

This is a resource for LBS Facilitators who have learners using the CLO resource “Tools of the Masonry Trade.”

Note: As part of this resource, learners are instructed to read about the masonry trade on this page of the Skilled Trades Ontario website:

<https://www.skilledtradesontario.ca/trade-information/brick-and-stone-mason/>

Before assigning this activity to a learner, facilitators should confirm the learner has access to a computer or mobile device with access to the Internet.

Discussion Questions & Answer Key

Note: Throughout this resource, learners are asked questions and instructed to share their responses with a classmate, teacher, or tutor. There are also several reflection questions that do not require the learner to share an answer. Reflection questions have not been included in this facilitator resource.

On Page 3, learners are asked if they think they would be more likely to take the college pathway or the apprenticeship pathway to becoming a mason.

Also on Page 3, learners are asked to read the Brick and Stone Mason entry on the Skilled Trades Ontario website, then fill in the blanks in the paragraph below. The answers they should provide are in bold below.

A Brick and Stone Mason builds and repairs **walls**, floors, **arches**, pavings, partitions, fireplaces, **chimneys**, smokestacks, and other structures. A Brick and Stone Mason often works on industrial, commercial, institutional, and residential buildings. Specifically, a Brick and Stone Mason:

- erects, installs, maintains, **repairs** and alters walls, floors, arches, pavings, partitions, fireplaces, chimneys, smokestacks, and other structures
- works with materials such as **brick**, natural stone, manufactured **stone**, tiles, precast masonry panels, glass blocks, **concrete blocks**, light-weight insulated panels, other masonry units, insulation, and membranes

On Page 5, learners are asked to answer several questions about personal protective equipment (PPE). The answers that learners should provide are in bold below.

1. If a mason is working in a loud job site or with noisy equipment, what PPE should they wear? **Hearing protection.**
2. What does a CSA mark on safety equipment mean? **It has been tested and meets high safety standards.**
3. If a mason is working in dusty conditions or with air-borne chemicals, what PPE should they wear? **Masks and respirators.**
4. What are masons protecting their hands from when wearing bricklayers gloves? **The effect of the lime in the mortar.**
5. What does the green triangle on a work boot or shoe mean? **It has sole puncture protection and a protective toe.**
6. If a mason is using a wet saw, what PPE should they wear? **A plastic apron and rubber gloves.**
7. What are the two kinds of fall protection equipment mentioned? **A safety harness and lanyard.**

On Page 8, learners are asked to answer several questions about tools used by masons. The answers that learners should provide are in bold below.

1. What is the name of the hand tool used for cutting or breaking bricks and stones? **A chisel.**
2. What are the two most common types of trowels? **The London Narrow and London Wide pattern trowels.**
3. What is the most common type of jointer? **Convex.**
4. What is one other type of jointer masons use? **Concave, V or grapevine jointers.**
5. Fill in the blanks: An appropriate **hammer** should be used to strike a chisel, and hand and eye **protection** should always be worn.
6. What is the most common type of hammer masons use? **The brick hammer, also known as a mason's hammer.**

On Page 11, learners are asked to answer several questions about tools used by masons. The answers that learners should provide are in bold below.

1. What is the name of the tool a mason can use check the vertical (up and down) angle of a wall? **A plumb bob.**
2. What is the name of the brush you will use to clean fresh mortar off a wall before it sets? **A soft bristled brush.**
3. What is the name of the tool that is stretched across a mason's work area as a guide for placing bricks at the correct height? **A mason's line.**
4. Why would a mason use a mortar hoe or mason's hoe? **For hand mixing mortar for smaller jobs.**
5. What is a mortar board used for? **To hold a small amount of mortar close to where the mason is working.**
6. What kind of tool is used to make sure that the angles of corners, or of window and door openings are correct? **A steel square.**

On Page 13, learners are asked to share which two tips for maintaining masonry tools they think are the most important.

On Page 14, learners are asked what other kinds of tools they think they might find on a masonry job site.

Also on Page 14, a list of different tools and equipment discussed in this resource appears. Learners are asked to check off all the things they learned about and approach a teacher or tutor if they were not able to check all the items on the list.