

## III Medieval trades and crafts



1. "Gàrgola de muixons" from Miravet.



2. "Pitxell del carro" from Miravet.

### ABC BRAINSTORMING

❖ What trades or crafts do you know? Write them down in the **chart**.

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



## Medieval pottery in Miravet

'Good day, traveller. I am Guifre and I earn my living as a **pottery craftsman**. I live in a village with my beloved wife, Susanna, our seven-year-old son, Jofre, and my apprentice, Tomas. I have a **potter's workshop** in the outskirts of Miravet, a tiny village not far from Tarragona.

Next to my workshop there are other pottery workshops, so in my village the main **craft** is pottery. I wake up early and I work until dark. I work very hard! My work consists of shaping fine **earthenware** pottery with a **potter's wheel** and then baking it in my furnace. I make **pitchers** to drink water, very big **jars** to keep olive oil in and **basins**. My wife helps me to sell

Most of my **pots** are carried by mule or by cart and they are sold in the markets all over Catalonia and Aragon (Spain). My pots are bought by humble folks in the villages and cities.

Jofre is already learning my craft and he likes it. One day he will become a **pot-maker** and he will inherit my workshop'.<sup>1</sup>

### 1. True/false

- A workshop is a building where goods are manufactured.
- A craftsman is a person who works in a factory.
- Earthenware is pottery made of clay<sup>2</sup>.
- Miravet is a big village not far from Tarragona.
- Guifre's son doesn't want to be a craftsman.
- To shape earthenware pottery a potter's wheel is needed.

**Rewrite the false sentences.**

### 2. Complete the chart

Verb	past	past participle	kind of verb	translation
inherit			<i>regular</i>	
earn				
wake up				
shape				
carry				
sell				
make				

<sup>1</sup> Look at this video to see how pottery is made today [miravet.avi](#) . In Jordi Avante's traditional workshop in Miravet. See this power point about [Traditional pottery](#) in Miravet.

<sup>2</sup> Sticky earth used to make pottery, bricks, ceramics, etc.





5. *Pitxell del tronc*, a pitcher.



6. *Pitxell del carro*, a typical pitcher.

## 5. Medieval crafts and trades word search

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

5.1. Group the medieval crafts and trades that you have found in the word search in the following categories. Can you think of any more?

a) Crafts which involve working with food: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b) Crafts using materials (e.g. leather, wood): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c) Jobs which work with other people: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



7. Brewery. Lacock Abbey (Great Britain).

**6. Use an encyclopaedia or the Internet.**

**a) In pairs write down the definitions of the following trades or crafts.**

blacksmith \_\_\_\_\_

baker \_\_\_\_\_

miller \_\_\_\_\_

brewer \_\_\_\_\_

carpenter \_\_\_\_\_

masons \_\_\_\_\_

shoemaker \_\_\_\_\_

tailor \_\_\_\_\_

weaver \_\_\_\_\_

merchant \_\_\_\_\_

goldsmith \_\_\_\_\_

barber \_\_\_\_\_

teacher \_\_\_\_\_

dentist \_\_\_\_\_



surgeon\_\_\_\_\_

b) Choose a description of a medieval craft or trade. Write about 100 words.<sup>2</sup>

7. Do you know what palindromes are?

A **Palindrome** is a word, phrase or sentence that spells the same backwards as forwards. "A man, a plan, a canal, Panama!"<sup>4</sup>

**2 D palindromes** are word squares in which every row and column reads a word in both directions. This is an example.

R	A	T	S
A	U	N	T
T	N	U	A
S	T	A	R

- Can you make a 2D palindrome using the word *pots*?


8. Do you know what an anagram is?<sup>5</sup> Can you make other anagrams with the word **POTS**?\_\_\_\_\_



1. An artisan working in the potter-wheel. 2. A pottery shop.

<sup>4</sup> The Fun-with-words website has a section of palindromes.

<sup>5</sup> An **anagram** is a word or phrase formed by rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. For example, *pots* or *stop*.

## 9. Fill in the blanks about trades and crafts.<sup>6</sup>

Hello, boy. I am James and I make my living as a cloth \_\_\_\_\_ (1). I live in a \_\_\_\_\_ (2) with my wife, Miriam, our ten-year-old son, Simon, my journeyman<sup>7</sup>, Jacob, and my \_\_\_\_\_ (3), Aaron.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (4) fine cloth for the \_\_\_\_\_ (5) members of the nobility and I also import silk and \_\_\_\_\_ (6) from the Far East. Michael is already learning my \_\_\_\_\_ (7) and one day he will become a cloth merchant and inherit my business.

As a merchant, I can tell you all about trade and travel and merchant's \_\_\_\_\_ (8). A guild is an \_\_\_\_\_ (9) of craftsmen or merchants formed for mutual help and protection.

There are merchant guilds, which include all the merchants of a town or city and \_\_\_\_\_ (10) guilds, which include all the \_\_\_\_\_ (11) in a particular branch of industry. Their functions are to establish trade monopolies, to set standards for quality of \_\_\_\_\_ (12) and to maintain stable \_\_\_\_\_ (13).

Crafts guilds establish hierarchies of craftsmen based on level of training; \_\_\_\_\_ (14) journeymen, and apprentices.

### Word bank

merchant	wealthy	trade town	association	craft	masters	velvet
apprentice	prices	weave	guilds	craftsmen	goods	

#### 9.1. Answer the questions about the trades and crafts.

- What is James' job? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is he a journeyman? What does he do? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the name of his wife? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many children have they got? \_\_\_\_\_
- How many workers has James got in his workshop? \_\_\_\_\_
- Is James a weaver? \_\_\_\_\_
- What does the merchant also do? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is a guild? \_\_\_\_\_
- Did guilds only protect traders? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Use the information in this website: <http://www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/history/middleages/merchant.html>  
13. A **journeyman** is an artisan.