

Answer Key

Part 1

1. **What motivated the original settlers from Krefeld to leave Europe and establish Germantown in 1683?**

The settlers left Europe to escape religious persecution and political instability in the Holy Roman Empire. Many were Dutch Mennonites who had converted to Quakerism and sought religious freedom and economic opportunity in Pennsylvania.

2. **How did Francis Daniel Pastorius contribute to the founding and organization of Germantown?**

Pastorius served as the settlers' agent, organizer, and legal advocate. He recruited the families from Krefeld, purchased land, prepared the site ahead of their arrival, and helped establish the village layout and governance.

3. **Why was linen production central to Germantown's identity, and how was it reflected in the town's seal?**

Linen production was a major economic activity, drawing on settlers' skills from Krefeld. Abraham op den Graeff received an award for producing the finest linen in Pennsylvania. The town seal features grapevines, flax, and spooled thread, symbolizing Germantown's textile heritage.

4. **What was the significance of the 1688 anti-slavery petition, and who were its authors?**

The petition, authored by Pastorius, Garret Hendricks, Derick op den Graeff, and Abraham op den Graeff, was the first formal anti-slavery protest in colonial America. It condemned slavery as incompatible with Christian values and helped establish Germantown's reputation for moral leadership.

5. **How did Germantown's population and cultural makeup change by the late 18th and early 19th centuries?**

Germantown became more diverse, with English, Irish, free Black, and other groups settling in the town. While German traditions persisted, the community evolved into a multicultural hub. German immigrants continued to influence American culture through new settlements across the Northeast and Midwest.

Part 2

1. Planting by **plowing** and **sowing** the flax in early spring
2. Harvesting the flax by **pulling** it from the ground
3. Removing seeds by batting with a **ripple** comb
4. **Retting** the flax with dew and rain
5. **Breaking** the flax's hard exterior
6. **Scutching** or swingling to remove bark
7. **Hackling** the flax with a comb to separate fine fibers
8. **Spinning** the flax into thread
9. **Weaving** the linen into cloth
10. **Bleaching** the linen in the sun

Planting by plowing and sowing the flax in early spring	 An illustration showing two men in 18th-century attire. One man is walking and sowing seeds from a bag, while the other is plowing the field with a team of oxen. The scene is labeled 'Plowing' and 'Sowing'.
Harvesting the flax by pulling it from the ground	 An illustration of a woman in a long dress and apron pulling a clump of flax from the ground. The scene is labeled 'Pulling'.
Removing seeds by batting with a ripple comb	 An illustration showing two people working at a wooden table. One person is using a large comb (ripple) to process flax, while the other is assisting. The scene is labeled 'Rippling'.

Retting the flax with dew and rain



Breaking the flax's hard exterior



Scutching or swingling to remove bark



Hackling the flax with a comb to separate fine fibers



Spinning the flax into thread



Weaving the linen into cloth



Bleaching the linen in the sun



Vocabulary Words

1. __B__ Redemptioner
2. __I__ Retting
3. __J__ Scutching
4. __H__ Hackling
5. __G__ Pietist
6. __D__ Mennonite
7. __A__ Quaker
8. __C__ Loom
9. __E__ Ribbon Plan
10. __F__ Anti-slavery Petition

Definitions

- A. A religious group that believes in peace, fairness, and equality
- B. A person who worked to pay off the cost of their trip to America
- C. A machine used to weave thread into cloth
- D. A Christian group known for peace, community, and simple living
- E. A way of laying out land in long, narrow strips along a road
- F. A written protest saying slavery is wrong and should be stopped
- G. Someone who believes in living a very religious and simple life
- H. Combing flax to make the fibers smooth and ready for spinning
- I. Soaking flax plants to help pull apart the useful fibers
- J. Scraping off the rough outer parts of flax to get the soft inside fibers

Part 4: Journal Entry

Imagine you are a 12-year-old living in Germantown in the 1600s. Your family is involved in linen production. Write a short journal entry (5–6 sentences) describing your day helping with the flax or linen process. Use at least two vocabulary words from Part 3.