



Reliving History, Inc.

*Supporting the ca. 1751 Peter Burr House
The oldest wood frame house in West Virginia*

www.RelivingHistoryInc.org

Contact us for upcoming events and to arrange presentations at your school or organization.

Colonial Times and Children's Pastimes

Nursery Rhymes

Colonial children, like children today, also told nursery rhymes. Do you know what some of these nursery rhymes really mean?

*Jack be nimble, Jack be quick,
Jack jump over the candlestick.*

After dipping candles, a colonial woman would hang them from two long horizontal sticks to allow them to harden and cool. These sticks, and not the candles themselves, were referred to as "candle sticks."

*Lucy Lockett lost her pocket,
Sally Fisher found it,
Not a penny was there in it
Just a ribbon 'round it.*

Most colonial clothes did not have pockets in them. A colonial pocket was a detachable cloth bag used for holding pocket books (wallets), sewing, and other things that girls and women would like to have on hand throughout the day. Pockets were tied around the waist with a tape, or ribbon, and they were often decorated with embroidery.

Tongue Twisters

Here are some colonial tongue twisters for you to try!

- The skunk sat on a stump and thunk the stump stunk. But the stump thunk the skunk stunk.
- Bluebirds bring bright berries.
- She sheared six shabby sick sheep.

Riddles

Riddles were also popular in the colonial period. Can you figure out some of these? The answers are at the end of the last question!

1. What flies up, but is always down?
2. When is a boy most like a bear?
3. What kind of room is not in a house?
4. What has teeth but cannot eat?
5. What has a tongue but cannot talk?
6. What has 3 feet but cannot walk?
7. What has a mouth but cannot talk?
8. What falls down but never gets hurt?

1. Goosefeathers. 2. When he is barefoot. 3. A mushroom. 4. A comb. 5. A shoe. 6. A yardstick. 7. A river. 8. Snow.