



## **Pre- and Post-Visit Activities**

### **The Log House Life Program at the Mercer Museum**

**Grade Levels:** Grades PreK-6

**Program Summary:**

The Log House Life Program transports students back in time to Bucks County over two centuries ago. In this program, students will learn what life was like living in a Log House by engaging in a variety of hands-on tasks.

Costumed interpreters set the scene in the Mercer Museum's historic Log House and teach students about the daily chores families would've completed in Colonial America.

The following suggested activities are for students visiting the Log House and participating in The Log House Life Program. These activities are designed to be supplemental material to help students get the most out of their experience.



## **Pre-Activities:**

### **Activity 1: Doing Chores**

During The Log House Life Program, students will learn about the types of chores children completed two centuries ago. Discuss with your class what types of chores they receive at home.

Students should consider:

- What chores are they responsible for?
- Who is the chore helping?
- What tools are needed to complete your chore?
- Is it easy or hard to complete?
- Do you like doing it?
- How often does it need to be done?

Have each student draw or write about their chores, being as detailed as possible. Students can share their chores as a class when finished.

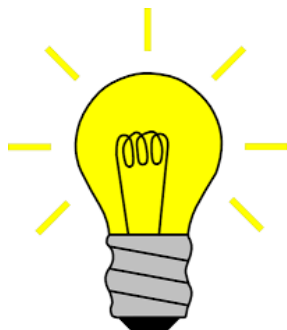
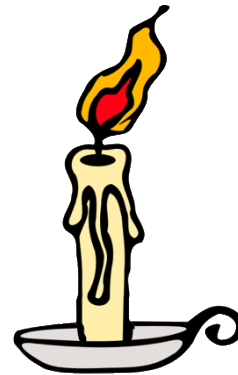
In the past, children completed chores without electricity or running water, all while living in a small log house. Ask your students to consider how their chores might be different if they lived over two centuries ago. Would it make their chores easier or harder?

## Activity 2: Today vs. the Past Student Worksheet

Directions: Life was very different 200 years ago. Many items we use every day didn't exist for Colonial families. Looking at the images below, can you figure out which items are from the past?

Circle items in **BLUE** that are from the past.

Circle items in **RED** that are from today.





## **Post-Activities:**

### **Activity 1: Butter Making**

During The Log House Life Program, students learned about a tool from the Colonial era called a butter churn. Using this tool to make butter was an everyday task for Colonial families. You can transport your students back in time by making butter right in the classroom!

#### **Supplies:**

Heavy whipping cream  
Baby food jar or mason jar\*  
Pinch of salt (for flavor)  
Strainer (optional)

*\* Depending on the size jar, the whole process can take anywhere from 10-25 minutes to complete.*

#### **Procedure:**

1. Fill your jar about halfway with the heavy whipping cream.
2. Shake the jar until the consistency starts to change.
3. Open the jar to show the class how butter is beginning to form.
4. Add a pinch of salt.
5. Put the lid back on and keep shaking until the butter becomes a solid mass.
6. Strain or pour out any remaining liquid.
7. The butter is ready for everyone to taste. It tastes great on crackers or bread. Enjoy!

The butter will last 2-3 days in a refrigerator.



## Activity 2: Your Home Student Worksheet

Over 200 years ago, families lived together in small log houses. Let's see how their home is different from the one that you live in.

Directions: Draw your home in the space provided below. Once you finish, answer the following questions using your knowledge from your trip to the Log House at the Mercer Museum.

1. How is your home the same or different from the Log House at the Mercer Museum?

**Circle what is the same and place an "X" on what is different.**

2. How many floors does your home have? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who lives in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

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