



## Trades Yesterday and Today

You learned about many trades of the past, but how do they relate to trades today?

1. What are some of the trades you learned about in the presentation?

**Various answers: blacksmith, pharmacy, building trades (joiner, plasterer, carpenter, glazier, sawyer, turner), leather trades (glovemaker, shoemaker, currier, tanner, harness maker), fancy weaver, broommaker**

2. What are some trades that are common today? Think about some of the services you or your family needs. **Various answers: carpenter, plumber, electrician, hairdresser, doctor, pharmacist, welder, machinist, mechanic, engineer, etc**

3. What are some of the ways you could learn a trade today? Can you still be an apprentice?

**Various: you can apprentice or learn on the job (carpenters, heavy equipment operators, etc), you can go to a trade school or college**

4. You learned about some of the people involved in the building trade in the mid-1800s. Who builds houses today? Do you think these people are tradesmen? Why?

**Various answer: Carpenters—this is generally learned on the job although there are specialized post and beam builders and plasterers today. Labor is generally not as skilled or specialized as it was in the mid-1800s**

5. When you get sick, who do you go see? Where do you get medicine if you need it? How is this the same or different from the mid-1800s?

Go to a doctor or other caregiver. Medicine is prescribed by the doctor and filled by the pharmacist. You go to the drugstore, like a CVS or Walgreens, or another pharmacy. In the mid-1800s, the pharmacist and the doctor was usually the same person. You got medicine made for you (or compounded) at the pharmacy. Medicine was made from plants. Today, medicine is still often made from plants. While there are some pharmacies that do compound medicine, most medicine is made by drug companies that send it to pharmacies.

6. The blacksmith made many things for the community. While there are still blacksmiths today, they generally do very specialized custom work. Where are the things the blacksmith made in 1800s produced today? Where can you buy them?

The items are generally mass produced in factories. You can buy these items online, at big box stores, or at the grocery store. There are still some artisans that produce similar goods in small quantities.

7. If you want to purchase a new bedspread with a fancy pattern, where would you buy it? How was it made? How does this compare to a fancy weaver in the mid-1800s?

Various answers: It was most likely made in a factory either in this country or overseas. It may be made from synthetic materials. The fancy weaver only did custom work from all natural materials. Fancy weavers were hired by people who could afford the products. Today, the mass produced products are affordable for everyone. They vary in quality and material. You can still get a custom product from an artisan.

8. What material is your shoes made from? Do you know where they were made? How is this similar or different from a shoemaker in the mid-1800s?

Various answers: leather, plastic, nylon or other synthetic material. Most likely made in a factory somewhere. Shoes in the mid-1800s were made from leather and were custom fitted to the person. As shoes began to be produced in factories, they became more generally available in general stores.