

Life in Colonial Times

Life in colonial America was very different from our lives today. Draw a line to match the description of present day life with that of a colonial child.

In which time period would you rather live? _____

Today

We shop at the mall for all the latest clothing styles and trends.

It is common to fly, drive, or take a train to go on vacation or visit family.

Comfortable, overstuffed couches and chairs are common in our homes.

Houses have many rooms and many floors. You may even have your own bedroom.

Letters can be delivered anywhere in the world in days. E-mails are delivered almost instantly.

Many children spend free time playing computer games, home game systems, handheld pocket games, or watching TV.

We enjoy many seasonal activities whenever we get the chance. They are a big part of our lifestyle.

“Staying-after” (detention) is a common result of bad behavior in school.

It is acceptable for anyone to wear their hair in the style they want.



In Colonial America

Children had little free time but enjoyed games like tag.

Activities, like swimming, were considered a “waste of time.”

Almost every schoolmaster kept a birch branch, used to discipline bad students.

Girls covered their hair with a hood or kerchief. Boys had long hair.

Letters were written with quill and ink and sealed closed with wax. It took up to 4 months to deliver a letter, if it ever arrived at all.

The *settle* was a homemade wooden bench with high sides and back. It was not comfortable, but it was a place for the family to sit.

Most houses had one main room, the Hall. At night adults and babies slept there, children slept together in the attic.

No one traveled for fun, since roads were bumpy and could be muddy or dusty.

Most people made their own clothes. All the sewing was done by hand, and everyone helped.

