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.