

# CHILDREN: TOWN AND COUNTRY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

*The number in parentheses ( ) next to each question indicates the building where the items can be found. (Refer to the map on the back of this booklet).*



1. **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (43)** Just like today, many children in the 1870s went to church. Services often lasted longer than they do today. Children were expected to sit still, not fidget, and pay attention.

Have a seat on a bench.

Would it be comfortable to sit on the benches very long?      **Yes**      **No**

How many minutes do you think you could sit comfortably?      **1   3   5   (try it!)**

2. **ONE-ROOM SCHOOL (38)** (Enter is there is no class in session.)

Many children went to school through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade; a few went to high school. Many farm children missed lots of school in order to help on the farm; city children missed fewer days.

Who would school help the most?      **City**    or    **Farm**    children

Who would learn more?      **City**    or    **Farm**    children

Who would get town jobs easier?      **City**    or    **Farm**    children





4. FECHHEIMER CLOTHING STORE (34)

Look at the pictures of children from the 1870s.



How are their clothes different from yours? \_\_\_\_\_

Do *you* get to decide what you wear every day?      YES      NO

Do you think that *these children* got to decide?      YES      NO

Would *you* choose to wear the clothes they wore?      YES      NO

Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_

5. DRUGSTORE (31) When children got sick parents had three main choices to help them get better:



1) A doctor might tell the pharmacist what medicine to make, but not everyone trusted doctors.

2) The parents might buy a ready-made *patent medicine* that claimed to cure most everything.

3) A *home remedy* might be prepared. A home remedy was a cure passed down from grandparents and made at home. One home remedy to cure warts was to rub the wart with a potato and bury the

potato in the grounding during a full moon. Would this work?

Yes

No

Maybe



Do you know any home remedies? \_\_\_\_\_

Which of the three methods of getting well do you think would work best? 1    2    3

6. **GENERAL STORE (12)**

City kids were often sent to the store by their parents. Since country kids were often needed for farm work and travel was by foot or by horse, they rarely came to town on their own; they usually came with their family.



Often canned goods were purchased. Do you see any familiar foods on the can labels?

**Yes**

**No**

Does it look similar to your grocery store?

**Yes**

**No**

Find the Housewares section. Do you see any that is familiar to you?

**Yes**

**No**

Find the toy section. Do you see anything that you would like to have?

Name it. \_\_\_\_\_

7. **BLACKSMITH SHOP (19)**

In the 1870s your main job as a child was to learn how to be a good adult, for boys that meant going to work. To become a blacksmith you would first become an *apprentice*. You learned how to do your jobs by watching others work. You would shovel coal, carry metal, and turn the blower to make the coal fire hotter.



Ask to crank the blower for 30 seconds and see if it is a job you would like.

Today, do you learn how to do a job by being an apprentice?

**Yes**

**No**

**Maybe**

What other ways would you learn a job? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. **MEAT MARKET (21)**

If you lived in the city, your parents might send you here to buy meat for the family meal. If you lived in the country you might hunt animals, raise cattle, pigs, and chickens for food, or come to town to shop here.

List one food that was hunted. \_\_\_\_\_

List one food that was raised on a farm. \_\_\_\_\_

List one food that was brought from another part of the nation.

\_\_\_\_\_

9. **FARM CHORES (15)**

While you are at the 1880 DeVore Farm, list three chores a child like you might do.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



Not all farm boys became farmers, or girls, farmer's wives. Farm work was hard and with education many found jobs in town. But while they lived on the farm with their parents, they had to help with the farm work.

10. **VISITNG FRIENDS IN TOWN AND IN THE COUNTRY (15)**

While you are in the 1880 DeVore Farmhouse listen as the guide tells you about visiting in the sitting room.

Did you get to look through the **stereopticon** in the sitting room of the farmhouse?  
Did you like *television* 1880 style?

**Yes**

**No**

**Sort of**

11. **DEPOT (24)**

Many boys had jobs carrying baggage from trains to the hotels or delivering telegraph messages to people in town. Imagine you can hear the telegraph message with its sounds and pauses.

12. **HENRY WULF HOUSE (25)**

This family lived at the edge of town—a little city and a little country. The children in this house slept in the attic. They climbed a ladder through the door in the kitchen ceiling. In the winter the children's mother would wrap heated rocks or pieces of metal in cloth and place them in your bed to warm it. In the summer, children might sleep on the kitchen floor or in the yard.

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Would you like a bedroom in the attic that you shared with all the other children in your family?

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Touch the bed in the parents' room with your hand. The children's mattress in the attic space might feel like this one.

Do you think you would like to sleep on it? \_\_\_\_\_

13. **STORY-AND-A-HALF HOUSE (40)** (If no other program is going on.)

How many bedrooms are in this house? \_\_\_\_\_

If you lived here would you have your *own* room? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has the *most* privacy? \_\_\_\_\_

City and country children did many things to help at home. One important job was to help with the laundry. If no other class is using the area, stop and try doing the laundry. This is how:

**Dunk the clothes in the wash water.**

**Soap the dirty spots.**

**Rub the cloth on the metal washboard.**

**Swish the cloth in the wash board and wring dry.**

**Dunk the cloth in rinse water.**

**Squeeze it dry.**

**Hang it on the line.**

**Do it *again and again and again.***

#### 14. MURDOCK HOUSE (41)



Listen to the guide tell you about the family and children who lived here.

Ask what a formal visit would be like. What phrase told children how to act in the parlor?

\_\_\_\_\_

The back parlor was like our family rooms today. Children did their homework and played with toys.

Put a check beside the toys that you see.

\_\_\_\_\_ **baseball**

\_\_\_\_\_ **marbles**

\_\_\_\_\_ **X-Box**

\_\_\_\_\_ **doll**

\_\_\_\_\_ **toy stove**

\_\_\_\_\_ **football**

\_\_\_\_\_ **baby bed**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Barbie doll**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Legos**

\_\_\_\_\_ **basketball**

\_\_\_\_\_ **tea set**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tonka truck**

Did you see many toys at the farm?      **Yes**      **No**

After visiting the farmhouse and the Murdock House, did you notice a different in the way that people go to visit, or *call*, upon each other.

List two ways in which a town visit is different from a city visit.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_



Which visit would be more fun for children?

**City**

**Country**

### 15. TOWN CHORES

Now that you have seen much of the town, list three chores you might do in town.



1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Look back at the *farm* chores you listed in Question 3 and compare them to *town* chores. Circle the chores that are different.

Who had less work to do? \_\_\_\_\_

Who had more fun working? \_\_\_\_\_

With all the information you have collected about the life of a child in the 1870s, where do you think you would have like to live?

**City**

**Country**

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

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# OLD COWTOWN MUSEUM

