

CAMP FOLLOWERS

ACTIVITY PACKET



PACKING

Market wallets were the 18th Century suitcase, backpack, duffel bag, purse, etc. Soldiers, followers, and children stuffed these with all their personal items, twisted them in the center, and tossed them over their shoulder. They could be very small, like the size of a pillow. They could also be very large, stretching to be almost the entire height of a person.

Tube Sock Market Wallet

Create a market wallet for a doll or stuffed animal. You can pack it and store small items (paper, small sewing kit, money or change, etc.) inside!



Materials	Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 tube sock • Staples • Scissors 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lay the tube sock flat on side. <div> </div> 2. Cut a slit large enough for your hand to go through in the middle. Only cut through 1 side – not both. <div> </div> 3. Roll the cut edges over. <div> </div> 4. Staple the rolled edges down. You can also use hem tape or scotch tape. Staples work best. <div> </div> 5. Staple the open end of the tube sock closed so the only opening is the slit in the center. 6. Pack the market wallet equally on each side through the slit. Twist in the center. 7. Use it to hold small items, or give your favorite doll or stuffed animal a market wallet.

PACKING

Packing Decisions

Here are some items that camp followers might have brought with them or picked up along the way. Imagine packing your full-size market wallet this way. Remember, even with large market wallets, you have limited space. You also have to carry all of this on your person while marching.

Below is a list of the items that you could pack in your market wallet, but there's not enough space for everything! Make some tough decisions. Decide which 7 items you will bring by circling them. To help you decide, see if you can find similar objects around your house, weigh them in your hands and, decide what you can carry on a long march.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extra clothing items (women's and men's clothing) • Extra children's clothing items (if the follower has children) • Extra pair of shoes • Cloak for colder months • Blankets • Personal toiletry items (comb, toothbrush, soap, wash towel, etc.) • Extra food to supplement rations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewing kit/ "Housewife" (roll of cloth with pockets to hold sewing supplies and tiny items like sleeve buttons) • Linen handkerchief • Turned wooden bowl (for drinking and eating) and a spoon • Small iron pot with sheet iron lid • Fire kit (flint, steel, charcloth, and tow in a tin box) • Personal item from home – jewelry, notebook and quill pen, teapot, etc. • Linen/woolen mitts (fingerless gloves) |
|---|--|

Make a Baby Sling

Don't forget the kids! Older children can walk, but you'll need to carry an infant. Remember, you're also carrying all the other items you packed. Follow the instructions to make a baby sling.

Materials	Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1.5-2 yards of fabric or fitted sheet • Doll or stuffed animal 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fold the fabric or sheet in half like a hot dog – the open end should face up towards you, the folded end facing down 2. Wrap the fabric around your back. One end should be under an arm, the other end over the opposite shoulder. 3. Take the two ends of fabric and tie them in a knot tightly across your body. 4. Move the knot to the top of your shoulder 5. Open the top end of the sling so the folded end forms a carrier. Place your doll or stuffed animal inside.

Now, you're ready to follow the army!

TOYS AND GAMES

Children may not have had iPhones to keep them occupied, but they certainly still had fun with toys and games. This miniature lamb toy was excavated at the site of a British Revolutionary War encampment. When on the march, toys could keep a child, follower, or soldier occupied for hours. Remember, you had to choose carefully what to pack due to space. Children were usually busy helping with follower duties when encamped somewhere.



Then and Now Games

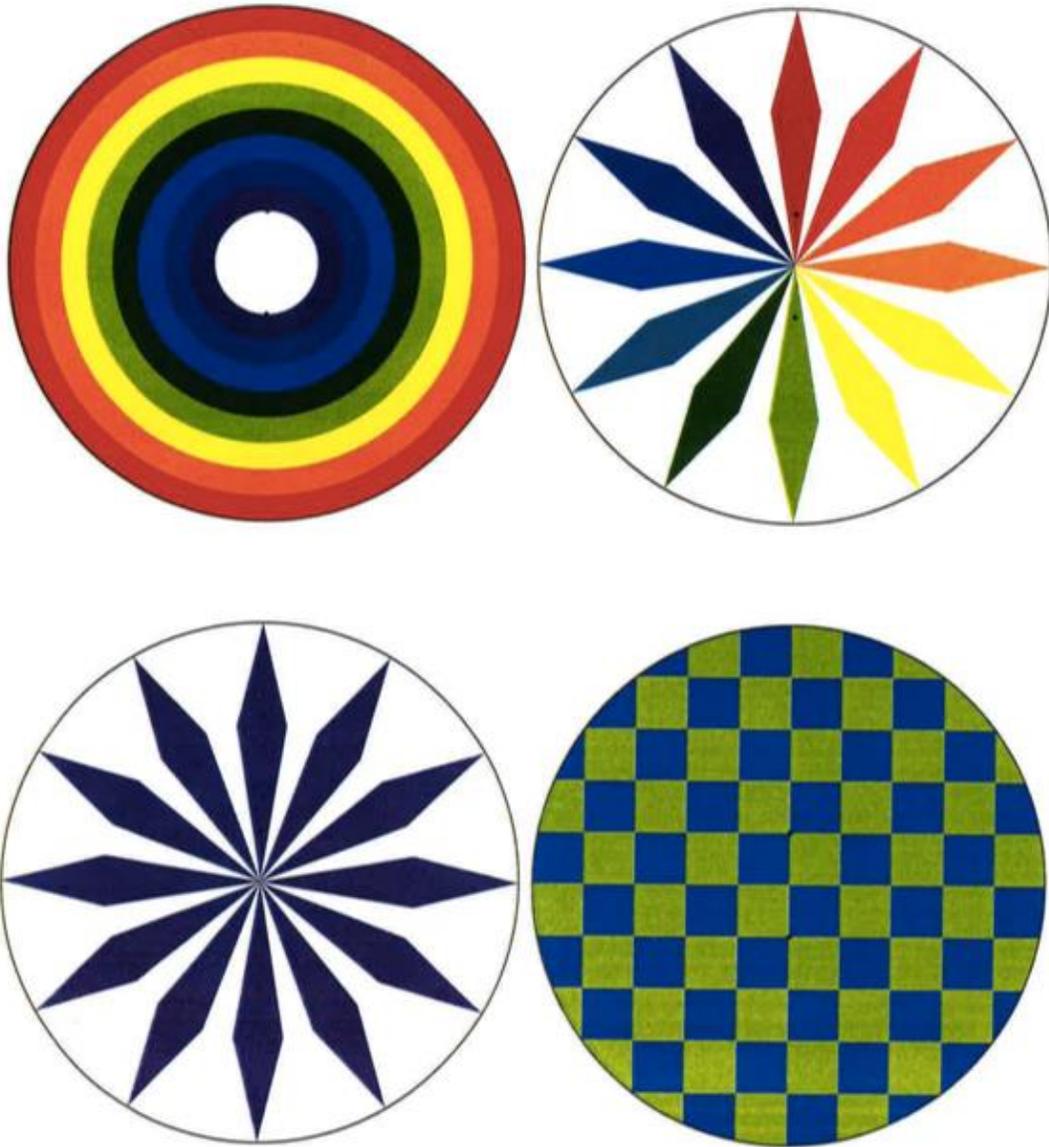
Some of the games colonial kids played would be pretty familiar to you today!

Colonial	Modern
All Hid	Hide and Go Seek
Noughts and Crosses	Tic-Tac-Toe
Hop Frog	Leap Frog
Nine Pins	Bowling (with miniature pins)
Scotch Hopper	Hopscotch
Jackstraws	Pick Up Sticks
Jackstones	Jacks

Make a Whirligig

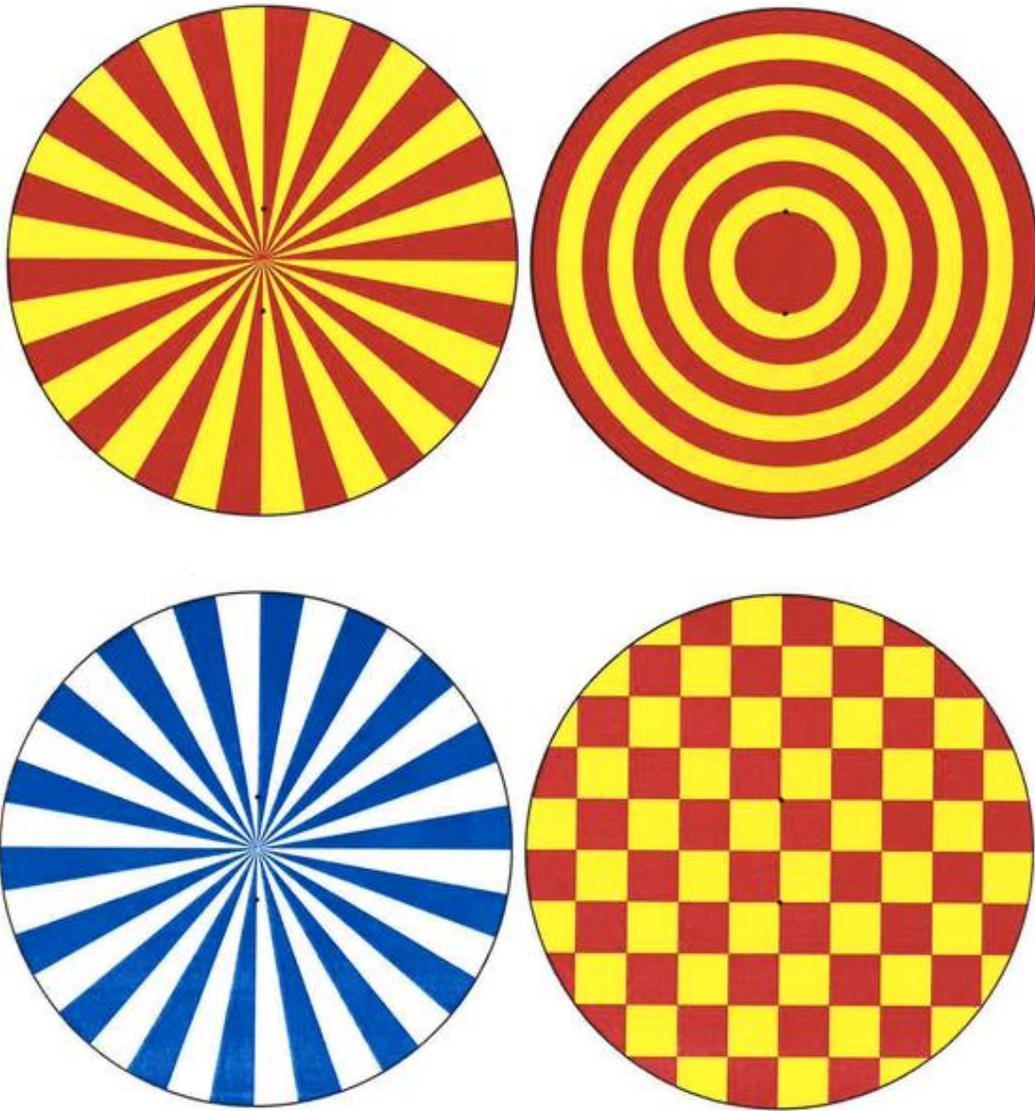
One of the games children, and even adults, would have played with was a whirligig. Whirligigs were basically the colonial fidget spinner.

Materials	Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard circle, cut to the attached template size • 2 patterns from the attached template (or construction paper and crayons to make your own) • 2 feet of string • Kitchen skewer • Scissors and glue 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Glue one pattern onto cardboard and cut around it. Glue the second pattern onto the reverse. 2. Poke two small holes in the whirligig with the kitchen skewer. 3. Thread the string through both holes, tying a knot when you're done (this will create an equal amount of double string on both sides with the cardboard in the center). 4. Wind up the string, then pull your hands in and out. Let the momentum spin the string.



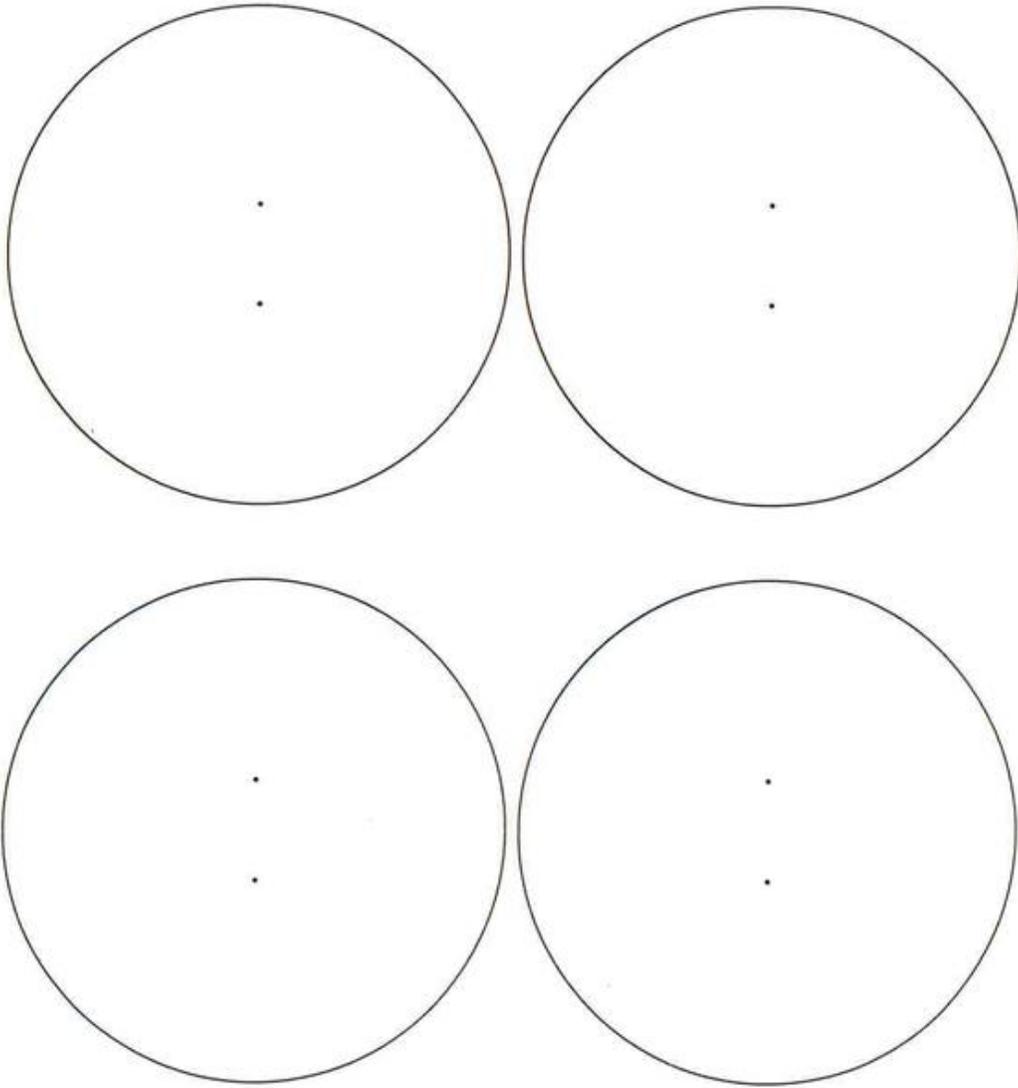
Whirlygig patterns

Print these shapes out and glue onto a piece of heavy recycled cardboard (one on each side), poke holes on black dots, thread string through each hole, and tie. Now twirl and whirl!



Whirlygig patterns

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Whirlygig patterns
Now design your own!

RECIPES

Camp followers often had to make what they had in order to keep themselves fed. Often, they had to resort to throwing everything they had in a pot, cooking it, and hoping it tasted good!

You can try some of the food that followers might have eaten on campaign.



Johnnycakes: Pancakes made out of cornmeal. Serves 12.

Ingredients	Instructions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 cup water • 2 tablespoons butter • Extra butter to grease the skillet • 1 cup yellow cornmeal • ½ teaspoon salt • ½ teaspoon sugar • ½ cup milk • Saucepan, skillet, mixing bowl, spoon/spatula, and stove 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Heat the water and the butter in the saucepan until they boil. 2. Put the cornmeal, salt, and sugar into the mixing bowl while the water and butter boil. 3. Pour the boiling water and butter mixture into the mixing bowl. Add milk and mix well. 4. Heat the extra butter in the skillet over medium heat. 5. Drop spoonfuls of batter into the skillet. Cook 3-4 minutes until bubbles form on the surface. Flip the cakes over with the spatula. Cook on the other side. 6. Remove the cakes with the spatula and keep warm. Repeat steps 4-5 until the mixture is done. 7. Serve with maple syrup, sugar, or honey.

RECIPES

Make your own Recipe

Just like camp followers sometimes had to, you can also try to make your own recipe! See how many recipes you can come up with from the ingredients below. List them on a separate piece of paper. Remember you're cooking over a fire – no microwaves or ovens. Don't forget that you also have a camp kettle and a frying pan. Good luck!



- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| • Beef | • Butter |
| • Potatoes | • Salt |
| • Onion | • Sugar |
| • Carrots | • Pepper |
| • Rice | • Fresh or dried herbs such as thyme, rosemary, parsley, and oregano |
| • Peas | • Milk |
| • Water | • Honey |
| • Flour or Cornmeal | |

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Imagine yourself in these scenarios. How would you respond? Keep in mind, these are actual scenarios that camp followers would have faced!



1. You're working as a laundress for the army. You haven't been paid for a month. You're quartered in the home of an enemy family. You see they have a nice teapot. You think: these people are the enemy! They're fighting against us! They're on the wrong side! Why do they deserve such a nice teapot? You could take the teapot and then sell it for a little extra money for your family. Or you could leave it with the enemy family. What would you do?

2. You're the daughter of wealthy, prominent Loyalists. You're also the wife of a well-known Patriot serving in the Continental Army. You and your birth family are not as close as you used to be because you married a Patriot. Your husband hasn't written to you in weeks. Unbeknownst to you, your husband has lost his writing supplies because of a British and Hessian attack on the army's baggage wagons. What would you do?

3. You're married to a soldier in the army. The enemy army has quartered soldiers and their followers in your home. You and your children are forced to stay in one small room in your house. The enemy soldiers are taking your food and your belongings without paying you. One of the followers finds a small army coat you made for your son that matches a coat your husband might wear. She confronts you about it, saying she will tell the soldiers. What would you do?

MISBEHAVIOR

Camp followers didn't always follow the rules. One such camp follower was Bridget Connor. We don't know much about her. What we do know is that Bridget Connor worked as a laundress for the Continental Army. While working for the Continental Army, she bought a shirt from a soldier but was ordered to return the shirt without any monetary compensation. Later on, Bridget Connor caused enough trouble that she was drummed out of camp, meaning she was forced to leave.



Now, you get to be the commanding officer of a regiment! You have put in place certain rules, such as not allowing followers to steal from families they stay with. These rules are meant to keep order and instill purpose and pride within the army. Read each camp follower's testimony, then decide their sentence. Possible sentences include acquitting her (allow her to keep the items she took), ordering her to return the items she took, formally reprimanding her in front of the unit, a short term of imprisonment, corporal (physical) discipline such as lashes, or expulsion from camp.

1. Charlotte: I work hard for the Army as a nurse. My ten-year-old daughter is starving, and I have an infant son to feed. I haven't gotten any rations recently even though I am promised rations as a nurse. I also haven't been paid for two months now. When we were quartered in the home of an enemy family, I figured that taking a little food wouldn't hurt. They have plenty to spare! And they're not even home! They don't need that food! But we do!

2. Rebecca: I work for the Army as a laundress. My children and I have been sleeping on the ground for weeks now. I haven't been paid in two weeks even though I was promised money in exchange for working as a laundress. When we were quartered in the home of an enemy family, my twelve-year-old daughter saw a new dress hanging in the closet. She told me the dress was extremely beautiful, and I just wanted my daughter to be happy. Sure, the family was home, but my daughter needed new clothes. Hers are in rags. So I took the dress. Can you blame me?

SOLDIERS' WIVES ON TWITTER

Today, we can share our thoughts and feelings through social media platforms such as Twitter. In the 18th century, before social media was created, people often used letters to share their feelings. Imagine if social media existed in the 18th century. What do you think people would post?



Read the following excerpts. For #s 1 and 2, re-write what the writer is saying as if she were writing a tweet. For #3, consider how a camp follower would respond to the writer on Twitter. Don't forget about the 140-character limit!

1. "I want very much to See you I hope if we Live to See this Campaign out we shall have the happiness of liveing together again I don't know what you think about Staying again but I think it cant be inconsistant with your duty to come home to your family it will troble me very much if you should Engage again" (Mrs. Hodgkins to her husband Lieutenant Hodgkins; 1776 retreat from Long Island)

2. "So for you I love you I underwent almost every distress for the sake of Being yours and you forsake me...I have been confined to my room almost a week have been alone most time and have given...up to the Horror of my situation" (Lucy Knox; undated letter to Henry Knox)

3. "It may be said, that the women who follow a camp are of such a masculine nature, they are able to bear all hardships; this woman was quite the reverse, being small, and of a very delicate constitution" (Ensign Anburey on the women following the British Army)

CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE

Try your hand at camp follower life!

You'll face some of the same situations that actual camp followers faced.

Make your choices.

See where they lead you.

- [Click Here For Downloadable Game](#)

Camp Followers: Choose Your Own Adventure

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- Market Wallet photos courtesy of Sydney Marenburg
- Toy Lamb. England, 1750-1800. On loan from the New York Historical Society to the Museum of the American Revolution. Image from Susan Hollow Scott blog. *The Littlest Camp Followers c. 1775*. March 25, 2020. <https://susanhollowwayscott.com/blog/2020/2/23/t0n0m16zhtw3bz6kkn81zan5atvoy1>
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- *Das BetteInde Soldatenweib [The Begging Soldier's Wife]*. Daniel Chodowiecki. Kupferstich.
- Bridget Connor information courtesy of Kirsten Hammerstrom. Kitty Calash Blog. <https://kittycalash.com/>
- Twitter Logo-Google; first image; App Store
- Google Forms image screenshot – Allison Zhu, August 2020