ACTIVITY 16-1

Instructions for Making Hats

Step 1. Fold a newspaper page in half from top to bottom. Crease the folded edge.

Step 2. Fold the two folded corners to the middle. This will make two triangles that are touching each other.

Step 3. Fold the bottom flap (the one on the top) up and in half, and then fold it up again.

Step 4. Turn the hat over and repeat Step 3.

Step 5. Secure each side end with a small piece of tape.

Wear your hat with pride!
Activity 16.2

Year 1347 A.D.: The Rules of the Hatters of London

These rules are accepted by Thomas Leggy, Mayor of London, at the request of the Hatters of London.

1. —In the first place, six of the most lawful men of the hatters trade shall be assigned to be Wardens. They will rule and watch the trade, in the same way that Wardens rule and watch other trades.

2. —Also, that no one shall make or sell any manner of hats within the city if he is not free and from the same city. If anyone is caught violating this rule he must give up the hats that he made or offered for sale.

3. —Also, that no one shall be made apprentice in the hatters trade for a term of less than seven years. Anyone who receives an apprentice in any other manner shall lose his freedom until he buys it back again.

4. —Also, that no one in the hatters trade shall take any apprentice, if he is not himself a freeman of London.

5. —Also, that the Wardens of the hatters trade shall search all the hats that are for sale in the area, as often as need be. And the Wardens shall have the power to take any hats that they find defective and bring them before the Mayor of London, so that those causing the defects found may be punished.

6. —Also, some workmen in the trade have made hats that are not high quality, and this deceives the common people and brings great scandal, shame and loss to the good folks of the hatters trade. Therefore no workman in the trade shall do any work by night, but only in clear daylight, when the Wardens may openly inspect their work. Anyone who does otherwise shall pay a fine to the Chamber of Guildhall for the first and second offense, and the third time he shall lose his freedom.

ACTIVITY 16.2, CONTINUED

Name: _______________________

Learning from a Historical Document

After reading “The Rules of the Hatters of London” from 1347, answer the following questions:

1. What powers did the mayor of London have in 1347?

2. a. What was the role of the wardens in the Hatters Guild?

b. How did someone get to be a warden in the Hatters Guild?

3. How long would someone be an apprentice in the Hatters Guild in London in 1347?
Activity 16.2, continued

4. Why does one of the guild’s rules specify that “no workman in the trade shall do any work by night, but only in clear daylight”?

5. What evidence is in the document that some people in London were not free in 1347?

6. What kind of punishments existed in London in 1347 for not following the rules of the Hatters Guild?
Activity 16.2, Answer Key

Learning from a Historical Document

Suggested answers:

1. What powers did the mayor of London have in 1347?
   
   (The mayor had the power to approve (accept) the Hatters Guild’s rules. Also, defective hats were brought before the Mayor and he appears to have been in charge of punishing those who caused the defects.)

2. a. What was the role of the wardens in the Hatters Guild?
   
   (The wardens “rule and watch the trade.” They examine all the hats for sale in the area and have the power to bring defective hats before the Mayor.)

   b. How did someone get to be a warden in the Hatters Guild?
   
   (If you were one of six of the most lawful men of the trade, you could be assigned to be a warden.)

3. How long would someone be an apprentice in the Hatters Guild of London in 1347?

   (Seven years)

4. Why is there a rule saying that “no workman in the trade shall do any work by night, but only in clear daylight”?

   (Rule 6 says that some workmen have made hats that are not of high quality, and this has caused “… scandal, shame and loss to the good folks of the hatters trade.” Therefore, if hats can only be made in daylight, the wardens can inspect the work.)

5. What evidence is in the document that some people in London were not free in 1347?

   (Rule 2 says that no one can make or sell hats in London if he is not free [and from London]. Rule 4 says that no one in the hatters trade can take an apprentice if he is not a freeman of London. If you took an apprentice for less than seven years, you would lose your freedom and have to buy it back. The third time a workman is caught working at night, he loses his freedom.)

6. What are some of the punishments that existed in London in 1347 for not following the rules of the Hatters Guild?

   (Rule 2: Give up the hats he made or was selling; Rule 3: lose freedom until he buys it back; Rule 6: pay a fine to the Guildhall and lose one’s freedom.)