



What Was Life Like in the Past?



A long, long time ago, before New York City had tall buildings and cars, it was a small town called New Amsterdam. People came from far away on big ships to make a new home. They worked hard every day, and life was very different from how we live now. Let's take a look!



Transportation:

Today, we ride in cars, buses, and trains. Back then, people walked, rode horses, or used carriages pulled by horses to get around.



Communication:

Now, we can call or text our friends and family. In old New York, people wrote letters with pens made from feathers and sent them by messenger.



Housing:

We live in big apartment buildings or houses. Long ago, people lived in smaller wooden or stone houses with no electricity.



Clothing:

Today, we wear all kinds of clothes from stores. Back then, people wore clothes made by hand. Men wore jackets and breeches, and women wore long dresses.



Toys:

Now, we have toys like stuffed animals, video games, and toy cars. Back then, kids played with wooden dolls, marbles, and hoops they rolled down the street.



Food:

We get food from grocery stores or restaurants. Long ago, families grew vegetables in gardens and baked their bread at home.



Laundry:

Today, we use washing machines and dryers. Back then, people washed their clothes by hand in big tubs and dried them outside.



Water:

We can turn on a faucet to get water. Long ago, people carried water from wells or rivers in buckets.



Light:

Now, we flip a switch to turn on the lights. Back then, people used candles or oil lamps to light their homes at night.



Roads:

Our streets are made of smooth pavement. Back then, streets were dirt or cobblestones, and they were bumpy and muddy when it rained.



Schools:

We go to big schools with desks, books, and computers. Long ago, schools were small, and children wrote on slates with chalk.



Daily Routines:

Today, we wake up with alarm clocks, eat breakfast, and go to school. Back then, people woke up when the sun rose, ate food they made themselves, and spent most of the day working or learning at home.



Even though life in old New York was very different, families still worked hard, played, and helped each other—just like we do now! When you visit the Morris-Jumel Mansion, you'll get to see how people lived back then and imagine what it was like to be a kid in old New York!