

GOING TO SCHOOL



Were boys and girls educated the same way?

All kids went to school when they were young, but when they were about 11 or 12 years old, some boys left school to work full-time on their families' farms. Other boys stayed in school or got private tutors to prepare them for college.

Girls either stayed home and learned from their mothers, or they attended dame schools, where they learned from local women how to sew, cook, and take care of their families. Girls practiced their letters and their sewing skills by making samplers like this one.



What was a horn book?

Books were expensive! So instead of buying books, the youngest children often used horn books to learn how to read. Horn books weren't really books. They were a single page of text that was glued onto a wooden board. A sheet of thin, clear cow horn was painted on top of the text. Horn books were durable and could be used by many children without getting damaged.



What did children learn at school?

The main reason children went to school was to learn how to read. The English colonists believed that everyone should be able to read the Bible for themselves.

What was taught

- Reading
- Writing
- Arithmetic

What wasn't taught

- Science
- History
- Geography

Who taught school in colonial New Hampshire?

There was only one teacher in a school. The people of the town often paid the teacher by giving him food like corn or chickens instead of money!

