

ROLE PLAYING WITH CHILDREN

By Kathy MacGregor

GRADE LEVEL: Elementary

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MARTHA JENKINS - INDIANA HOUSEWIFE

A presentation by Katherine M. ...

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Martha Jenkins was born in North Carolina in 1811. Her family moved to Butler County, Kentucky where she married Thomas Jenkins. A son, George, was born in 1834. Thomas and Martha moved to Indiana sometime before 1842. The Pike County census for 1860 shows Thomas and Martha ...

My goal in role-playing was to inspire students to do role-playing of a character in Indiana in 1850. The students were divided into "families" according to occupations. For example, we had the doctor's family, the farmer's family, the preacher's family, the schoolmaster's family etc. Each group researched information according to their occupation. Because of the large amount of material and a shortage of time, each family was responsible only for their stories and shared information with the other groups. Costumes for the children were made up according to pictures in old books and in costume books. We were more concerned to avoid the obvious like wristwatches, and gym shoes than perfect period clothing. Lunch for the day was carried in baskets and old containers and was not supposed to be pre-packaged. The children

to personalize their character with family stories and names. Many were enthusiastic over characters from their family histories. We worked very hard to think of every aspect of everyday life in 1850 and to discuss how we would handle it

Left alone with their "families" to organize, the children