

Let's Meet a Baker | Lesson Plan

What do bakers do for our communities?

Students will understand the importance of bakers in providing food for the community and how they contribute to our daily lives through *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Baker*.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the role of bakers in a community.
- Explain the importance of bakers in providing food for the community.
- Analyze how bakers contribute to their own lives.
- Explain how the United States is a country that gives many people the opportunity to start their own businesses.

Key Vocabulary:

- **Baker:** A person who bakes bread, cakes, pastries, etc.
- **Batch:** An amount of something made at one time
- **Discipline:** The practice of following rules, implementing self-control, and making good choices.
- **Shakarshee:** A traditional cookie originating from Armenia. It is very similar to a sugar cookie and has a sweet, buttery taste.
- **Spatula:** A kitchen tool with a flat, often bendable end used for flipping, lifting, mixing, and spreading in baking.
- **Baker's Dozen:** A set of 13. This tradition stems from medieval times when bakers were penalized for delivering baked goods that were underweight or too small. An extra item was added to make up for any lack in the rest of the 12.

Educational Standards: CCRA.R.1, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.L.6, CCRA.W.4, CCRA.R.7

Academic Subject Areas: America, American Values, Entrepreneurship

What You'll Need

- Video: *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Baker* (Click [Here](#))
- Book (optional): *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Baker* (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Baker* (Click [Here](#))
- A large box or container (decorated to look like a mystery box)
- Various items related to baking (e.g., flour, sugar, mixing spoon, measuring cup, rolling pin, cookie cutter, cupcake liners, apron, etc.)
- Picture cards or images of baked goods (bread, cake, cookies, etc.)



Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Gather the students in a circle on the carpet or at their desks.
2. Introduce the activity by showing them the large mystery box and telling them that it contains clues about a special job.
3. Ask the students to guess what job the mystery box might be related to based on any sounds it makes when shaken. Invite a few volunteers to come up and open the mystery box. Have them pull out an item or two to show the class. Encourage the students to examine the items closely and discuss with their classmates what they are used for.
4. Show the picture cards or images of baked goods and ask the students to identify what they are and where they think they come from.
5. Reveal that the mystery box contains items related to a special community worker: a baker. Facilitate a discussion with the students about the items in the mystery box and their connection to the baker's job.
6. Prompt the students to share their ideas about what they think a baker does based on the items they see. Guide the discussion towards the idea that a baker makes delicious baked goods like bread, cakes, and cookies.
7. Ask the students to think about events in their lives when they have eaten items made by a baker. Guide the discussion towards events like birthdays, weddings, celebrations, etc.
8. Transition into the main lesson by explaining that they will be learning more about baker's job and how bakers help their communities.
9. Introduce/review the key vocabulary terms by explaining their meanings and having students share their prior knowledge.

Watch and Complete: (25 mins.)

1. Show the video *Otto's Tales: Let's Meet a Baker* for the students.
2. Pause at opportune moments in the video to ask questions and check for understanding.
 - Why do bakers start work early in the morning?
 - Why is having discipline important for a baker?
 - What are some of the tools Mr. Armen uses?
 - What is the purpose of measuring cups, a spatula, a mixer, and a cookie scoop?
 - Why does a baker need to be patient?
 - What does Mr. Armen mean when he says: "Baking is an art. It is creative and fun, but it's also a science."
3. Discuss what Otto and Smidge learned while visiting the bakery, focusing on understanding and appreciating how bakers help communities.

Wrap-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Allow time for the students to color the *Otto's Tales: Let's Visit a Baker Coloring Page*.

2. Students may dictate or write 1-2 sentences explaining how bakers help the community on the back of their coloring sheet. These can be collected as a formative assessment.
3. Help students connect to how a baker might have contributed to their lives and how they might use the services of a baker in the future. Remind students that bakers play a large role in providing food for communities and creating delicious desserts that many people enjoy during special occasions.
4. Help students understand that America is known as the “land of opportunity,” where anyone with an idea for a business and with hard work and determination can become a business owner.

Extension Activities

1. Invite a local baker to visit for a Q & A session.
2. Arrange a field trip to a local bakery.
3. Engage in a role-playing activity where students can take turns pretending to be bakers, illuminating the importance of how they give to the community often by baking desserts that are enjoyed during special occasions.
4. Introduce basic fractions by having students explore measuring cups. Select a material for students to measure (water, flour, beans, beads, etc.). Have students investigate by asking questions such as:
 - How many quarter cups equal one cup?
 - How many third cups equal one cup?
 - How many half cups equal one cup?

Guide students to discover that the denominator denotes how many parts will equal a whole.

Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)

After watching the video, distribute the coloring page and allow students to discuss how bakers contribute to the community.