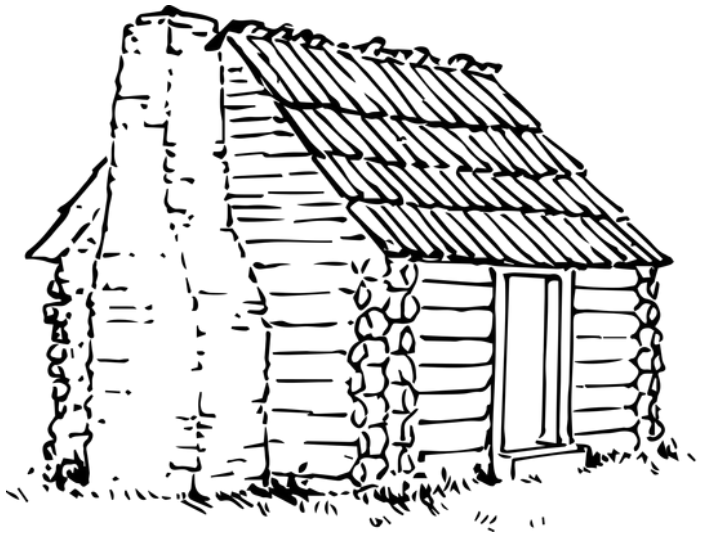
Pioneer Life

Pioneers needed few basic things to survive: Food, shelter, heating, and clothing. Their lives revolved around these needs.

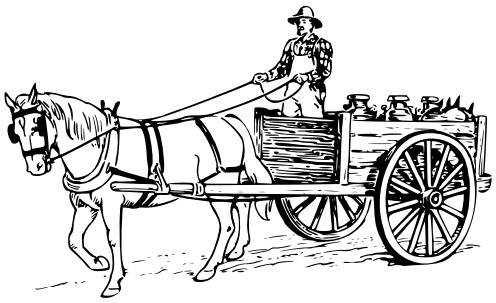
Many communities started small before expanding to become towns and villages.

Families often had many children (usually between 5-20) to help with daily chores.



Buildings did not have indoor plumbing so people would use outhouses and chamber pots instead, and water was collected from a well.

Buildings also didn't have electricity so candles and fireplaces were used for lighting and heating.



Most buildings were one-room cabins. The main floor would have a bed, kitchen area, and maybe a seating area. If the cabins had a loft, that is where the children would sleep.

Daily Chores

Feed animals
Give animals straw for bedding
Collect eggs
Butcher animals
Milk cows
Shear sheep
Tan animal hides
Cut wood and gather kindling for fire
Build and tend to fire
Build house
Prepare food for meals
Salt, cure, smoke or cold pack meat
Can foods
Grind grains
Hunt
Churn butter
Tend to the garden/farm
Forage for food
Plant, water, and pick plants
Dry herbs
Weave baskets
Make clothes
Wash clothes
Sew clothes
Spin wool
Mend clothes
Weave
Make rope
Make candles
Clean chamber pots
Make soap
Collect water







Clothing and Materials

Materials

Wool: Wool is sheared off of sheep

Cotton: Cotton comes from the cotton plant and is grown in warm climates

Leather: Leather is treated animal skins

Fur: Furs come from a variety of different animals

Clothing was either made at home, or by a tailor. As different materials became available, styles changed as well.

Cabins did not have closets and people did not have a lot of clothes so they would often times store their clothing in chests.



Shelter

Not only was there no infastructure to help them survive, the tempeture and weather in the winter tended to be worse than what they would experience back in Europe, meaning making a safe, warm shelter for them and their family was one of their highest priorities.

The main resources they used to construct their homes were logs (if a sawmill was nearby, they might use wooden planks instead), wooden posts to lock them in place, and a mixture of woodchips, clay, and water to seal them together and insulate the house against the harsh weather.

