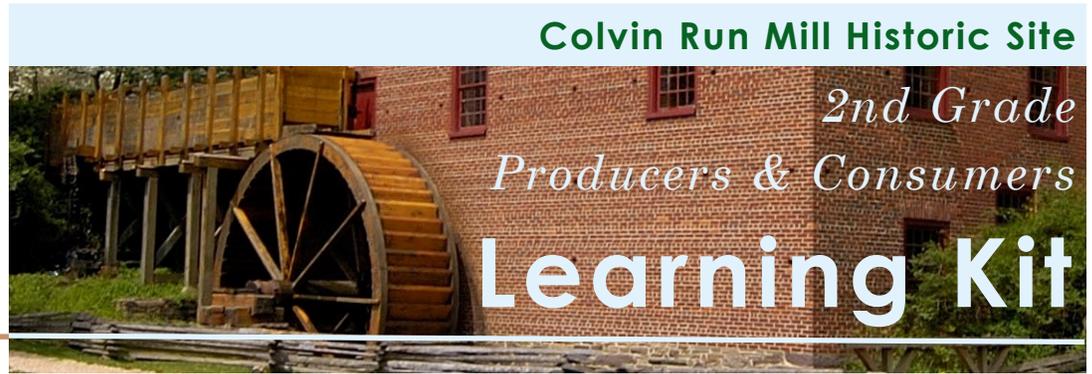




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Introduction

Thank you for scheduling a field trip to Colvin Run Mill Historic Site. We hope you and your students find your visit to be both educational and enjoyable. This Learning Kit provides you with information to introduce your students to the site and to reinforce concepts learned during your visit. It includes **Standards of Learning** objectives, educational themes, a brief history of the site, a list of vocabulary words, and worksheets. Please feel free to adapt these materials to your needs and to make copies of this information.



c. 1811

During the visit, your students will go to **three learning centers** where they will learn how producers and consumers interacted with the mill to create and use goods and services. They will discover the interdependence of local rural economics and the impact of resources on the development of communities in northern Virginia.



In the **mill**, students learn what types of resources aid the process of grinding grain into flour or cornmeal by the water-powered grinding stones.

In the **barn**, students follow how grain was transported, transformed, and utilized by producers and consumers, connecting different communities.



In the **general store**, students interact with historical items, discovering how they relate to the goods and services used today.



Educational Objectives

History & Social Science

1.1, 2.1

Skills, Geography, and Economics objectives from the *History and Social Science Standards of Learning* include:

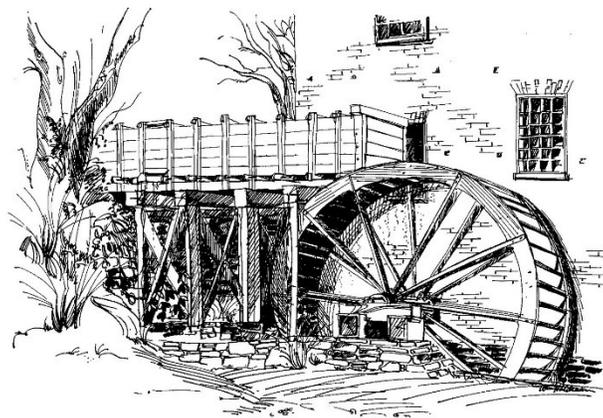
In the 19th century a vital rural community of farmers, craftspeople, and merchants grew up around Colvin Run Mill. Students will learn how technology and livelihoods changed over the time of the mill's operation.

1.5, 1.6, 2.6

Geography and transportation routes determined the location of the mill along Colvin Run. The students will learn how these factors also influenced the location and growth of the 19th century community.

1.7, 1.8, 1.9,
2.7, 2.8, 2.9

Producers (like the miller, farmer, etc.) used natural, human, and capital resources to produce goods in the past. The availability of goods affected the social and commercial lives of ordinary Virginians during the 19th and early 20th centuries.



Educational Themes

Trade

Trade is the exchange of goods and services. It can occur on a small scale between neighbors, or a large scale between countries. Businesses around Colvin Run such as the mill, general store, blacksmith shop, farms, and more would have engaged in local trade and supported each others' industries.

Community

A *community* is a group of people with common interests, especially those living in the same area. Primarily a rural, agricultural community, the 19th and early 20th century Colvin Run community survived intact for over a century despite wars and recessions, technological advances and industrialization. The mill at Colvin Run played a pivotal role within that community.

A Brief History of Colvin Run Mill

Colvin Run Mill, Fairfax County's award-winning operational water-powered gristmill, is a tribute to the enterprising spirit of America's past. Long before the mill was an active business, the land on which it was built was associated with several famous Virginians. In August 1739, Colonel John Colville received grants from England's King George II of almost 10,000 acres in what would become Fairfax County. He soon sold much of this land to William Fairfax. When Fairfax died in 1753, a 275-acre parcel of this property along Difficult Run was conveyed to his son Bryan Fairfax. In 1760 or '61, George Washington purchased the Difficult Run tract from Bryan Fairfax.

Washington recognized the potential of Colvin Run as a mill site with a good water supply, hardwood forests for building material and located on a major transportation route leading to market at the port of Alexandria. However, the pressing business of waging war and governing the new nation prevented Washington from acting on his plans for his property along Difficult Run.

Colvin Run Mill was built between 1802-1811. In 1811 William Sheppard

purchased 90 acres of Washington's 275-acre parcel from Washington's heirs and immediately conveyed it, along with a standing mill, to Philip Carper. In 1813 Carper paid the first known taxes on flour and cornmeal produced here.

For more than a century, a series of merchant millers operated Colvin Run Mill. Unlike custom millers who ground grain for individual orders, merchant millers bought and sold grain and flour to serve local and foreign markets. Grain products from Colvin Run Mill were exported through the port of Alexandria.

A thriving community of farmers, craftspeople and merchants grew up around the mill. Nineteenth century gazettes and business directories refer to numerous blacksmith shops and country stores nearby. The c. 1900 Colvin Run General Store, once located across the road from the mill, has been restored as part of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site.

The mill operated for more than 120 years, and its most prosperous period was 1883 to 1934 when the Millard family rebuilt the millrace and millpond and modernized the machinery. The greatest change was in the grinding process when a new roller mill — the

"I have been informed that some person has petitioned or is about to petition the Court of Loudoun for an Acre of the Land I bought of you on Difficult to Build a Mill on. . ."

George Washington to Bryan Fairfax, 1783



latest in modern 19th century technology — was installed and proved to be more efficient than the old-fashioned millstones. By 1930, it was estimated that over one million bushels of grain had been processed through Colvin Run Mill!

After the Millards sold the mill, it sat idle and neglected for 30 years until 1965 when the Fairfax County Park Authority acquired it and began its restoration. Because the building and machinery had undergone such fundamental change over its commercial life, the restoration was based on the plans of Oliver Evans (1755-1819) whose innovations revolutionized milling in the early 19th century. The mill's derelict ruins revealed a number of similarities to the floor plans and cross sections printed in Evans' 1795 book *The Young Millwright and Miller's Guide*.

Today's visitor sees the results of many skilled

craftspeople who have, quite literally, recreated the past. They repaired the structure, made the bricks and glass, hand-hewed timber to precise specifications and assembled the machinery. All the gears in the mill, with the exception of a few steel parts included for safety, were handmade from wood. As in the early 19th century, the mill operates solely by water power. Water from Colvin Run is diverted into a pond and millrace and then flows over the 20' wooden overshot waterwheel to provide the power that turns the gears and operates the machinery.

Traditionally, the homes of famous people and the sites of momentous events have been preserved while the buildings used by ordinary people seldom survive. Colvin Run Mill represents a time when wood and water performed important work and communities prospered in support of such enterprise.

19th Century Livelihoods

Directions: Draw lines to match the words in each column with the pictures in the middle.

Shopkeeper

A person who sells goods and provides services to customers.

Baker

A person who makes and sells bread.

Post Master

A person who receives and gives out mail.

Blacksmith

A person who heats iron in a fire and shapes it into many useful items.

Farmer

A person who raises crops or animals for sale.

Miller

A person who grinds grain to make flour or cornmeal.



Forge

A place with a fire where metal is heated and changed into items such as horseshoes and hooks.

General Store

A shop where people came to buy supplies, learn the news, get their mail, and meet with their neighbors.

Mill

A factory where grain is ground into flour.

Bakery

A shop where bread is baked and sold to customers.

Post Office

A place where mail is received, sorted into mail boxes, and picked up.

Farm

Land where crops are grown and harvested.

Goods and Services, and Resources

Colvin Run Mill and its community works with the help of resources to create goods and services.

Goods & Services

Goods

Things people make or use to satisfy needs and wants. A good is a tangible product.

Examples of goods:



Clothing

Food

Furniture

Kitchenware

Toys



Services

Activities that satisfy people's needs and wants. Services are provided by people.

Examples of people who provide services:

Nurse

Teacher

Firefighter

Salesperson



Resources

Materials that come directly from nature.

Natural

Examples of natural resources:

Air

Water

Wood

Stone

Coal

Oil



People working to produce goods and services.

Human

Examples of human resources:

Manual workers such as carpenters, plumbers

Service industry workers such as waiters

Administrative or managerial workers such as accountants, lawyers, supervisors



Goods made by people and used to produce other goods and services.

Capital

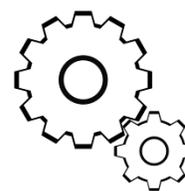
Examples of capital resources:

Buildings

Tools

Equipment

Machinery



Resources Make the Mill Run!

Directions: Draw lines to match the words in each column with the pictures in the middle.

**Natural
Resource**



Goods made by people and used to produce other goods and services.



**Human
Resource**



Materials that come directly from nature.



**Capitol
Resource**



People working to produce goods and services.

Vocabulary List

* Denotes an example of a natural, human, or capital resource.

***Beam scale [capital]**. A device used by the miller to weigh grain.

***Blacksmith [human]**. A person who makes tools, household items and other things from iron.

Community. A group of people with common interests, especially those living in the same area.

Consumer. A person who uses or buys a good or service.

***Dusty [human]**. The miller's helper or apprentice, so called because they were often covered in flour dust.

***Fanning Mill [capital]**. Cleans grain of unwanted materials, called chaff (soil, grass, bugs, etc.). Fan is able to blow off chaff because it is lighter than grain.

Flour. A good made by grinding wheat.

***Flume [capital]**. The wooden trough that carries water from the mill race to the waterwheel.

***Gear [capital]**. A wheel with teeth or rods made to fit together with other gears so that one gear's turning causes the other gear to turn.

***General store [capital]**. A shop, usually found in a small community, that carries a variety of goods including food, tools, medicines and other household necessities.

Grain. The small hard seed of wheat, corn, rice, oats, etc. Goods such as bread and cereal are made from ground grain.

***Gristmill [capital]**. A mill that grinds grain into flour (wheat) or meal (corn).

***Millstones [capital]**. A pair of large round stones between which grain is ground. Uses furrow to cut, not smash, grain into flour.

***Miller [human]**. The person who operates the mill.

***Mill race [capital]**. The channel that carries water from the mill pond to the waterwheel and returns it to the stream after the water passes over the waterwheel and powers the mill.

***Producer [human]**. A person who makes goods or provides a service.

***Run [natural]**. Another name for a stream or creek. Examples are Colvin Run and Difficult Run.

***Shaker Box [capital]**. Sifts flour into different grades based on size. Wheat flour was sifted into fine white flour, shipstuff (similar to whole wheat), and bran. Corn was sifted into cornmeal and grits.

***Shopkeeper [human]**. Person who provides the service of selling goods to customers in a store.

***Stone crane [capital]** A device used to lift the top mill stone.

***Stream [natural]**. Natural running water that can be used to power a mill. Other names for/types of streams include brook, creek, run, or river.

***Transportation [capital]**. Movement of goods from one place to another. Types include air, land (rail and road), and water.

Trade. The exchange of goods and services.

***Waterwheel [capital]**. A large wheel turned by moving water. A waterwheel powers Colvin Run Mill.

***White Oak [natural]**. A type of hardwood tree especially good for building a mill.

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site Contact Information

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<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill>



Not all the BIG WHEELS
are in Washington

The mission of Colvin Run Mill Historic Site is to maintain, develop and interpret the site's historic buildings, collections and resources for the enrichment, education and enjoyment of Fairfax County residents and visitors.



Site Map

