

## 120 Chapter 4 Life in Colonial America

ocean. Now these settlers owed a debt to those persons. To pay it off, the debtors would work for them, usually from four to seven years. Anyone who came to America under such an agreement was called an *indentured servant*.

An indentured servant was not a slave, but neither was he free to leave his master and work for anyone else. Some indentured servants were treated better than others. A master who treated his servant well gave him

food, clothing, a place to live, and even some schooling during the winter.

Schools were important to the people of New England. They wanted everyone to be able to read the Bible for himself. They required all villages, if they were big enough, to have a school. However, life was hard in New England, and the children had much work to do at home. They could not spend as much time in school as children do today. Also they did not



*A colonial New England kitchen. Find the following items in the picture: butter churn, spinning wheel, candlesticks, broom, irons, mirror, drinking gourd, snowshoes, onions, and musket. Notice beside the fireplace the iron door to a bake oven, where pies and bread are baked. The little metal box with a door is a foot warmer. Filled with hot coals, it helped keep feet warm at home, in the sleigh or carriage, and at church.*