

Hands-On History Fun

Create-A-Craft:

Make Your Own Quill Pen

When the signers of the Declaration of Independence in America signed their names in 1776, they used a quill pen made from a bird feather.

You will need: A bird feather (turkey is great)—available at craft stores, or your local turkey; Scissors or a sharp knife; Tempera Paint, thinned with a little

water; Paper on which to write your "John Hancock" (that means, your name)

CAUTION: ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED. Holding the feather carefully, cut the end off at a slant to give a nice point. You will need to cover the end of your pen with ink by dipping the cut part of the feather into the thinned tempera paint. Now, try writing your name on the paper. It may take some practice!

Fun Food to Fix:

Captain Cook's Sea Biscuits

When Captain Cook, his passengers, and the crew sailed to the South Pacific, they needed food that would keep a LONG time! Try this version of "hard tack" and see what you think.

You will need: 1½ cups flour; 1 teaspoon salt; ½ cup water

Mix the flour and salt together in a large bowl.

Add water, a few drops at a time, and mix until you have a stiff dough. Rollout the dough on a board sprinkled with flour to a thickness of about one third of an inch. Cut the dough into squares. Use a fork to prick the top of the biscuits. Now, bake them at 375 degrees for about 25 minutes, or until they turn lightly brown. To store, place them in a tightly covered container.