

Name: _____

Date: _____

Life at Home

Adapted from explorepahistory.com



Eckley Miners' Village Museum
Eckley, Pennsylvania

Introduction:

Life in a coal patch town wasn't just hard for the miner, but for his family too. The wives were typically up before the sun; they started their day by making breakfast for the family and lunch for the miners in the house. Once everyone was off to the mines, and maybe even school, the wives and kids who stayed home began the chores of the day. These chores included hand washing all of the laundry, tending to the garden and food preparation and preservation, looking after the animals, and cleaning the house. Many boys would go to work by the age of 12, working in the breaker picking through the coal. Instead of working in the breaker, some girls walked to the nearest town to work in the silk mills or factories. Many children had to work because money was scarce.

Questions:

1. What would a typical work day look like in a patch town?
2. Describe some of the chores that had to be done.
3. List some chores you have to do. Are they easier than 100 years ago?