

Interactive Tour - TIME TRAVELLERS

Discussion Questions

1881 Schoolhouse

Beginner Question: How are the desks different from yours?

Beginner Answer: The desks are positioned in rows, they seat two students to a desk, and they are made of all wood.

Intermediate Question: How was the school kept warm in the winter?

Intermediate Answer: The word burning stove. Families contributed logs for burning in the stove throughout the year.

Advanced Question: Why were coal oil lamps used for lighting in the school?

Advanced Answer: Because Edmonton did not have electricity until 1891. Electricity was first used for Edmonton's street lights.

Grandma's Place: Farmhouse and Machinery

Beginner Question: What might be one of your chores if you lived at this time?

Beginner Answer: Children could be asked to wash laundry by hand, churn butter, clean the grain, carry ice blocks, or weed the garden.

Intermediate Question: What form of energy powered the fanning mill?

Intermediate Answer: People had to turn the crank by hand to power the fanning mill.

Advanced Question: How would they store the ice when the weather was warm?

Advanced Answer: They would store the ice blocks in the barn and put straw on top, or keep the ice in an insulated ice box.

Grandma's Place: General Store and Post Office

Beginner Question: What kind of supplies and objects would you buy at the General Store & Post Office?

Beginner Answer: You could buy items such as a toaster, iron, kettle, sewing machine, or a telephone.

Intermediate Question: Every home owned a sewing machine. Why might owning a sewing machine be important?

Intermediate Answer: Women were required to make clothing, drapes, and repair clothing to support their household.

Advanced Question: Food containers were often made of cardboard or tin. Why do you think that was the case?

Advanced Answer: Because cardboard and tin were available. Readily available plastic was not common at this time.

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Mr. Puffer Goes to Provincial Parliament

Beginner Question: This space was used for gym classes. Do you think the children of McKay Avenue School were happy to have the Provincial Parliament here?

Beginner Answer: No, because they were not able to have gym class.

Intermediate Question: Why did the provincial government first meet at McKay Avenue School?

Intermediate Answer: Alberta became a province in 1905. The Alberta Legislature Building had not yet been built because the permanent capital city of Alberta had not yet been chosen so the Provincial Parliament held meetings in McKay Avenue School.

Advanced Question: Why was it important for newspaper reporters to attend parliament?

Advanced Answer: Because newspaper reporters informed the people about the decisions that were made in parliament, which ensured accountability.