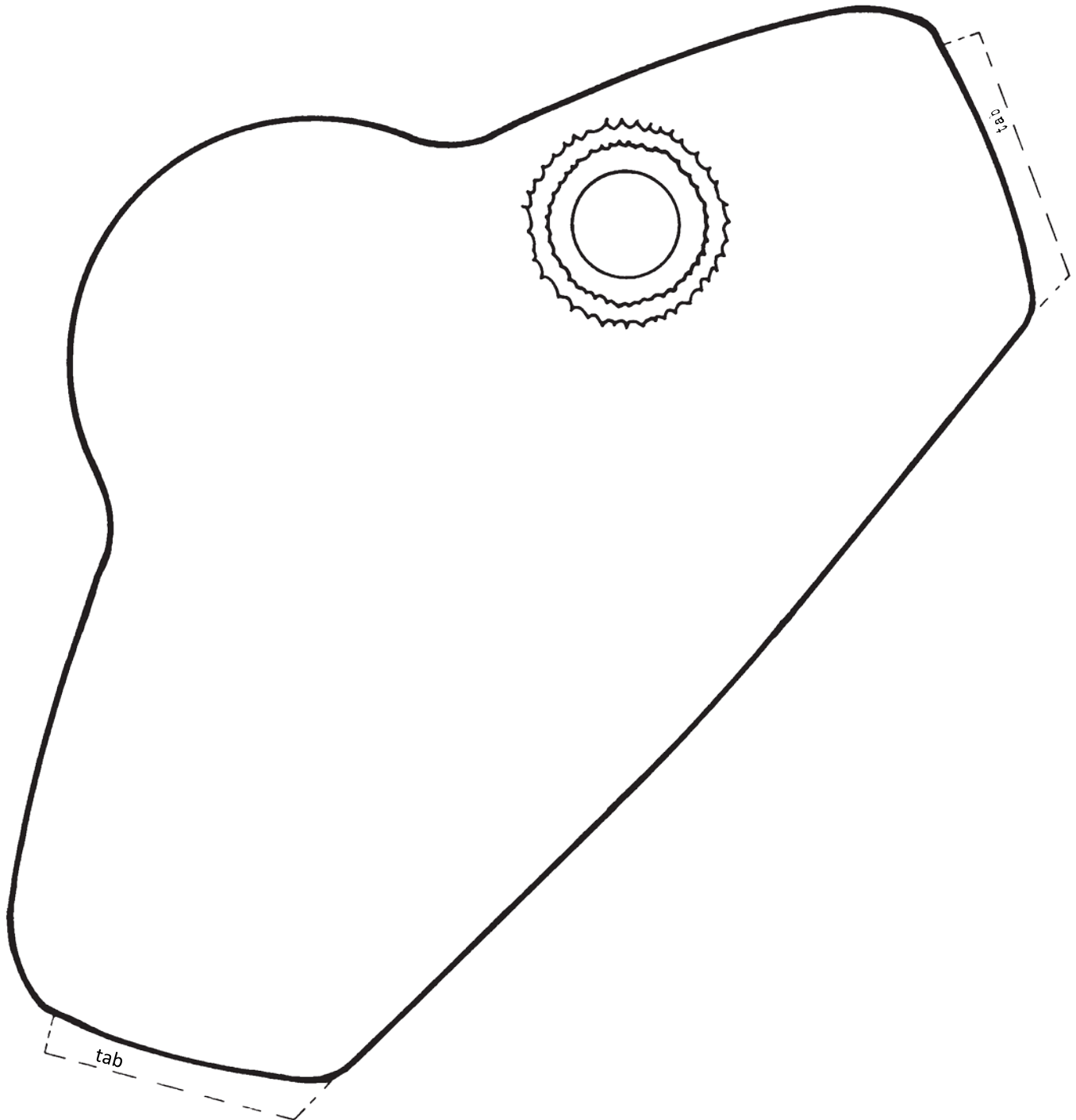
We look forward to learning about Colonial life during our Colonial Day, and we hope you visit us to share the experience that day!

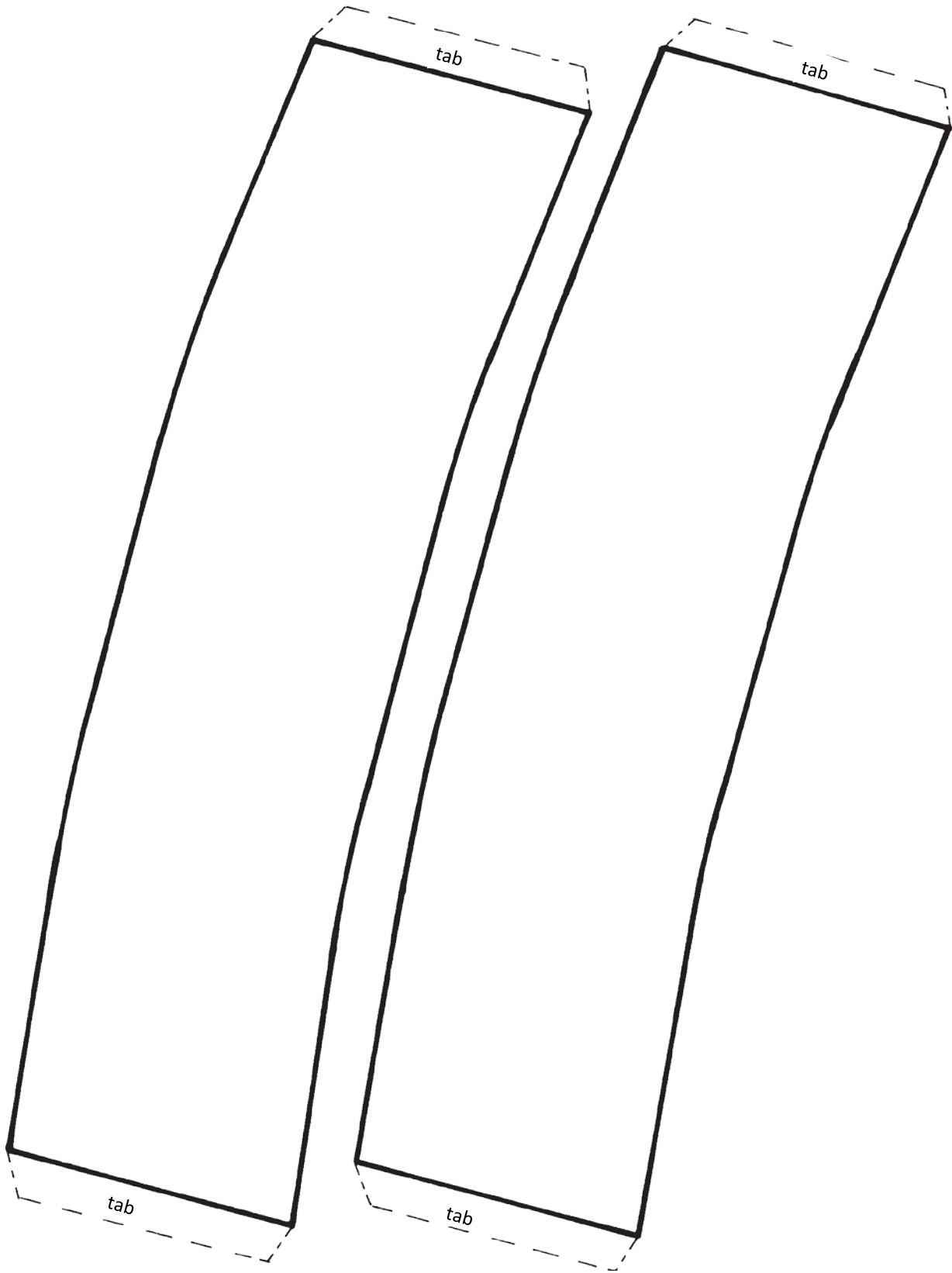
Thank you for your support,

Teacher Name

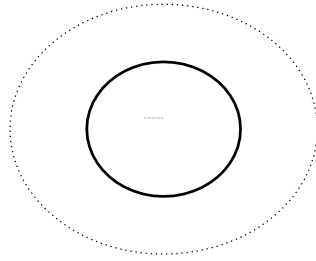
Make a Three-Cornered Hat

Directions: Cut out the three pieces of the three-cornered hat. Staple the three sides together to fit, using the tabs.

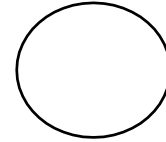




MOB CAPS



MOB CAPS



Ø 15" diameter ↻

OBJECTIVE: Student will construct a girl's mob cap.

MATERIALS:

One yard of cheap muslin, 44" to 45" wide, for every four caps (can also use old sheets)

Pattern (use tag board)

One 18" circle

One 15" circle

Satin ribbon, 1/8" wide

Large-eyed sewing
needles

PROCEDURE:

1. Cut an 18" diameter circle of fabric.
2. Draw a pencil line around the centered 15" pattern.
3. Pink, zigzag, hem, or apply lace to the edge of the cap.
4. Stitch with ribbon 1" to 1 1/2" apart.

Day After Activity

1. Have your students write a paragraph or essay about the new things they learned at your Colonial Day.
2. Have your students do a small research project (essay, art project, display) about something they learned on Colonial Day or about the Colonial era.
3. Make a simple survey about what they liked, learned, and disliked about Colonial Day. (This will be a great resource when planning one the next year!)

