Needham History Final Project
April 2010

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There was a popular tv show in the 1970's that depicted life in the late 1800's. The show, *Little House on the Prairie*, was based on books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Let's watch these short videos to get an idea of what life was like in the 1800's.

Questions to think about:
1. How did people travel?
2. How did people dress?
3. How was the school house different from your school?

The actual schoolhouse attended by Laura Ingalls Wilder.

http://www.tvland.com/shows/little_house_on_the_prairie/videos.jhtml

A replica of The Little House on the Prairie.

The TV family with their home in the background.
Here are some objects that would have been used in the 1850's. Match the object to its name.

- covered wagon
- sewing machine
- camera
- train
- washing board and tub
- outhouse (outdoor bathroom)
Here are some objects that would have been found in a one room school house in the 1850's. Match the name to the object.

- wood burning stove
- arithmetic primer
- slate board
- ink wells and pen
- bonnet
- reading primer
What was going on in Needham in the 1850's? Guess "yes" or "no":

1. The eccentric Mr. Baker built his estate, Sabrina Lake, and the Hotel Wellesley in the 1850's.
   - No, the Baker Estate was built in the late 1800's.

2. Needhamites bought the first cars in the 1850's.
   - No, cars weren't invented until the early 1900's.

3. There were 53 Needham children enrolled in the Little Red Schoolhouse in 1850.
   - Yes, 53 children, ages 6-12, attended the one room schoolhouse.

4. The Back Bay of Boston was filled with Needham's dirt in the 1850's.
   - Yes, it began in 1857 and was completed by 1890.
5. William Carter, the famous clothing manufacturer, came to Needham in the 1850's.  

6. During the 1850's, the Revolutionary War monument was built and dedicated to the Needhamites who died during that war.  

7. In the 1850's, the railroad came to Needham.  

8. The first post office was established in Needham in the 1850's.  

No, Carter came to Needham in 1860. His textile factory was thriving by 1869.  

Yes, in 1851 the structure became part of The Old Burying Grounds. It's still there today.  

Yes, on June 1, 1853, Needhamites cheered as the first locomotive came to town.  

No, by 1826 Needham had a U.S. Post office. Once a week, Lemuel Mills, Jr. delivered mail on horseback.
Games Children Played in the 1850's: Match the game with its name.

- peg top
- pick-up sticks
- marbles
- hoop and stick
- ball and cup
- jacks

For more information about these games check this web site.

Classify into two separate groups the games and activities listed below.

Then (1850's)  
- watching tv/movies  
- marbles  
- pick up sticks  
- jacks  
- hoop and stick  
- bike riding

Now (2010)  
- video games  
- Monopoly  
- ball and cup  
- tops  
- Wii  
- team sports (soccer, baseball)
Notes for teachers: