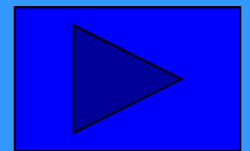


COLONIAL ERA

1600-1776

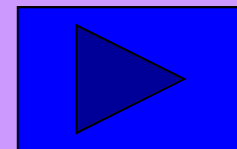
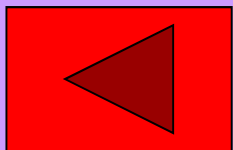
The Colonial Period in American History begins with the arrival of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts and ends with the Declaration of Independence.



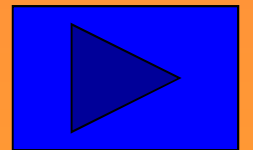
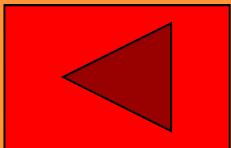
Travel with us through this special time of long ago and imagine that you are part of this way of life.

Remember to compare old ways with today.

Look for similarities and differences between the past and the present.

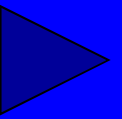


Colonial Clothing

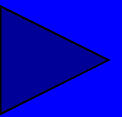


You probably have a closet filled with different outfits.
Most colonial children had only 2 outfits.
One that was worn during the week and
one for special occasions and Sundays.

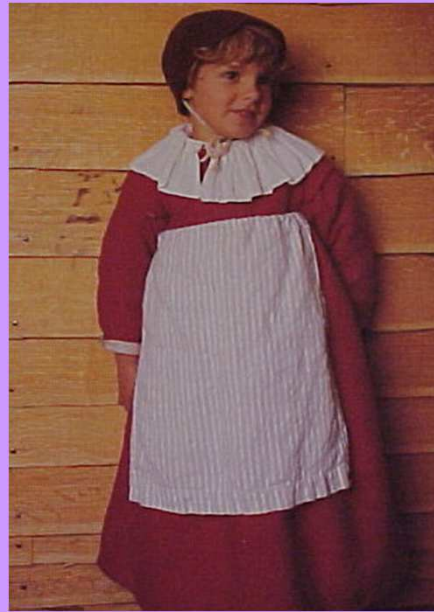
They sewed their own clothes and
sometimes even made their own cloth.



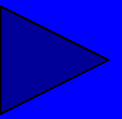
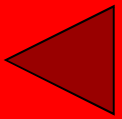
Children were regarded as, and dressed as, miniature adults.



In the 1600s both boys and girls wore dresses until they were 6 or 7 years old. When a boy was about 7 years old he got his first pair of breeches or pants.

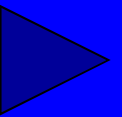
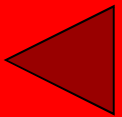


Boys looked forward to wearing breeches because it meant they were almost grown up.





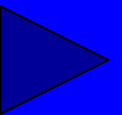
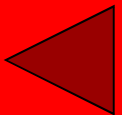
Boys dressed like their fathers.



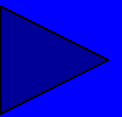
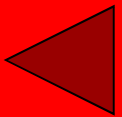
Boys wore stockings (very long socks), garters (ties to keep stockings up because there was no elastic in Colonial times), breeches, doublet (jacket), shoes and hat. Points were strings used to tie doublet and breeches together.



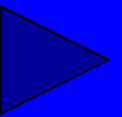
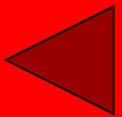
Imagine how long it took to get dressed!



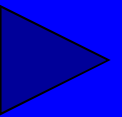
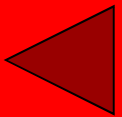
Girls dressed like their mothers.



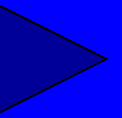
Girls wore petticoats (two or more). Shirts, stockings, garters, waistcoats (vests), coifs (bonnets), aprons, pockets (cloth sacks or pouches somewhat like pocketbooks), and shoes. Imagine wearing all these clothes, especially in the summer.



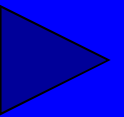
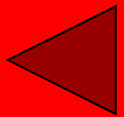
Colonial people had few clothes by today's standards.
The items they had often had to last for years.



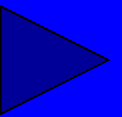
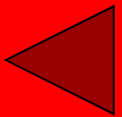
Colonial Games



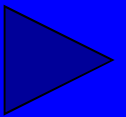
Colonial settlers found many ways to have fun even while they worked. Whenever there was a big task, like raising a building (for example a barn), making a quilt, or husking corn, people of the community came together to help one another. They always tried to make work fun by doing it together.



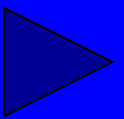
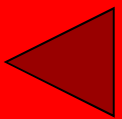
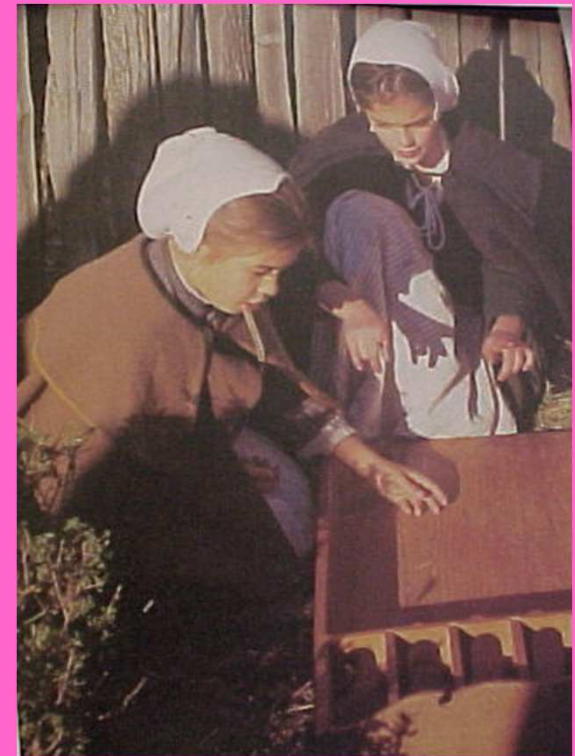
Children had very few playthings. Sometimes their fathers carved toys from wood or their mothers made them cornhusk or apple dolls, called poppets.



Children had little free time for play, no money to spend on toys, and no place to purchase them. When Colonial children did play, they had lots of fun. They used their imaginations and created most of their own playthings.

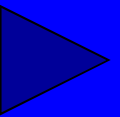
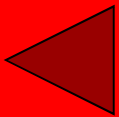


These girls are playing. A marble game with a hand-made knicker box keeps them busy until it is time to return to chores.

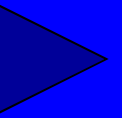


Group games were enjoyed by Colonial children. Some of these games were: Spin the Trencher, Duck, Duck, Goose, Ring Taw, Tag, Blindman's Buff, London Bridge, Tug-of-War, and Chase.

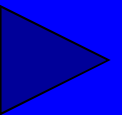
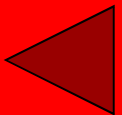
Are there any that sound familiar to you?



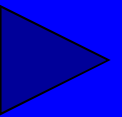
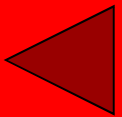
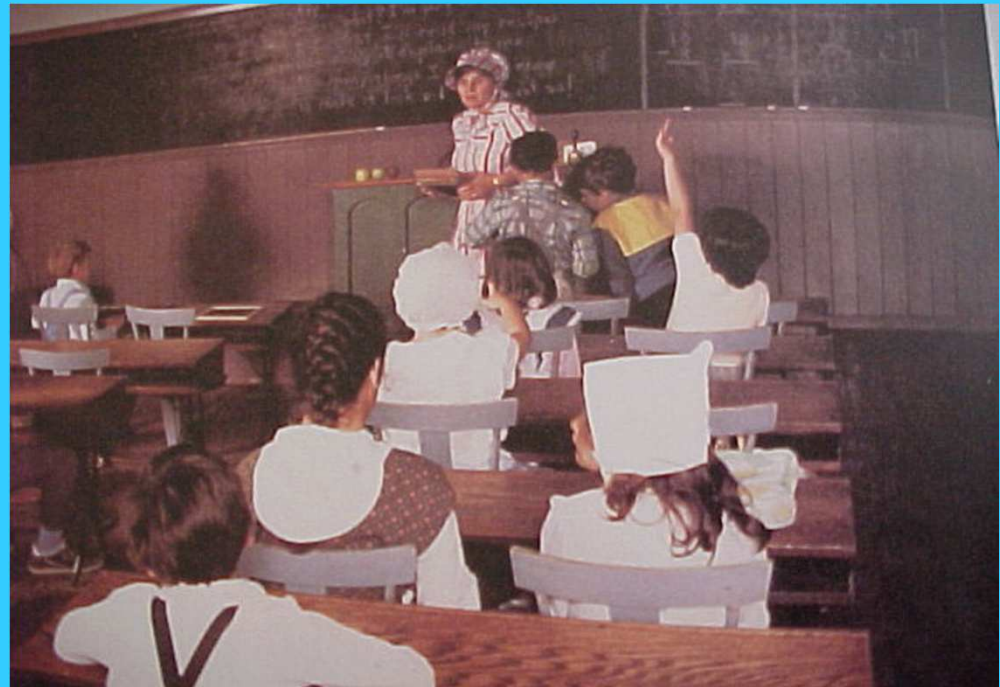
Colonial Schooling



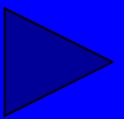
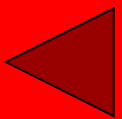
It may be hard to believe, but there was a time when few communities had schools. Children were taught at home, at a neighbor's house, or received no education at all.



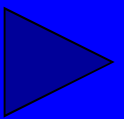
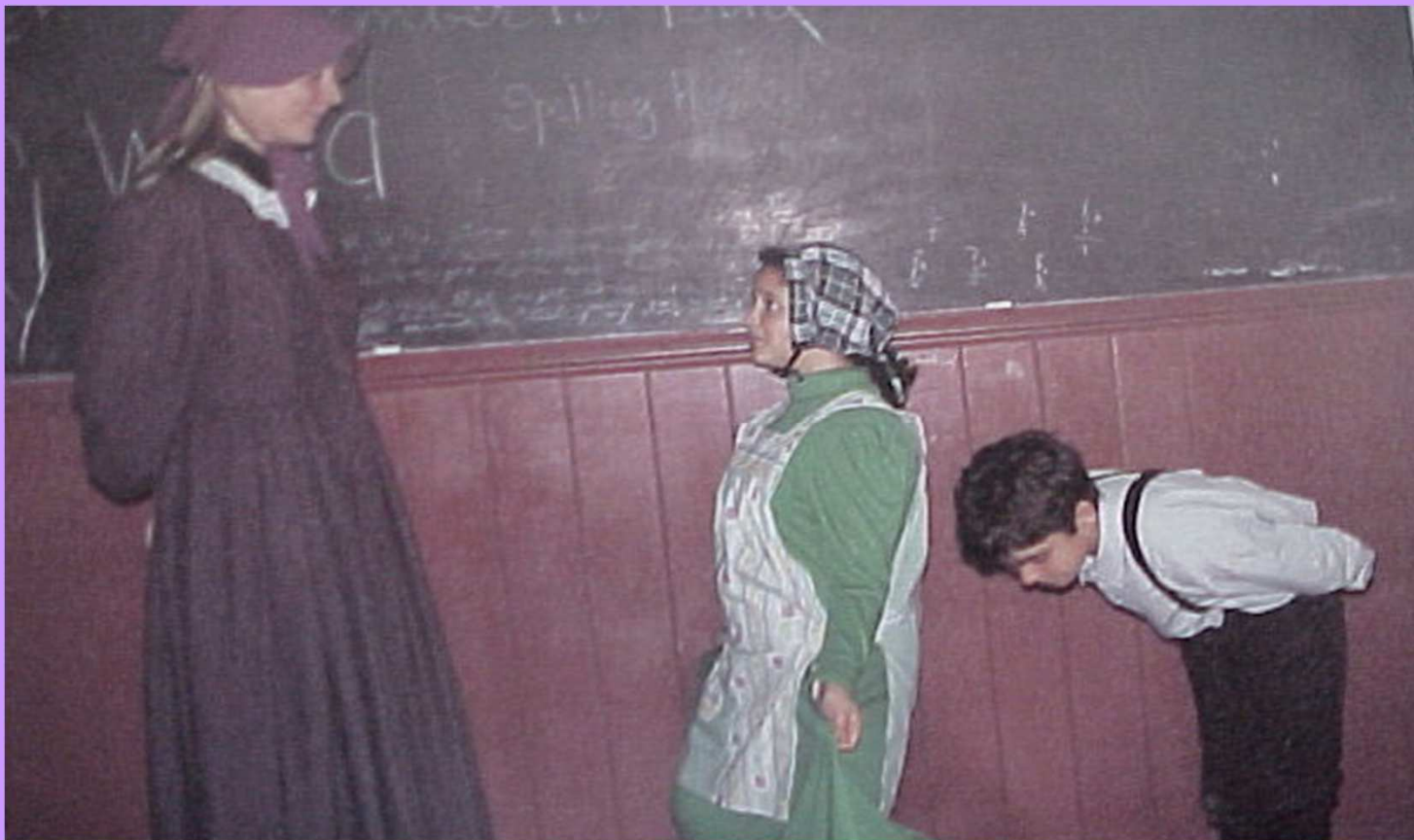
When the number of children grew in an area, the settlers came together and built a schoolhouse that was one large room. It was filled with rows of desks and benches. Children of all ages were taught in the same class. Since they shared the same classroom for as many as eight years, they heard the lessons of the other classes year after year.



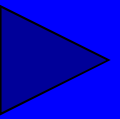
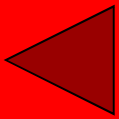
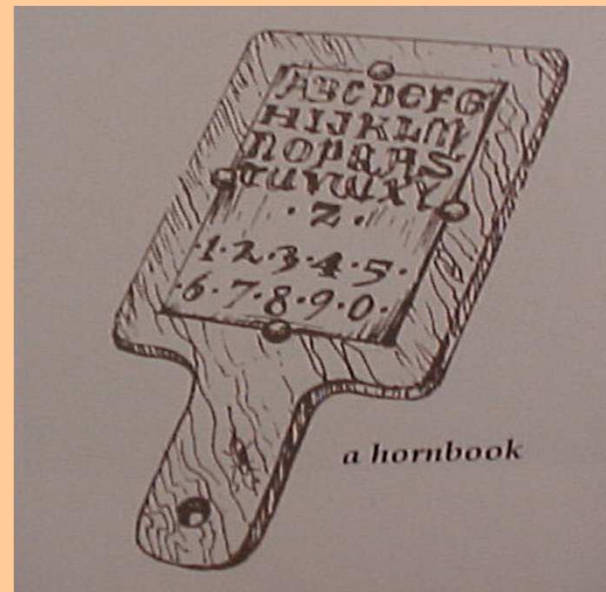
The teacher was a respected person in the community. He or she provided the settlers with an extremely important service, educating their children. Villagers paid the teacher's wages, and some offered the teacher room, board and clothing, or school supplies.



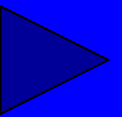
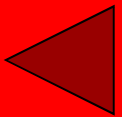
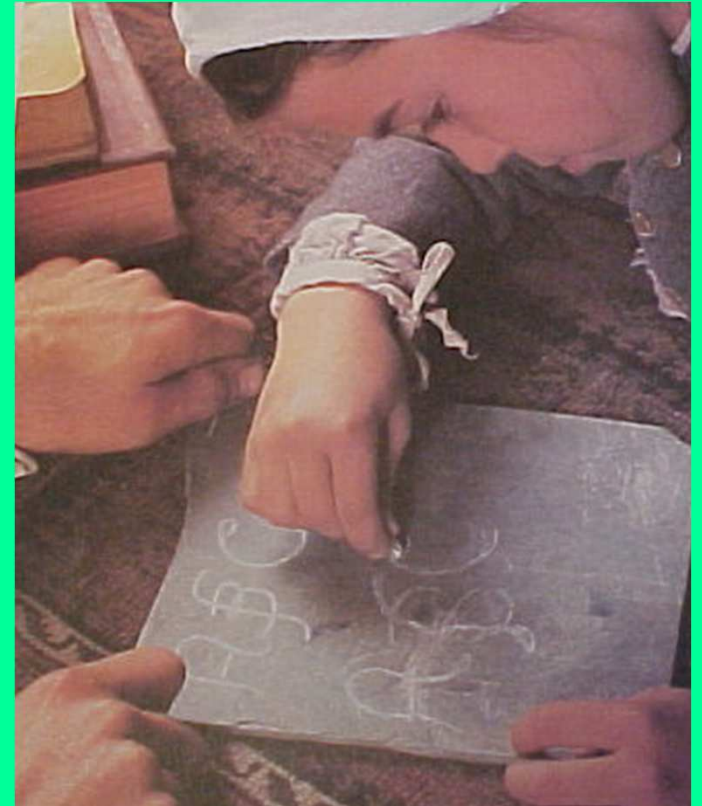
The children showed their respect for the teacher each day before they entered school when they “made their manners” (bowed and curtsied to the teacher).



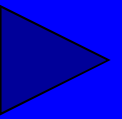
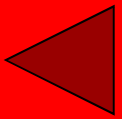
Colonial boys and girls used a hornbook. It was not a real book. The hornbook was a thin piece of wood, like a paddle, that had a printed page on each side of it. A thin sheet of horn covered the page. Older children used a book called the New England Primer. Often the only book available for reading lessons was the Bible. Each day began with the Lord's Prayer, reading the Bible, and taking attendance.



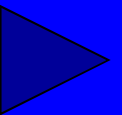
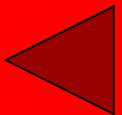
Children learned to read, write and cipher (arithmetic) from one teacher.



In most circumstances, girls did not continue formal education beyond what their mothers taught them at home. Boys had to go to school, according to law, which stated that every town with fifty families must build a school for them.



Did you know that children were punished by their teacher for : arriving late, answering questions incorrectly, falling asleep in class, whispering, inattention in class and biting their nails. Parents also punished their children at home for misbehavior at school.



Name _____

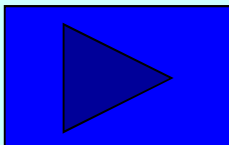
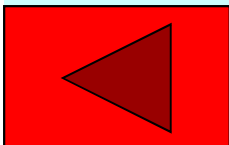
Date _____

See how many clothing items you can remember that are the same as today and how many are different.

Items we wear today

Items worn in Colonial days

[Print Worksheet](#)



Name _____ Date _____

Colonial Days and Today

Clothing

Colonial Days

Today

Entertainment

Colonial Days

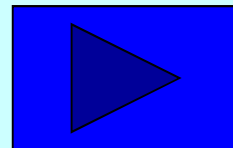
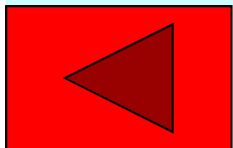
Today

Education

Colonial Days

Today

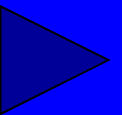
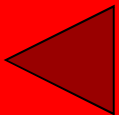
[Print Worksheet](#)



Name _____ Date _____

Imagine you are living in colonial days. Write a journal entry describing your day at school.

[Print Worksheet](#)



Terms to remember!

doublet - jacket

breeches - pants

points - strings used to tie doublet and breeches together

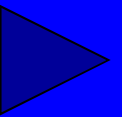
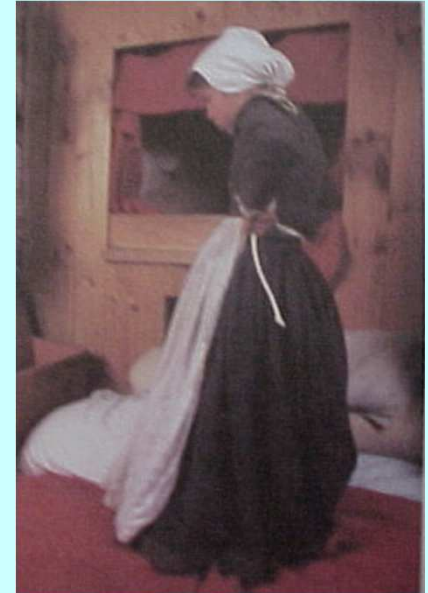
stockings - very long socks

garters - ties to keep long socks in place

pockets - cloth sacks or pouches like pocketbooks

coifs - bonnets

waistcoats - vests



Terms to remember!

poppet - doll

knicker box - a marble game

hornbook - not a real book but a piece of wood with a printed page on each side with the alphabet and numbers

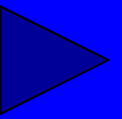
Dame School - a small group of students who were instructed at a neighbor's home

copy book - a tablet used to practice writing letters

cipher - to do arithmetic

primer - a book of poems and

Bible verses to read and memorize



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