

Milking Stool

1 INTRODUCE



What is this object called?

Milking Stool

What was this object used for?

To sit on while milking a cow.

What object today does the same job? A machine is used so no-one needs to sit.



2 INVESTIGATE



Let the children feel the stool and sit on it.

3 DESIGN/MATERIALS



What is this object made out of? Timber, possibly off the dairy farmer's own property.

Why weren't plastic stools used in the past?

Plastic didn't exist when this stool was made. People made things with materials found on their own property.

Is the stool heavy or light?

Light. Let some students lift it. Explain it was light as it had to be carried to where the cows were.

4 HOW DID IT WORK?



Where was it used?

Farms where cows are kept for milking are called dairy farms.

How did it work? The person milking placed the stool next to the cow and sat on it while reaching forward to milk into a bucket. Most milking stools had three legs so that the person milking them could lean forward without losing their balance. A stool with three legs is more stable on uneven ground than one with four legs..

PTO

How long did the person sit on it for? Every cow in the herd had to be milked twice a day. Each cow took 10 - 15 minutes to milk.

Who used it? Everyone in the family would have been involved in milking, even the children.

5 LEARN MORE...SAY...

Dairy farming involved all members of the family and everyone was expected to lend a hand to get all the jobs done, including milking the cows, separating the cream and feeding the calves and other animals. Often, children got up very early in the morning to milk the cows before they went to school, and milked them again when they got home.

Sometimes, milking stools were made from a solid piece of log (show image of Max Lange milking at Mt Burrell, aged 3).

6 COMPARE IT TO TECHNOLOGIES TODAY

How is milking done today? Instead of people sitting on stools next to the cow, milking is done by machines. Sometimes, people keep one or two cows to get enough milk for their family - in this case they would probably use a stool like this one.

7 THINK

What does this item tell us about the past? In some ways, the way this stool was used has changed a lot; in large-scale dairies the stool is not needed at all. In other ways, this type of stool could still be used today, by people who keep their own cow/s.

How would your life be different if you had to get up early to do work around the house/farm before going to school, then do more when you got home?

MAX LANGE MILKING



Max Lange milking at Mt Burrell, aged 3, C.1950. TRM Collection US000683.