

Lesson 3: Everyday Life in the Colonies

Vocabulary

Great Awakening a movement in the 1730s in which people again became interested in religion

almanac a book with facts and figures about many topics

Studying and Playing

Public schools in the colonies were different from schools today. Many schools had only one room. Students of different ages worked together. They learned the basics: reading, writing, and math. Schools also taught students how to be polite. When students became teenagers, most left school and went to work. Only a very small number went to college. Colonial children did a lot of chores at home. They also found time to play games and sports.

Religion in the Colonies

Many different religious groups lived in the colonies. In Europe many people were treated badly because of their religious beliefs. Some colonies were safe places people could run to if they were treated badly. Many colonies were set up as places where people could practice their religion freely. Protestants began the **Great Awakening** in the 1730s. This movement got many colonists interested in religion again. Preachers traveled around and gave fiery speeches. George Whitefield was a leader of the Great Awakening. He collected money to build an orphanage.


Reading

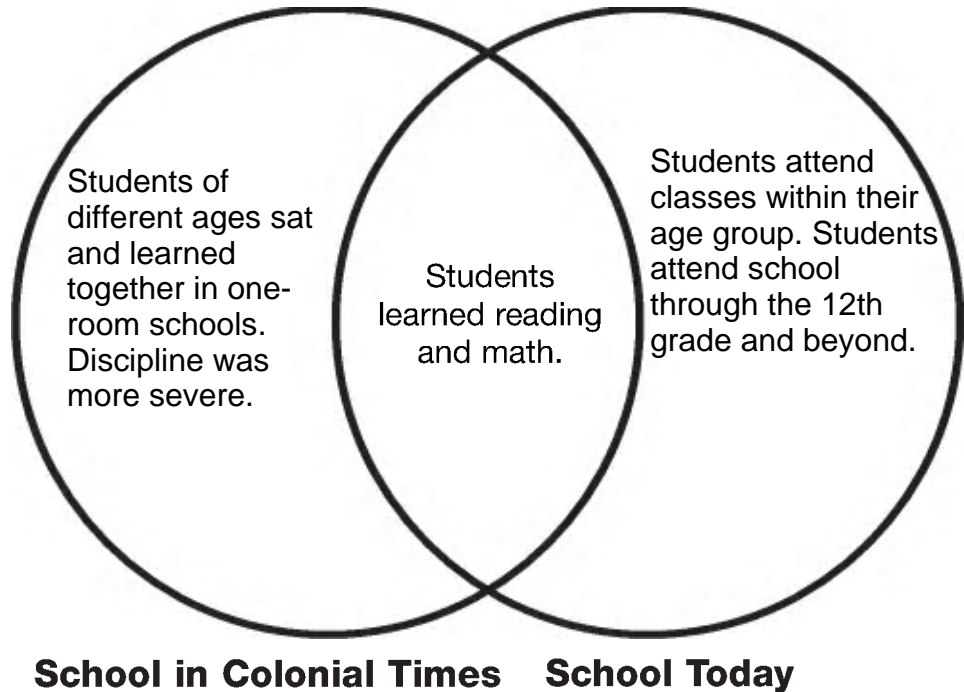
There were dozens of newspapers in the colonies during the 1770s. Colonial families often read together for entertainment. They read newspapers and books. One of the most popular books was Benjamin Franklin's *Poor Richard's Almanack*. An **almanac** is a book that gives facts about many subjects. Only the Bible was more popular during colonial times. Colonists also wrote letters to stay in touch with one another.

Colonial Meals

Corn was used to make many foods. Colonists used it to make bread, pudding, and pancakes. They also made stews made of meat or fish and vegetables. Colonists also ate ice cream, donuts, and fruit pies.

Lesson 3: Review

1.  **Compare and Contrast** Complete the diagram comparing and contrasting school in colonial times with school today.



2. How were schools in colonial times different from schools today?

In addition to the items above, students have a wider curriculum today.

3. **Critical Thinking: Cause and Effect** Why were some of the English colonies home to people of many different religions?

Religious groups from all over Europe came to the colonies to escape religious persecution.

4. What was the only book in the colonies that sold more copies than *Poor Richard's Almanack* during the mid-1700s?

The Bible was the only book that sold more copies than

Poor Richard's Almanack.

5. Describe some common meals that a colonial family might enjoy.

Vegetable stews made with fish or meat served with cornbread. Desserts included cakes and pies.
