

# Pioneer School Days



## School Days

### Writing

As a pioneer child, penmanship was very important, and students had to learn to read and write in script (or cursive) writing while at school. Students would usually use chalk, slate, or ink when writing. Start by practicing your name and the names of your family members. Try it out!



Now that you have practiced script, imagine yourself as a pioneer child. Write a letter to a friend or family about your day in a one room schoolhouse. Remember to write only in cursive!

# Arithmetic

When learning mathematics, memorization was very important. Students would have to know all addition and multiplication tables by heart. Arithmetic problems could be practiced using dried corn or peas. Whenever the teacher gave a math problem, she would only repeat it once and students were required to solve it in their heads. Try out these problems!

## Simple Problems

1. How far will a ship sail in 2 days at the rate of 7 miles per day?
2. A wagoner drove 15 miles in the forenoon and 6 in the afternoon. How many miles in the day?
3. 8 grams of medicine, weighed by the apothecary, is the same as 1 ounce of medicine. How many ounces are there in 46 grams?
4. If a ship sails 7 miles an hour, how many miles will she sail in 7 hours?

## Difficult Problems

1. A hunter in Michigan sold 7 pelts at 5 dollars a pelt, agreeing to take his pay in muskets at 8 dollars apiece. The purchaser counted out as many muskets as the pelts would pay for and finding there was still a balance due to the hunter, he paid this in money. How many muskets and how much money did the hunter receive?
2. The following is Mr. Brown's private account for two weeks: First week received \$50 for salary, and spent \$25 for clothing, \$7 for board, \$2 for washing and \$5 for sundries. Second week received \$50 salary, loaned \$35 to Tom Jones, paid \$7 for board, \$2 for washing and \$ for sundries. How much did Mr. Brown have at the end of two weeks?

## Elocution

Elocution was often taught in schools to help students speak using proper pronunciation. This was often done through the practicing and memorization of ‘tongue twisters’.

1. A big black bug bit a big black bear and the big black bear bled blood.
2. Two tutors who tooted the flute tried to tutor two tooters to toot. Said the two to the tutors, “Is it harder to toot or to tutor two tooters to toot?”
3. She’s so selfish she should sell shellfish shells but shells of shellfish seldom sell.

