

THE APPRENTICESHIP OF ISAIAH THOMAS

Level: Basic:

Time: 25 minutes

Materials: *This Indenture Witnesseth* - Thomas's Contract of Indenture (P-4)
Student Worksheet - *This Indenture Witnesseth*
Isaiah Thomas – Short Biographical Essay (IT-1)

Vocabulary:

indenture, apprentice, matrimony, taverns, ale-houses, doth, aforesaid, places of gaming, sufficient, wholesome, expiration, apparel

Objectives:

Students will explore and understand an historic primary source document. Students will be introduced to Isaiah Thomas and the conditions of his early apprenticeship.

Activities:

For this activity, the teacher will preview vocabulary, read aloud the Contract of Indenture or play the audio version on the website and allow time for questions and discussion. Students will write responses on the Student Worksheet.

As a class explore the digital version of Thomas's Contract of Indenture, signed on July 7, 1756, when Isaiah was 7 years old. Using the Close Read functions explain each part and encourage questions.

Following this exploration and explanation, listen to the audio version or read the entire contract again.

Students should then answer the following questions on the Student Worksheet:

1. For Isaiah Thomas, what were some good things about this contract?
2. What are some bad things about this contract?
3. Do you know of any people, anywhere in the world today who must work while they are very young?
4. Describe how someone is trained for a job in our time.
5. What kind of work would you like to be skilled at?