



*(top) The children in this picture dressed pioneer style for an historic event. (above) These two girls experienced a week of pioneer living at a nineteenth century village.*

## Create a pioneer outfit

Have you ever wanted to dress like a pioneer? It is easy. You probably have most of the clothes right in your home! If you are a girl, you can wear a cotton dress or borrow a cotton skirt, an old-fashioned blouse, and an apron from your mother. A shawl or scarf can be worn over the shoulders. If you cannot get a bonnet, wear a straw hat decorated with flowers, birds, or fruit. Shoes with laces or straps are suitable footwear.

Boys can wear brown or black boots or laced shoes; woolen, cotton, or corduroy trousers with suspenders; and a country-styled cotton or flannel shirt. Hats can range from straw hats to caps with visors. Denim overalls are also suitable pioneer wear, as are knickers with long socks. Vests can double as waistcoats. Look through your closet or ask friends to lend you clothes that resemble the ones you see in this book.



## Dresses for girls

Girls' dresses were often made of linen or wool. Sometimes linen and wool were woven together to make a sturdy fabric called **linsey-woolsey**. Skirts were loose and long and reached the ankles. A long apron, or **pinafore**, protected dresses from stains.

## Boys' clothing

Boys wore long cotton shirts and woolen or linen pants. Some boys wore a simple jacket over their shirt and trousers. On the frontier, boys wore shirts, jackets, and breeches made of soft leather called **buckskin**. The settlers learned how to make buckskin clothing from the Native people.

## The trouble with shoes

Although most children had a pair of shoes, parents often encouraged their children to go barefoot. New shoes were expensive, so one pair had to last a long time.

Traveling shoemakers went from settlement to settlement, making shoes for families. They made children's shoes big, so they would last several years. Shoes were seldom replaced before they were much too small.



Children preferred going barefoot to wearing their uncomfortable shoes!

Children who lived on the frontier wore home-made buckskin **moccasins**. Moccasins were light and comfortable, but only in dry weather. When it rained, moccasins became damp and clammy.



*This girl is wearing a pinafore over her dress. She and her grandmother have carded some wool, which will be used to make her winter dress.*

*Farm children worked hard. Their everyday clothes were plain and comfortable.*

