

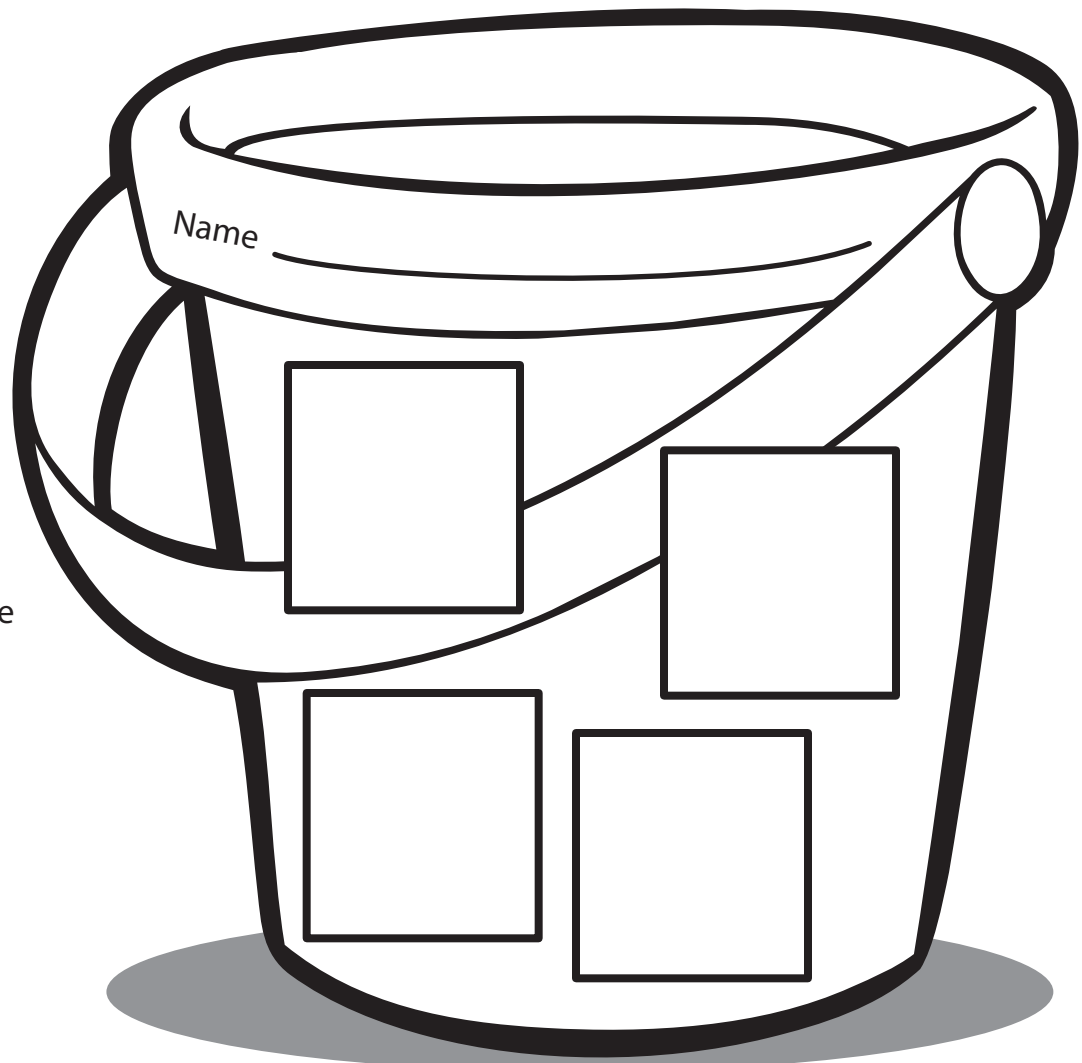
# What's for dinner?

In the early 1900s, "dinner" was actually lunch! So when your teacher said, "It's time for dinner!" you went to get your lunch! 100 years ago, students didn't have the same options for meals that you do now. They also couldn't buy a lunch at school, they had to pack their own. Students brought their lunch to school wrapped up in cloth or in lunch pails. Lunch pails were made from whatever children could find at home such as old syrup pails, coffee cans or lard cans.

Most children packed leftovers from breakfast for lunch, such as biscuits or bread and butter. Sometimes children made sandwiches with homemade jam, but not with peanut butter! Peanut butter was very rare in the early 1900s.

If your family had an orchard, you might get to bring an apple for lunch when they were in season. If you were really lucky, your mom might even pack some homemade cookies. During the colder months in winter, some students took hot baked potatoes for lunch. They kept the potatoes in their pockets to keep their hands warm while they walked to school!

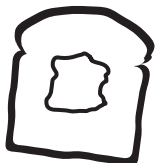
Foods like pizza, nachos and hot dogs weren't even invented yet! School lunch programs did not start until the 1930s. Students didn't have many food options, so children often ate the same thing day after day. Can you imagine not being able to open the refrigerator and choosing what you want to eat for lunch that day?



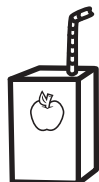
What kind of lunch will you pack today? Cut out each square at the bottom of the page. Then pick what you would eat for lunch if you were a student going to school in the early 1900s. Remember that children ate different things in the past than you would eat now. Glue your choices onto your lunch pail. Enjoy your lunch!



baked potato



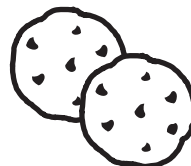
bread and butter



juice box



pizza



cookies



hot dog



apple