

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.****Work Not Play**

Children in Colonial America lived different lives from children today. They did not go to school; however, their lives were not all about fun. Their parents taught them to obey and how to do farm work and house work. The children's work was important to their families.

Girls cooked and baked, sewed, and gathered herbs for medicine. They ground grains like corn and barley into flour. For their baking, they measured the flour with their hands. They cooked in fireplaces instead of ovens. The girls learned all kinds of sewing stitches and how to mend clothes. They spun wool and knit clothing as well.

Boys hunted, planted and harvested crops, and took care of the farm animals. They woke up at dawn to fetch water in buckets from a spring and feed the animals. They weeded the gardens and chased birds away from the seed. They also gathered reeds for roofing and made wooden fences and tools.

Children in those days did have some fun too. They played with corn husk dolls and wooden toys. Still, most of their days were taken up with hard work. Imagine if you had to live back then!

**Turn the page.**

Answer the questions below.

**1** What is the *third* paragraph mainly about?

- girls doing house work
- boys going to school
- girls playing games
- boys doing farm work

**2** What can you conclude about the girls and boys described in this selection?

- They did different kinds of work.
- They learned to read in school.
- They were not kept very busy.
- They got paid for the work they did.

**3** The author writes, “For their baking, they measured the flour with their hands.” You can conclude from this that

- they did not bake pies or cakes.
- they did not use measuring cups.
- their breads did not come out right.
- they measured water with a spoon.

**4** How do you think the children described in the selection felt about their free time? Explain your answer.

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**5** Tell two ways that your life would have been different if you had lived in those times instead of today. Explain your answer.

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**Common Core State Standards**

**Questions 1–5: Informational Text 1.** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for the answers. **Informational Text 3.** Describe the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect.