Activity

When I Was Built
By Jeremy Brunaccioni

Grades: PreK–K, 1–2

Overview
Children study home scenes from colonial times to the way houses look today as an exercise in describing, explaining and comparing/contrasting.

Objective
Students will "observe and describe local or regional historic artifacts and sites and generate questions about their function, construction, and significance." --Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Framework

Materials
- When I Was Built by Jennifer Thermes
- chart paper
- a marker

Duration:
30 Mins
Set Up and Prepare
Try visiting www.foodhistorynews.com to learn more about colonial foodways.

Directions
Turn to the two page spread that features the Fairchilds in front of the fireplace. Have a discussion about how that room might look different today. Record students' ideas on the chart paper.

Some questions to keep in mind: What time of day is it? How is the room being lit? Do they have electricity? How is food prepared? (Note in the picture there is a bake oven, kettle, butter churn, wooden peel, herbs hanging from the ceiling, and frying pans.)

Lesson Extensions
Have students create a new drawing of a modern kitchen and compare it to the picture in the book.

Related Resources
www.jenniferthermes.com
memorialhall.mass.edu/activities/architecture/coleman.html

- Subjects:
  Colonial and Revolutionary America, Architecture, Home and Housing, Technology, Customs and Culture