

COAL CREEK

COMMUNITY PARK AND MUSEUM

EDUCATION PROGRAMS - LAUNDRY



What Is Needed?

Pen, Paper, Crayons,
Optional: Tea Towel, Water

Victorian Curriculum Focus- History F-2

The effect of changing technology on people's lives and their perspectives on the significance of that change.

Code VCHHK065



This is the way we wash our clothes in 1901!

In the late 1800s to do the laundry you had to do the following steps.

1. Collect water from a dam, river or a tank of rainwater. Then carry it to your house to be heated over the fire.
2. Once the water is hot, the wash tub was filled, dirty clothes were wet and rubbed with a bar of soap against the wooden wash board to get the dirt off. Then rinsed in clean water. If your clothes were not clean, you had to do all this again!
3. Now the clothes had to be wrung out to get rid as much water as possible. To do this, two people twisted the clothes in opposite directions.
4. Now the clothes had to be hung to dry

Activity



Discuss together how we do our laundry today.

Activities!

A bar of soap was used to clean the clothes.
What do we use today?

What is used to attached the clothes to the line?
What material are they made from?
Are they different to yours?

How did they get water in the 1890's?
What do you do to get water?



Try This At Home - But Ask An Adult First!

Get an old tea towel and wet it.

Take it outside, with someone to help you. Hold one end each and twist opposite ways.

Watch what happens, is this easy or hard to do?