

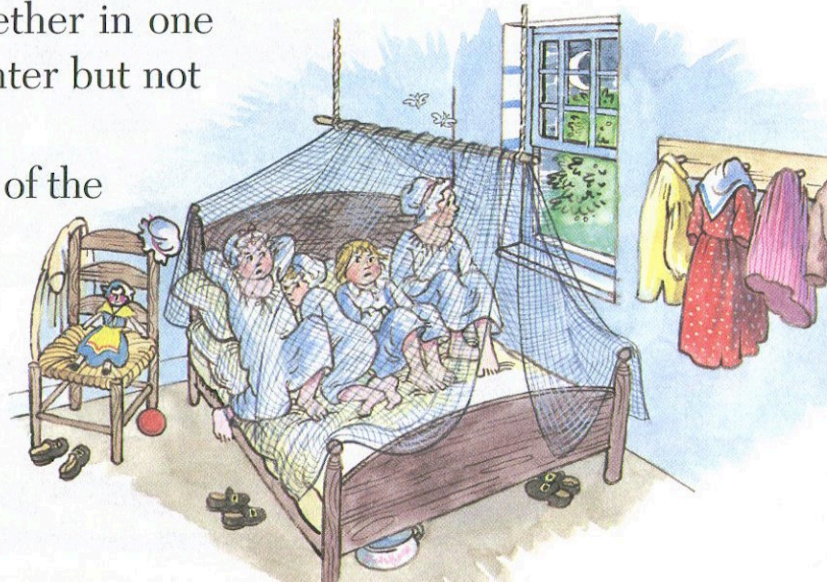
What were the bedrooms like?

Many houses had at least one separate room for sleeping. Mother, father, and the baby usually slept there. Another room in the house often doubled as a bedroom for the older children at night. In some houses, children slept in a loft — a large, open space above the stairs.

What we call mattresses today were beds back then. Some beds were stuffed with horsehair or feathers and put on a wooden frame called a *bedstead*.

Bedsteads looked something like our beds of today, but weren't nearly as comfortable. There were no springs under the bed, just ropes. You and your sisters and brothers might have slept together in one big bedstead. It was cozy in winter but not cool in the summer!

There were no screens on any of the windows. You would have pulled netting over your bed to keep out the flies and mosquitoes.



There were no twin beds, but if space was limited, you might have had a *trundle* bed. It was rolled — *trundled* — under your parents' bedstead during the day.

Well-to-do folks had soft feather beds with canopies above them and curtains that closed around the bed to keep out drafts.

Some people slept on the floor on beds stuffed with straw—a sort of colonial sleeping bag.

