IF Lived in Colonial Times YOU BY ANN MCGOVERN + ILLUSTRATED BY JUNE OTANI

MSCHOLASTIC

What did colonial people look like?

When you look in the mirror, you see you.

If you lived in colonial days, you would look the same as you do now.

But you would wear your hair in a different way. And your clothes would be different, too. Even baby clothes were different then.

Clothes in colonial days had different names.

If a baby fell, he fell right on his *pudding!* A pudding was a soft pillow worn around the baby's middle to keep him from getting hurt.

When boys and girls were six years old, they stopped wearing baby clothes. From that time on they dressed just like their mothers and fathers.

Where did people buy their clothes?

Most people in colonial days did not buy their clothes any place. Most people made all their own clothes.

They planted flax to make linen thread. They raised sheep to get wool.

Everybody in the family helped to make the clothes. Grandmother's job was to card the wool.

The children gathered flowers and berries and roots to make the dyes to color the yarn.

People wore bright-colored clothes in colonial days — yellow, red, purple, blue. Girls wore brightred cloaks and hoods. Boys wore gay-colored stockings and caps.



Girls and boys went to the woods and brought home armfuls of

- goldenrod and birchbark to make yellow dye

- pokeberry to make red

— iris to make purple

- logwood to make blue.

The dye was boiled in the biggest pot in the house. The children stirred the dye with a long stick, so it wouldn't get lumpy.

Girls and women worked at the spinning wheel. Girls learned to spin when they were six years old.

Younger sisters helped, too. They learned how to knit as soon as they could hold a pair of knitting needles. Girls of four could knit stockings and caps.

Boys and men did their share of work. Their job was to weave cloth on a loom. Then the women took the cloth and made clothes for the whole family. All the sewing was done by hand.

A different time ... a different place ... What if you were there?

If you lived in colonial times

- What kind of clothes would you wear?
- Would you go to school?
- What would happen if you didn't behave?

This book tells you what it was like to live in the New England colonies during the years 1565 to 1776.

Look for other books in this unique series that take you to important times in history.





Cover illustration by Ellen Beier