

I'm Not Taking a Bath!

Children in Territorial New Mexico were always busy. They came home from school, did their chores, helped with supper, did their homework, and then it was bedtime.

Many chores had to be done daily: hauling water, gathering eggs, tending the garden, and filling the wood box. And some chores like milking cows and feeding livestock had to be done more than once a day. Fieldwork started early, with feeding and harnessing the horses.

Women sewed and mended clothing, and washed clothes by hand. They made soap from lard (bacon fat), baked bread, and canned (preserved) everything from beef and pork to green beans and tomatoes. But the canning process meant spending hours over a hot wood stove in the summertime. Even the most unpleasant tasks like cleaning the chicken coop or the outhouse had to be done year 'round. And there was the constant housecleaning, a battle against the constant dust that seeped into the house.

**Do you receive an allowance for doing chores? For what kind of chores?
Do you think children in Territorial New Mexico received an allowance?
Why or why not?**

Some people did chores to make an income. One of the most common chores was doing laundry. Children would also help earn the family some income by doing chores for other families.



These children are earning income for their family.