Building Homes
Many pioneers built log cabins. Log cabins are houses made from logs and mud. Pioneers stacked logs on top of one another. Then they put mud in between the logs to keep out the wind and rain. Most log cabins were small because it took pioneers so long to build them. Many log cabins had only one room. Most pioneers burned a fire to keep their log cabins warm.

Making Clothes
Most pioneers made their own clothing. It was usually made of leather, cotton, or wool. Pioneers dried animal skins to make leather. They used the leather to make shoes and belts. Pioneers spun wool or cotton into yarn and wove it into cloth. Here, a woman makes wool yarn with a special tool called a spinning wheel.

THINKING CUE
What other jobs might the pioneers have needed to do?
Teaching Children
At first, pioneer children learned math, reading, and writing at home. Pioneer parents taught their children. As more people came to town, workers built a schoolhouse. Then the pioneers hired a teacher for the children.

Pioneer Chores
Pioneer children helped their families by doing chores around their house. Chores are small jobs. The list shows some chores for pioneer girls and boys.

Girls
- spin yarn
- sew and knit
- churn butter
- make soap and candles

Boys
- herd cattle
- tend to crops
- cut hay
- tame horses

Getting Food
At first, pioneers had to get their own food. They picked berries and nuts. Pioneers also hunted and fished. They planted crops such as corn and squash. When towns formed, the pioneers built small stores called general stores. People could buy supplies such as flour, coffee, and salt there.