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## curriculum links

### Grade 3:

- ◆ Heritage and Citizenship  
*Early Settlements in Upper Canada*



## overview

This activity demonstrates historical methods of doing the laundry. Students will compare the equipment used and water consumption levels to the present methods.

## grade 3 expectations:

### Social Studies

#### Heritage and Citizenship: Early Settlements in Upper Canada

##### Overall Expectations

- ◆ use a variety of resources and tools to gather, process, and communicate information about interactions between new settlers and existing communities, including First Nation peoples, and the impact of factors such as heritage, natural resources, and climate on the development of early settler communities;
- ◆ compare aspects of life in early settler communities and present-day communities.

##### Specific Expectations

###### *Knowledge and Understanding*

- ◆ identify factors that helped shape the development of early settlements;
- ◆ explain how the early settlers valued, used, and looked after natural resources;
- ◆ describe the various roles of male and female settlers.

###### *Inquiry/Research and Communication Skills*

- ◆ ask questions to gain information and explore alternatives;
- ◆ collect information and draw conclusions about human and environmental interactions during the early settlement period;

###### *Application*



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# Doing the Laundry

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- ◆ compare and contrast aspects of daily life for early settler and/or First Nation children in Upper Canada and children in present-day Ontario;
- ◆ compare and contrast aspects of life in early settler and/or First Nation communities in Upper Canada and in their own community today;
- ◆ compare and contrast tools and technologies used by early settlers and/or First Nation people with present-day tools and technologies.

## key terms:

**Blueing:** A dye that was used to tint the clothes blue. A blue tint makes whites look whiter and keeps them from turning yellow. Indigo was a very popular blueing agent.

**Grey water:** Domestic wastewater that does not contain human wastes such as tub, shower, or washing machine water.

**Blue Monday:** In 1914 Monday was laundry day and term blue referred not just to the blueing agent used but also the drudgery involved. The term is misleading since the labour took more than a day. Saturday night was bath night. Sunday the people changed their clean clothes (their “Sunday Best” for going to church) and the dirty clothes were put to soak. On Monday the clothes were washed. Tuesday was ironing day.

**Laundress:** Doing the laundry was hot, wet, uncomfortable and physically hard. Families with a little extra money would hire a laundress. These women were usually poor and had young children, which prevented them from becoming live-in domestic servants. They would do the laundry at their employer’s house bringing their children with them or do the laundry at their own homes.

**Washhouse:** A shed where the laundry could be done indoors on rainy Mondays.

