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& fairy tale

# Learning about Crafts



Learning about Crafts  
with Puss in Boots



with  
**Puss in Boots**



B4U Publishing





**J**ake pet the cat on the back: „So, it’s just the two of us.“ The cat rubbed his ear against the back of Jake’s hand, comforting him. „But I can’t provide for both of us... You will be better off on your own. I’m sure you’ll catch a mouse just like that!“ As soon as the cat heard that the new master was about to part ways with him, he meowed softly and spoke in a human voice: „Jake, Jakey, don’t send me away. Have a nice cape sewed for me. You won’t regret it!“ the cat asked nicely. Jake wasn’t sure at first. He only had his two last coppers in his pocket. In the end, however, he visited the tailor’s workshop with the cat and presented him with the request. The tailor was surprised, because he had not had such a special customer in the workshop yet, but in the end, he agreed to sew a beautiful velvet cape embroidered with silver thread and decorated with silver buttons for the cat.

## Tailors and seamstresses

A **tailor** is a person who makes, repairs or alters clothing. Do you need to have a dress sewn, your trousers shortened or a hole in your coat repaired? Then you should hurry to a tailor's workshop, they will know what to do. A tailor will take your measurements, come up with the cut of clothing, determine the suitability of the selected fabric, calculate the fabric yardage and sew the dress. Sometimes a tailor shortens some pants or sews a hole in a coat. We should not forget the **seamstresses** either. They cut fabrics and sew simpler pieces of clothing for tailors.

sewing machine



## Clothes of the poor and the rich

The clothing of the nobility was expensive. They had their **personal tailors**, who sewed dresses made of **expensive fabrics** embroidered with gold and silver thread, decorated them with **cotton lace and silk bows**. The clothing of the townspeople resembled the clothing of the nobility. It was, however, made of cheaper fabric and was not as colourful. The clothing of the villagers was plain. It was made of **linen and woollen cloth of grey and beige colours** - the shirt grew in the field and the trousers ran through the meadows. For special occasions, however, the villagers wore coloured festive clothing too.

cotton



linen



wool



silk



## The story of a sewing machine

You may be wondering when the first sewing machine was built. It was around 1800. After several unsuccessful attempts, **Barthélemy Thimmonier**, a French tailor, invented the sewing machine in 1830s and was the first to achieve any practical success. His success, however, did not last all that long. Envious competition set his workshop on fire and it burned down along with the machines. But as the saying goes, every cloud has a silver lining. The development of the sewing machine took a faster turn, and by the end of the twentieth century, almost everyone had one at home. The development of the fabric trade came about hand in hand with the **development of the craft of tailoring**, and so specialists, such as hatters, coat or glove-makers, gained popularity.

The needle on the sewing machine is sewing a straight stitch.



nobility clothing



## Long live fashion!

Just like today, **popular fashion trends** had their supporters and opponents. Tailors would watch them closely so that they could add some pieces to the wardrobe of the rich farmers, based upon what the townspeople were wearing. Townspeople, on the other hand, did their best to keep up with the clothing of the nobility. And what about the nobility? They sought out inspiration from the Imperial court. **Personal clothes were passed down from generation to generation** and were often part of the bride's bottom drawer.

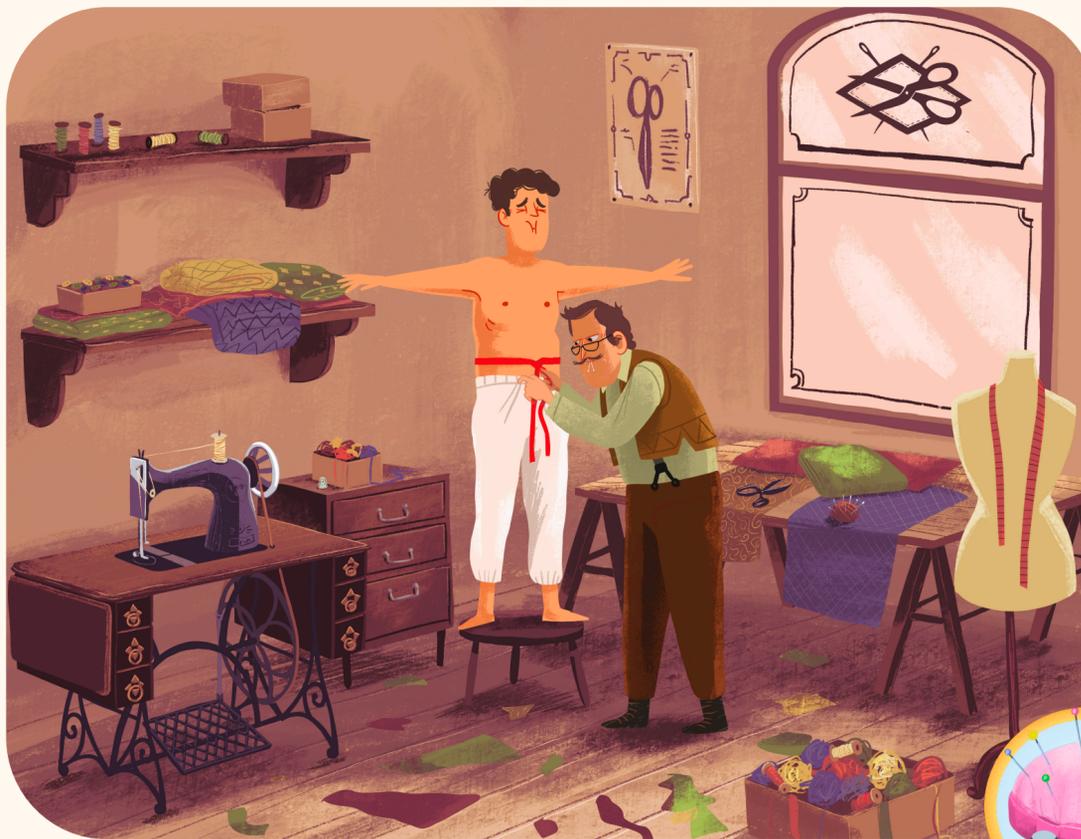
villager clothing



# IN A TAILOR'S WORKSHOP

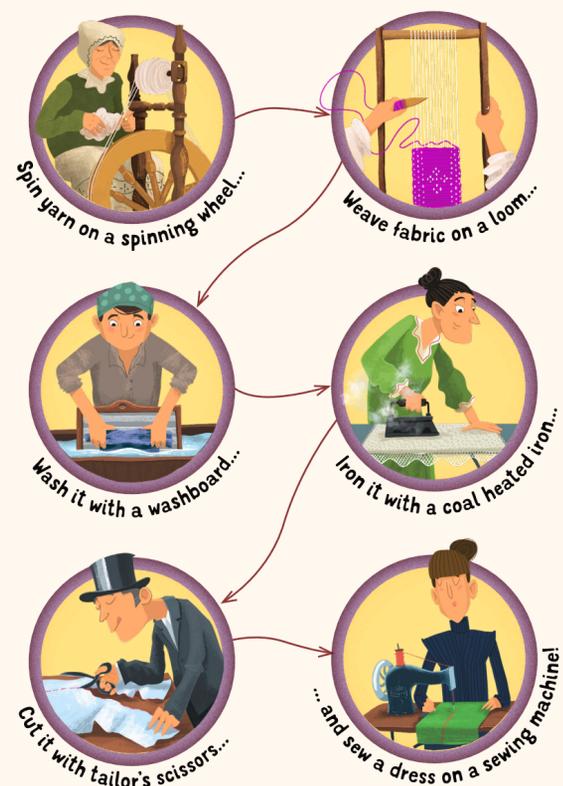
A tailor had to be able to deal with all kinds of customers: tall and short, fat and thin. And the things they demanded! One man might demand trousers that would warm him up in winter and cool him down in summer, one woman might request a dress with a tulle petticoat, which would make her look slimmer. Well, tailors had to be handy, skilled and have an aesthetic touch.

Can you name what you might find in a tailor's workshop? We will see! Let's start with the basics: needles, threads, pins, scissors, fabrics, buttons and a measuring tape, dress forms, cuts of clothes, thimbles, pincushions, tailor's chalk, lace, ribbons and bows. So many things! But aren't we missing something? We are! Although everything was sewn by hand in the past, a tailor's workshop at present cannot function without a sewing machine.



TAILOR'S WORKSHOP

## How dresses were made



pincushion with a thimble

## Related crafts

woman plucking feathers



washerwoman



embroideress



hatter



dyer



## Dyeing craft

Dyeing of textile was performed by a **dyer** in a special solution containing dyes which were obtained from animal, vegetable or mineral sources. Before that, natural fibres were washed and bleached to remove the yucky grey tint. And what were the dyes derived from? The black colour was provided by the **alder bark**, green and brown by various **leaves**, and blue, which was a very rare colour, was obtained from **blackberries or knapweed**.

The following day, the cat, now Puss in Boots, outsmarted the evil wizard from the castle on the top of the Black Mountain. Puss in Boots tricked him into saying that he was no great wizard and that he would not be able to turn into a tiny mouse. „Oh yes I can! Just watch this!“ the wizard scoffed and showed Puss in Boots what an easy task it was. At once, our hero jumped on the mouse, caught it in his claws and the whole castle belonged to him! He moved in along with his master, and Jake put on a fancy garment he found in the wizard’s closet, just as Puss in Boots instructed - and now, Jakey, just wait and see what happens. Puss in Boots ran on all fours, like a cat would, to the royal castle, where he invited the King and his beautiful daughter Amalie to visit the residence of the noble Lord Marquis of Carabas. „I would not miss this for the world,“ the King said rushing to his carriage. But first, he had to stop at the blacksmith’s to have the horseshoes changed. „I can’t go there with such rusty and worn horseshoes!“ the King mumbled to himself.



## Where did the metals come from?

In order for a blacksmith to forge a proper horseshoe, for example, he first had to obtain a suitable piece of iron and a sufficient supply of wood for the forge. Iron in the form of bars was often supplied to him by a **smelter**, who had melted it from a raw iron ore lump in a **blast furnace**. And where did he get the iron from? Well, he bought it from a **miner** who found it among the rocks or mined it in a mine. **Gold**, on the other hand, was usually **panned for in gold-bearing rivers** using a pan.



# AT THE BLACKSMITH'S

At the order of the King, they made a stop at the smithy, where the horses were given new shoes. The smithy was built, together with the blacksmith's house, outside the city walls. When the royal carriage arrived, they were greeted by a burly man. „Good day, my King,“ he stood up and immediately put his ox-leather apron on so he could get to work.

Blacksmiths had to be able to **shoe draft animals, make and repair various farming tools and articles of daily use**. They were stout men who could do a lot of things besides working with metal. For example, if you needed a tooth pulled, they knew how to end your suffering. How? They simply **pulled out the tooth** with their tongs.

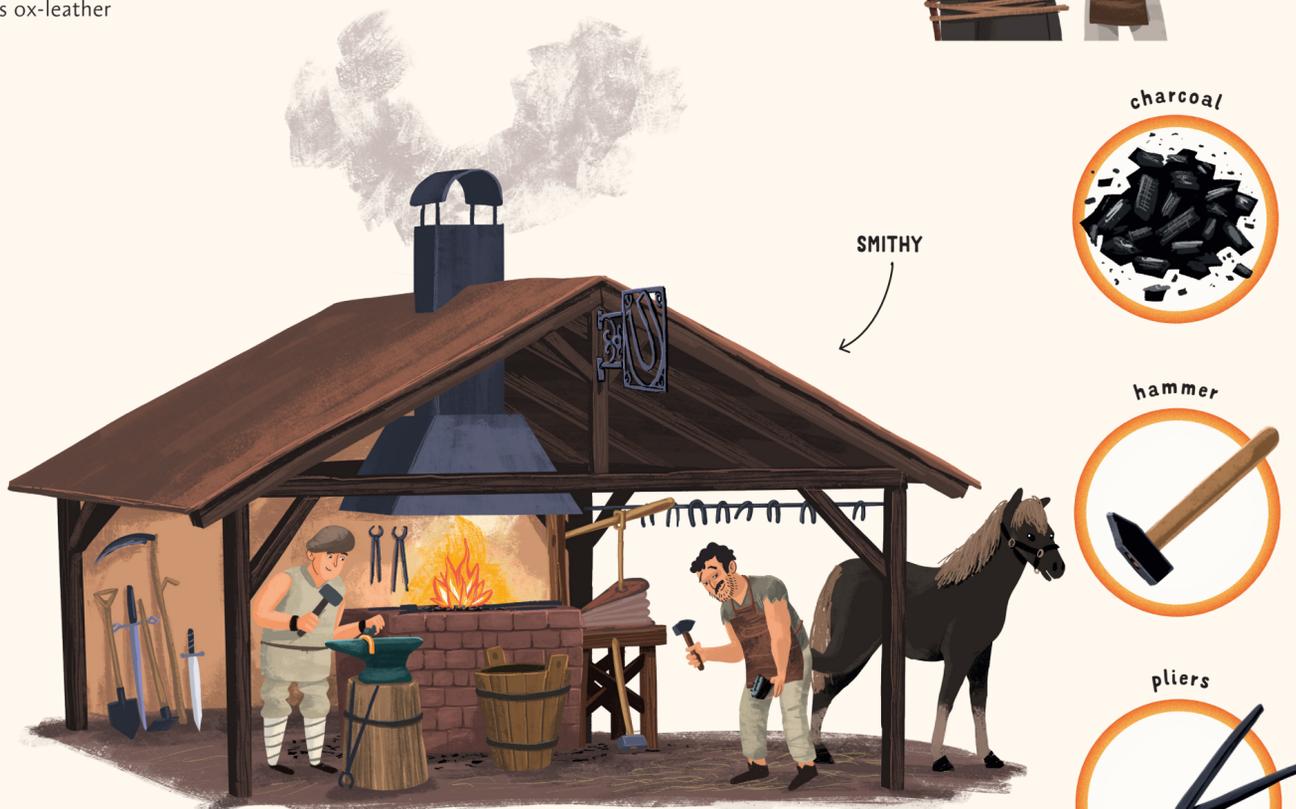


## Blacksmith's tools

A blacksmith without a **hammer** would not be a blacksmith at all. He used several types: a one-handed hammer for small tasks, a large two-handed hammer and special hammers designed for various purposes. He also used nine basic types of **pliers**. Last but not least, a true blacksmith could not do without a table, vices, files, knives and other smaller tools.

## Smithy

We can imagine the smithy as an **open room**, dominated by a **hearth with a wide chimney**. First, the blacksmith melted the hearth with charcoal, which he bought from charcoal-burners. To reach the highest temperatures, he blew air into the fire with a **piston** below. Near the hearth stood a large **anvil** set in a wide wood block. Next to the anvil, there would be a **bucket with cold water** for cooling forged products. And because the blacksmiths used every little piece of iron available, you could find only iron scraps strewn about on the ground.



Blacksmiths would shoe animals so that their hooves did not suffer or slip when walking and working on hard roads.

## Products made of metals



## Blacksmith's craft

Blacksmiths were muscular men dressed in linen trousers and grey shirts with long ox-leather aprons on top. They wore massive hoof-like shoes. Their work was really tough, so they needed durable footwear! First, the blacksmiths **heated the metal in a burning-hot hearth and then pounded it with a hammer on an anvil** until they ended up with the desired shape. It was a truly **sweaty job**. Some tasks were impossible to do by oneself, so they usually had 2 to 3 equally skilled helpers with them.

## Related crafts

### Locksmiths

While the blacksmith worked with hot iron, the locksmith **processed cold iron through cutting, drilling and sawing**. He possessed the technical knowledge of a blacksmith and used the same equipment. As the name of his profession suggests, he mainly **made locks and keys**, but also handles, knockers and protective grilles.



### Armourers

There were queues waiting for **swords, daggers, halberds and other weapons** outside the armourer's workshop. If you needed a quality sword with a perfectly smooth and sharp blade and a balanced hilt, you had to wait several months. The production of a hand-bent bow, tailored to an archer, could take an armourer even up to 4 years.



### Goldsmiths

A goldsmith had to have his hand made of gold. **His work was very fine in essence and carefulness was valued above everything else**. He used miniature files, pliers or spades to make the finest details and not a single golden sawdust could be allowed to be wasted! He mainly worked with gold, silver and other precious metals. Would you like a ring for a princess or brand new crown jewels? You could fully rely on the goldsmith's golden hands.



### Coiners

The coiner's task was to cut out small squares from thinly tapped sheet metal and then even smaller circles from them, so that they would meet the exact weight set by the royal decree. Out of the metal circles, which could be either gold, silver or copper, the coiner then **minted gold, silver or copper coins**.



### Artistic blacksmiths

The most skilled blacksmiths made functional accessories for buildings, such as decorative grilles, knockers, lock fittings and lamp handles. Later, they focused on the production of purely artistic products. A skilled blacksmith could forge detailed **leaves and blooming flowers, human figures, animals, crowns** and variously intertwining rods from red-hot iron.

Blacksmiths made also decorative grilles, knockers, etc.





## Learning about Crafts with Puss in Boots

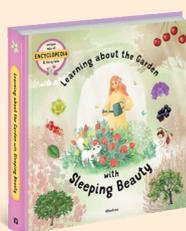
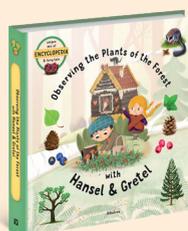
Text by Jana Sedláčková & Michaela Kalivodová  
Illustrations by Linh Dao & Tomáš Kopecký

Once upon a time, there was a mischievous, very smart Puss who really wanted a beautiful embroidered dress and a pair of boots. Finally, he talked his master Jake into getting them for him. But who was going to make that finery? A skilled tailor and a master shoemaker, that's who! On their way to the pretty princess Amalie, Jake and the Puss meet a great many other craftsmen from the castle and bourg, learning a lot of interesting stuff. How did people used to make clothes and shoes back then, anyway? What did it look at the miller's, blacksmith's, or carpenter's? And who was involved in putting delicacies on the king's table? This well-known children's story will take you on a journey through the world of old crafts, many of which have survived to this day.



big folding  
maps

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WARNING:  
Choking hazard.  
Not suitable for children  
under 36 months.

