



Camp Ah-Ha: Make it Monday: Trade Signs

Who:

- You and your family

What:

- Today when we need new clothes, groceries, car parts and seeds for our gardens, we might go to a big store like Meijer or Wal-Mart. We can get just about everything we need in one store.
- Back 150-200 years ago, there wasn't one store where you could buy everything you needed. Instead there were stores that specialized in just one or two things. These were called trades. A trade is a special job or skill.
- These shops were run by tradesmen and women who would more than likely make the items they were selling. How do you think they learned their trade?
- Trades men and women would learn their trade by working with a master (skilled) tradesperson. They may start very young and help in the shop and be taught by the shop owner. This was called being an apprentice. They would apprentice until they felt they were skilled enough to run their own store.
- Today, how do you know what is being sold at a store? Do you see ads on the TV or internet? Maybe you get coupons in the mail or hear about a store on the radio.
- Back in the pioneer days, there might be some ads in city newspapers, but most shops promoted their businesses through colorful hanging signs attached to their stores. These were called Trade Signs.
- Look at this example below:



- Can you see the Trade Sign on this blacksmith building?
- Trade signs could use words like this one did or sometimes they used pictures of what was being sold inside.
- The signs had to be colorful to get people's attention!

How:

- Today, you are going to get to make your own trade sign
- Think of a business you would like to run. It can be anything you think would be fun!
- Print off the trade sign sheet and create your own sign to advertise your business.
- Fill in your name in the first line _____'s and then the name of your business in the second _____ Shop
- Below that draw a picture to represent your business. Don't forget to make it colorful
- Post your creations on our Facebook page for a chance to win a Camp AH-HA bag!