Philip Van Rensselaer’s Cargo

What cargo did Hudson River merchants, like Philip Van Rensselaer, carry on their sloops in the 1700s? Philip mentioned his cargo in letters he wrote to his family and agents. Luckily, some of these documents survive today to give us this information.

There were 3 types of cargo on Philip’s sloop:
  • **raw/natural** — a material in its original or natural state. Wool from a sheep is an example of a raw material.
  • **improved/processed** — a material which has been changed and improved from its original state. It is a middle step before the final product. Wool yarn is an example of a processed material.
  • **final product** — a material that has reached its final form. A wool sock is an example of a final product.

Below are pictures of Philip’s cargo. When you play the *Hudson River Trading Game*, small examples of most of these items will be on your sloop. On the next page, write the name of each item under the type of cargo it fits.

---

**Items**

- **wheat** — a grain grown in the field
- **flour** — made from grinding wheat; used in making bread
- **dishes** — made from clay heated in a hot oven (kiln)
- **staves** — pieces of wood which have been shaped and bent; used in making barrels
- **beeswax** — natural material collected from bees; used in making candles
- **sugar** — sweetener made from the sugar cane plant
- **linen cloth** — made on a loom from linen threads processed from the flax plant
- **hay** — a grass cut and dried in the field
- **rum** — alcoholic drink made from the sugar cane plant
- **pocket knives** — the steel blades were made by a craftsman
- **dried peas** — a plant grown in the field and harvested when dry
- **tea** — dried and prepared leaves from an evergreen plant; used as a beverage
Philip Van Rensselaer’s Cargo

Name ____________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF CARGO</th>
<th>Raw/Natural</th>
<th>Improved/Processed</th>
<th>Final Product</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>