

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Vocabulary Time-Travel

**Directions:** Read the historical passage carefully. Pay close attention to the words in **bold**. These are outdated or historical terms. Use the surrounding context to figure out the meaning of each word. Write your best definition in your own words. Answer the reflection questions to deepen your understanding of how context shapes meaning.

### Life in Colonial America

In the bustling colonial town, the **apprentice** rose early to begin his day in the blacksmith's shop. He was not yet a master of the trade, but through years of labor and learning, he would earn his place. The **tavern** across the street filled with travelers and townsfolk, who gathered to share news, food, and drink. Near the center of town, the **stocks** stood ready, where those who broke rules faced public shame as punishment. Farmers traveled by **wagon**, carrying goods to the marketplace, where they bartered with coins or sometimes with crops. At night, families lit **candles** to push back the darkness, telling stories and reading the few books they possessed. Though life could be difficult, the rhythm of work, faith, and community gave them a sense of belonging.

Word in Bold	Your Definition (from context)
apprentice	
tavern	
stocks	
wagon	
candles	

1. Which word was easiest to define using context clues? Why?
2. Which word was most difficult? What strategies helped you figure it out?
3. Why is it important for historians to understand historical vocabulary?
4. How might misunderstandings of words change how we interpret the past?