

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ **ANSWER KEY** \_\_\_\_\_

## Colonial Money

### Directions:

During the Colonial Period, people used British money units. They were written as Pounds – Shillings – Pence. For example, if something cost 1 pound (£1), 4, shillings and 2 pence it would be written: 1-4-2. **One pound = 20 shillings. One shilling = 12 pence.** Using that information, read the scenario, solve the problems and answer the questions that follow.

**Scenario:** Pretend that you are Phineas Stevens who ran a trading post out of his house at Fort No. 4 during the 1750s. Several residents, including a local Native American, have come to you to trade or buy goods. **Add up their bills** and help the residents get what they need.

All examples are actual entries from Phineas Stevens' Account Book, Nov/Dec. 1751, 1752 and 1754. Located in the Special Collections and Manuscripts at the Bailey/Howe Library, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT.

### Lieutenant Parker

2 gallons of molasses 3-17-0  
Sheeps wool 5-16-2  
Salt 3 1/2 bushes 2- 5-0  
Rum 1 gallon 2- 4-0  
Molasses 1 gallon 1- 8-0

**Total bill:**     15 - 10 - 2

### Nathaniel Parker

An almanack 0- 2-6  
2 cotton handkerchiefs 1- 0-0  
Molasses 5 quarts 1-16-9  
Beef 20- 9-2

**Total bill:**     23 - 8 - 5

### David Farnsworth

Rum 2 quarts 1- 3-0  
Rum 1 gallon 2- 6-0  
¼ lb of Indigo 1-10-0  
Hank of silk 0- 3-0  
¼ Yard strip of linen 3-16-0

**Total bill:**     8 - 18 - 0

### Philip (Indian) \*challenge problem\*

4 days billeting 1- 0-0  
Sundrys 3- 7-6  
2 lbs Powder 1-12-0  
**Subtotal 5-19-6**  
Credit for 3 raccoons 1-10-0

**Subtract 1-10-0**  
**Total bill:**     4 - 9 - 6

### James Farnsworth

Pair of stockings 1-15-0  
Rum 1 quart 0-11-0

**Total bill:**     2 - 6 - 0

### Bonus Questions:

1. What was the most common item? *Rum*
2. What was the most expensive item? *Beef*
3. What do these items reveal about life on the colonial frontier? *Answers will vary*

