

Pilgrim Jobs and Chores

INSTRUCTION GUIDE

For use by TIME Zone
1st Grade

Revised October 2011

Pilgrim Jobs and Chore

Permanent items for this station:

- Three different broom samples
- Candle samples
- Candle dryer (hanging)
- Soap samples in a wooden bowl
- Tallow and lye samples
- Lace Table Runner
- Pilgrim Jobs and Chores Overview Poster
- Tools
 - Saw
 - Scythe
 - Ax
 - Mallet
 - Washing Board
- Pencils
- Scissors
- Who does these chores worksheet
- Small tupperwares for soap making

Items to be purchased for this station by the APT(check closet first for leftovers)

- Twine for brooms
- Raffia for brooms
- Sticks for brooms (gathered by students or APT volunteers)
- Dreft for soap making
- Baggies

Pilgrim Jobs and Chores

Activities

1. Overview

- Refer to the Pilgrim Jobs and Chores Poster.
- Using the Background Information, talk about the various jobs and chores that the Pilgrim men, women and children had to do to survive.
- Tell the children that today they will be broom makers and soap makers and make their own.

Split the group in half. One group can work on their brooms. One group can work on their soaps. Then you can switch.

2. Making Brooms

The Pilgrims grew plants such as corn, wheat, and rye in their fields. After the grain was removed, the rest of the plant was used for other things. For instance, cornhusks were used for stuffing mattresses that would be put on the floor as a bed and rolled up each morning; and straw was used to make brooms and baskets. A broom maker would tie the straw together onto a wooden handle made from a branch. The pilgrims also used small twigs for the bristles. The Pilgrims also used small twigs for the bristles. The Pilgrims would sweep their floors even though they were dirt.

- Have each child select a stick
- Gather enough raffia for the bristles
- Tie the raffia to the stick with the twine
- Use masking tape to put the child's name on the stick

3. Making Soap

Soap was made from tallow and lye. The Pilgrims would save the ashes from their fires and pack them into a barrel. Then they would let water drip through the ashes, producing thick liquid called lye. Tallow came from melted animal fat. The Pilgrims collected tallow in a wooden bowl or metal pot. They also used fat from their kitchen and kept it all until it was time to make soap or candles. To make soap, the tallow and lye were boiled together over a fire in a big iron pot. Someone had to keep stirring constantly or the mixture would not blend properly. The thick mixture was poured into pans to harden. The cakes of soap were then cut into bars. Soap making was not a job that a child did since the mixture was very hot and the fumes from the lye were very dangerous. Soap making was usually done outdoors because it was a messy and smelly job. It was usually done only once or twice a year so they would make enough to last them a long time.

- Put one small scoop of soap mixture into Tupperware
- Put a few drops of water into the soap mixture to make it stick together. Do not add too much water! Your mixture should not be liquidy.
- Form your soap into a ball or cake. Put it into a baggie and allow it to dry.
- Put the child's name on the bag.

4. Candle Serial Order

- Read the explanation sheet and order the candles.
- Decide which property you will use to put the candles in order – length, width, color, etc.