

Colonial Brickmaker

Bricks were used to build the foundations of homes and buildings. They were expensive. Families who had money often used bricks to build their homes. If your home was built of bricks, it meant your family was doing well.

How to Make Bricks:

Bricks were made in many sizes and shapes depending on the mold used. The first step was to prepare the clay by soaking it in water in a large pit. It was then mixed with the feet and grass, stones, or straw were removed by hand. A wooden mold was covered in sand to keep the clay from sticking to the sides, and clay was thrown into the mold.

The bricks were removed from the mold and laid in the sun to dry for about seven days.

They were then baked in a kiln for seven days and nights. A kiln is a special oven that can hold a very hot fire. The hot fire dried out the bricks.

Being a brick maker was very hard work. It took a lot of energy and strength to stomp the mud in the pit and lift the heavy brick molds.



This is a brickmaking oven in Colonial Williamsburg.

References:

"Teaching Resources from Colonial Williamsburg." 2001.

"Brickmaker." <http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com/do/revolutionary-city/tour-the-city/brickmaker/>