



Farming on Martha's Vineyard: Sarah Jenkinson's Story



Sarah Jenkinson grew up on a farm in Oak Bluffs, she was one of THIRTEEN children! This lesson teaches us all about her life and what it might have been like to grow up on a farm long, long ago.

Lesson Instructions:

1. Listen to Sarah's Oral History: [Sarah Jenkinson Oral History MVM](#)
2. Discussion:
 - a. What were some of Sarah's chores? How are they different than your chores?
 - b. Can you name some of the animals she had to take care of on her farm?
 - c. Why do you think it was helpful to have 13 kids on a farm?
 - d. Why did she take a tub in the kitchen?
3. Illustrate a book about Sarah's life using the shortened version of her oral history, broken down into story segments (pages)

****Below are the story segments and some pictures from the MVM archives that we use to help visualize Sarah's time on the farm.**

Sarah Jenkinson's Oral History: Farming

- I was born in Oak Bluffs at what is now Iron Hill Farm. We had the usual cows, chickens and dogs and cats. And 13 children.
- We got our water from a well. You had to bring all the water, and you took your bath, of course, in the tub in the kitchen.
- My father's gardens were huge. People used to come and buy vegetables from him.
- My brother and I always got stuck with watering the horses and cows. We were cleaning out the barns. We were feeding the chickens and pigs.
- My mother made all the bread. She did all the baking in the wood stove. Of course, we had our own meat too. We had the pigs.
- We had the cattle because my grandfather had a milk route. My grandfather delivered milk.
- We had apple trees and pear trees, two or three different kinds of apples. We had quite a big orchard.
- When we plowed and cultivated, I always had to ride the horse and keep the horse going.
- We always had chickens. And we had turkeys, we had guinea hens, geese, ducks and black ducks.
- We always went to the Fair. It was a lot of fun. All the farmers and a lot of people from up-island brought different animals and produce.



