

Name: _____

Date: _____

Fun in a Patch Town

Adapted from explorepahistory.com



Eckley Miners' Village Museum
Eckley, Pennsylvania

Introduction:

Patch town life was often very hard on the families that lived there. However, there was still some time to have fun. Patch towns all throughout Pennsylvania were known to have baseball teams. Baseball, or stickball, was a popular game; patch towns would even have tournaments against each other. Working in the mines could mean working 10-14 hours, and even after all of that hard work there wasn't a lot of money to spend on toys. Many toys were homemade from leftover items around the house. One popular toy was made from buttons or small pieces of wood and then tied together with strings. When you spin the strings and then pull them, it would make a buzzing noise. Other games, like coffin makers and cowboys, were make-believe games, enabling kids to pretend to be someone while other kids had to guess. Some companies would even build parks and playgrounds to try to keep their workers happy.

Questions:

1. What was something that adults would do for fun?
2. Why might a miner make a good baseball player?
3. Describe a game or activity a child might have enjoyed in a patch town.