



MUSEUM OF EARLY
TRADES & CRAFTS

Child's Life in Early America

PRE-PROGRAM ACTIVITY

Chores

Doing chores and sharing jobs and tasks is important for schools, organizations, and families. Chores help keep things running smoothly and make the people doing the chores feel helpful and responsible.

1. Have your students make a chart of the chores they do to help their family. Also make a chart of the chores the students do in the classroom.
2. Discussion
 - a. Do you think the chores that children do today are similar to those during the 18th and 19th centuries? How might they have been similar? How might they have been different?
 - b. Why is it important for people to help each other by doing chores and other tasks?

ADDITIONAL POST-PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Marble Games (see our marble-games video to see this in action)

The shooter marble (the “taw”) is usually a little bigger than the other marbles (“kimmies”) and flicking the taw accurately is key: Put the taw between your 2nd and middle fingers; then put your hand on the ground so your 2nd knuckle touches the ground (“knuckling down”). Flick the taw with your thumb to roll it.



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Cannonball (It helps to have a box lid or something else with sides to play in)

Draw a large circle in your box lid or on another flat surface. Put all your small marbles in the circle. Take turns with the other players trying to “shoot” as many marbles as you can out of the circle.

Tic-Tac-Toe (can be played on dirt, a good sidewalk, or in the classroom)

Draw a block of 9 squares on the surface or use existing floor tiles. Draw a “pitching” line 3 or 4 steps away. Take turns trying to make a straight or diagonal line by “shooting” a marble into each square. It’s legal to knock someone else’s marble out of a square!

Make up your own marble game!

Think of a new game that you can play with your marbles. Write up the rules for playing and teach it to your classmates.

Paint Your Clay Marbles

While at the museum, your students created their own set of marbles made out of clay. Have the students decorate their marbles! The best way to decorate them is with nail polish (finishing with a clear coat!). But tempura paint and sharpies work as well!

NOTE: Wait AT LEAST 24 hours for the marbles to dry before decorating them!

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to contact the METC Education Department at 973-377-2982, x12 or education@metc.org



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