

## Blacksmith

The blacksmith was a skilled and essential craftsman. A fur trader might come to him for muskrat spear points. He might be asked to repair a tool. We can't build a fire and practice bending red-hot iron. Instead imagine that this lump of clay is iron. You can't shape it with your hands or even touch it when it comes out of the forge. All the changes you make to its shape come from using other tools to hit, hold, cut, punch holes and bend it. Do some research and experimenting. Blacksmith often made their own tools and experimented with what worked best. This was especially true on the frontier. Can you shape it into a tool or blade? Can you join two broken pieces? Can you make a hook or a nail? What will you make?



### Supplies

Clay

Tools – hammer, chisel, tongs, hardy

(maybe wooden mallet, wooden spoon, ruler, dinner knife, chop stick)

Anvil – block of wood, your desk?



<https://www.sustainlife.org/category/blacksmithing/>



<http://www.sootypaws.net/blacksmithing/posts/cuttingsteelhot.html>