

## **Dutch Farm Survey**

4th Grade Social Studies – Colonial Immigration

Lesson Title: **Going Dutch**

### **GLOSSARY OF TERMS** **(Early Dutch Colonization)**

**Agriculture:** The growing of plants, particularly plants that produce grain, like wheat, corn, barley, and oats.

**Aisle:** An open space or passage inside a building; a typical Dutch barn has a large center aisle or "threshing floor" with two narrow aisles on each side.

**Anchor Beam:** The horizontal beam that connects the H-frame posts in Dutch barns; the part of the "H" that goes across.

**Chaff:** The husks or coverings of grain; these need to be removed before we can eat the grains or process them into flour.

**Consensus:** A method of running a government, in which all people eligible to vote must agree or a law is not passed.

**Domesticates:** Plants and animals that are raised by humans; the main domesticates of the Native Americans were the "three sisters," while the Dutch colonists used the plants and animals that we still use today — wheat, barley, peas, potatoes; cattle, pigs, sheep, goats, chickens.

**Dutch Barn:** A large barn made with H-frames placed in a row from one gable end to the other; the H-frames divide the barn into a large center aisle and two side aisles, which make its floor almost square, unlike the usual English rectangular barns.

**Dutch Door:** A door that has two separate halves, top and bottom, which can be opened separately or together.

**Dutch House:** In Nieuw Nederland, an early Dutch house was usually small, with only 1 or 2 rooms, and only 1½ stories; the house was constructed with H-frames placed every 4 feet or so, in a row from one gable end to the other. They often had Dutch doors and a jambless fireplace.

**Flail:** A heavy stick tied to a long stick; when you swing down the long stick, the heavy stick twirls around and smashes the stalks on the floor, separating the stalks, leaves, and grains of crops such as wheat, barley, and oats.

**Flour:** Grain (like wheat or corn) that has been ground into a powder; used for many things, from porridge and cereal to bread and gravy.

**Gable Walls:** The walls where the roof comes to a peak; the top of the wall looks like an upside-down "V."

**H-Frame:** The shape of the main supports for the barn is a capital "H"; the H-frame consists of two vertical posts and a very large horizontal beam called an "anchor."

**Iroquois:** A very powerful group of Native American tribes that ruled New York west of the Hudson River and south of the Mohawk — and controlled much of the surrounding areas.

**Jambless Fireplace:** A fireplace without sides (called "**jamb**s"); it has a large hood or covering that leads up the chimney, while the fire is made in a protected spot underneath.

**Loft:** The storage area above the H-frame in the Dutch barn — or any other high ("lofty") place.

**Mortise-and-Tenon Joint:** A method of connecting wooden posts and beams, where there is a hole in the post and a thin extension of the beam is inserted into it, like a peg in a hole; in fact, in Dutch barns the extension usually goes through the beam and out the other side.

**Mow Poles:** These are placed across the anchor beams, slightly apart for ventilation, and used as a floor on which to store the sheaves.

**Nieuw Amsterdam:** The first name for New York City; it covered much of the land south of Wall Street (which is named after the town wall that was there).

**Nieuw Nederland:** The Dutch colony in North America, including much of what are now eastern New York State, parts of western New England, New Jersey, and Delaware.

**Parapet:** On colonial Dutch houses, "parapet" means a ridge or tiny wall that is formed when the gable walls rise above the roof, instead of having the roof lie on top of the walls.

**Patroon:** A wealthy businessman who bought large stretches of land from the Dutch government; he had the powers of "mayor" and judge in his lands, and ruled over all his tenants and employees.

**Patroon System:** The system that sets up patroons.

**Piers:** In an Dutch barn, a pier is a pile of stones set under the floor beams to keep them above ground and dry.

**Purlins** or **Purlin Plates:** The horizontal beams connecting the tops of the H-frames, and holding up the rafters of the roof.

**Rafters:** The framing of the roof.

**Sheaves:** Bundles of grain plants tied together after harvesting.

**Stockade:** A fortified living space like a town, usually surrounded by tall posts set side by side (like in old "western" movies and TV shows).

**Tenon:** The part of the anchor beam that goes through the H-frame posts to connect them; in Dutch barns this usually sticks out the other side of the posts.

**Three Sisters:** The primary food crops of the Native Americans in the northeast; corn was planted on mounds with bean plants growing up the corn stocks while squash grew at the base.

**Thresh:** To break apart grain to release the grain from the stalk.

**Threshing Floor:** The large middle section or aisle of a Dutch barn, under the H-frames.

**Winnowing:** Separating the grain from its husk or coating — as well as other small pieces of the plant — by tossing them into the air and catching the heavier grain in a screen or basket, while the lighter stalks or chaff are blown away by the wind.