



Filer's Corners Schoolhouse Activity Sheet

Have you ever wondered what school was like for students in the mid-1800s? What kinds of lessons did they do? What materials did they use? What was the school day like?

1. What subjects did students learn at school? How are the subjects the same or different from what you are learning?
2. In a one room schoolhouse, students of different ages and grades were all in the class at the same time. How did the teacher organize the class? Why do you think she did it this way?
3. What time do you go to school in the morning and what time do you finish for the day? Students in the mid-1800s went to school from 8am-5pm in the summer and 9am-3pm in the winter. Sometimes they didn't go to school in the spring or fall. Why do you think the school day depended on the season?
4. Today, we use computers to type in our lessons and paper and pencil to write them out. In the mid-1800s, paper was very expensive, and students would use a slate and slate pencil to write their lessons out. They could then erase the lesson and start a new one. What school supplies do you need each year?



5. Arithmetic or math was very important to students in the mid-1800s just as it is now. Here's a math game you can play with 2 dice. Roll your dice and use the two numbers that you roll to create math problems. Try addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Write your numbers and answers below.

6. Children in the mid-1800s loved conundrums or riddles. Try to solve this one: When is a door not a door?

7. Students in the mid-1800s usually did not have homework. Sounds great, right? That's because most of the children's families lived and worked on farms. Children had many chores to do before and after school. What kinds of chores do you think the children did? What kinds of chores do you do? Do you think you would enjoy doing the chores on the farm in the mid-1800s more or less than your chores now? Why do you feel that way?

8. Lessons about good behavior were important in the mid-1800s. Read the following passage. What do you think the teacher wants the students to understand here? How do you know? Look up the definitions of any of the words you don't know to help you.

Be not vain, and boast of what you say or do.

A proud heart and a high look shall be brought low.

Strive not with your mates, but live in peace with all.

A wise child will speak the truth at all times.

From Sanders, Charles W., "Chapter II, Lesson II." Sanders' Spelling Book; Containing a Minute and Comprehensive System of Introductory Orthography Designed to Teach a System of Orthography and Orthoepy in Accordance with that of Dr. Webster for the Use of Schools. Cazenovia: Henry & Sweetlands. 1845.

Conundrum Answer: When it's ajar

