

1830's Pioneer Girl Paper Doll

In the 1830's pioneers mainly wore clothes that the family made themselves. The whole family helped grow the flax to make linen or raise the sheep to make wool, but the girls and women were in charge of spinning the yarn, weaving the thread and sewing the material into clothes. Printed cotton fabric or "calico" was available, but hard to find on the frontier and expensive to buy.

Girls wore a short-sleeved shift which served as a nightgown and then as a slip during the day. Over it, they wore perhaps a petticoat for fashionable fullness or extra warmth in the winter, and a dress. To keep the dress clean, they tied an apron or pinafore over the dress.

To make the paper doll: Color and cut out the doll and her clothes. You might want to glue the doll to poster board before cutting her out for extra stability. Fold the tabs over to fasten the clothes on to the doll.

