

Episode Four

Blacksmithing

Blacksmithing was an essential trade to just about everyone living in a mining town. As California's population exploded with the Gold Rush, so did the need for blacksmiths.

The smithy worked long hours, every day, standing over a hot forge, hammering red-hot metal into tools for the miners. He also supplied parts for wagons, harnesses, farm equipment and mining machinery. More often than not, the blacksmith was also a wagon maker and a farrier (one who shoes horses).

Blacksmithing required lots of strength and energy. The smithy was most likely a big, burly guy who always seemed to be covered in a layer of coal dust and black soot. His thick leather apron protected his clothes from the sparks coming from the forge and hot steel.

Many smiths opened their own shops. Others worked for the mining companies making and repairing tools and equipment. Blacksmiths typically made more money than a miner.



To learn more about blacksmithing please visit
kids.kiddle.co/Blacksmith

Blacksmithing

Z T K I S H A M M E R I K O
X V Q V Z K U Z F Q Z R N J
B E L L O W S S M P E K I R
E I P F W A G O N T R A I N
E O C S R X D N A I H X D I
T E Y B A R S T O C K E S X
L R E Y U J F Q U E N C H B
B I T U M I N O U S C O A L
T R I V E T R X R I S S O B
J H A N V I L I E G N G G T
I M A L L E A B L E E K B M
Y G A V Q Q W X T Q A C A B
M V S H O D S X S Q O M M T
H S Y D R B P F A K B Q Y R

Find and circle these vocabulary words:

ANVIL
BELLOWS
FORGE
MALLEABLE
SHOD
WAGONTRAIN

BARSTOCK
BITUMINOUS COAL
HAMMER
QUENCH
TRIVET

Blacksmithing

Z T K I S **H A M M E R** I K O
X V Q V Z K U Z F Q Z R N J
B E L L O W S S M P E K I R
E I P F **W A G O N T R A I N**
E O C S R X D N A I H X D I
T E Y **B A R S T O C K** E S X
L R E Y U J **Q U E N C H** B
B I T U M I N O U S C O A L
T R I V E T R X R I S S O B
J H **A N V I L** I E G N G G T
I **M A L L E A B L E** E K B M
Y G A V Q Q W X T Q A C A B
M V **S H O D** S X S Q O M M T
H S Y D R B P F A K B Q Y R

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