

Who Cares for Our Earth?



Today, we reduce, recycle and reuse materials. Still, a great deal of what we use goes to landfill sites. How do our lives today differ from those on family farms over 150 years ago? Where did they put their garbage?



When you visited Ross Farm Museum did you notice anyone working at the farm putting something in the garbage? Together with your classmates answer the following questions.

1. What did the farmer do with the animal waste from the barn? Why?
2. What did the housewife do with the leftover food or scraps?
3. What did the schoolteacher and the children in the school use for materials?
4. What were clothes made from? What did the family do with clothes that were too old, too small, or worn out?

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5. What did children use to carry their snacks to school?
6. How many pairs of shoes did each person own?
7. What did people give one another for gifts at Christmas or for birthdays?
8. What did the blacksmith do with the old oxen shoes when they were changed?
9. What did the farmer do with the wood shavings after using the spoke shave when making the mallet?
10. Now look back at all of your answers. What did you notice as you completed each of those 9 questions? Write your observations here.

So who do you think takes better care of our Earth, people today or those farmers living the way you saw people living on the farm at Ross Farm Museum? Explain your view.