

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

### The Colonial Kitchen

The most important room in the home of a colonial family was a kitchen. Sometimes it was the only room. The most important element of the kitchen was the fireplace. The kitchen was usually centered around it. Fire was essential to the colonists, and they were careful to keep one burning at all times. Before going to bed, someone would make sure the fire was set up properly so that it would burn all night. In the morning, someone would blow on the embers to create a flame again. If the fire went out, a family member would have to go to a neighbor's house to get some hot coals. There were no matches in the colonial kitchen so oftentimes, it would take a half hour to light a new fire using flint, steel and timber.

In addition to a fireplace, there were other colonial kitchen staples. One or two large iron broilers hung over the hot fireplace coals. These were used in cooking family meals. A butter churn was likely to be found in the kitchen as well. With this appliance, cream from the family cow could be churned into butter. A family owned very few eating utensils. There were usually only a few pewter spoons made by family members. The dishes included pewter plates, wooden bowls and wooden mugs with handles.

1. What was the most important part of a colonial kitchen?

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2. Why was it important to keep a fire burning?

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3. What happened if the fire went out?

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\_\_\_\_\_

4. What were iron broilers used for?

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5. What were eating utensils and dishes like?

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