

Our past and present - Information Sheet

The Lace-iron (1890-1900s)

- Lace irons were made by blacksmiths from cast iron.
- They were heated in fires and used to smooth over any wrinkles or creases in fabric like clothes, bed sheets and table cloths.
- A piece of sheet-iron was placed over the kitchen fire and the iron was placed on it so that it would not get dirty from the ash from the fire.
- Usually two irons were used. One would be heated while the other was one was being used.
- A cloth or gloves were used to protect hands from the heat of the iron.
- The cool iron was replaced on the fire or stove to heat again.
- These irons were cleaned with steel wool to prevent them marking the material.
- If the iron was too hot the material would scorch.
- It could take a whole day to iron clothes for just one household.



Lace iron

Image courtesy of Australian History Museum, Macquarie University

Our past and present - Activity Sheet 1

TRUE or FALSE?

Tick true or false to explain the differences between ironing in the 1800's to ironing today.

Sad-iron in the late 1800's



<https://historymyths.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/0303000405-l.jpg?w=300&h=252>

TRUE FALSE

The lace iron was made of cast iron

Ironing with the lace iron was usually done by the fire in the kitchen

The lace iron did not need to be heated in a fire before use

The lace iron has a cord that has to be plugged into the power point

Electric iron today



<http://media.gettyimages.com/photos/stereotypical-housewife-ironing-picture-id183324089>

TRUE FALSE

The electric iron is heavier than the lace iron

The electric iron is made of plastic & metal

Ironing with an electric iron can be done in any room with a power point

It is quicker to iron with the electric iron because it is lighter and it doesn't need to be heated in a fire

Our past and present - Activity Sheet 2

WHAT IS THE CORRECT ORDER?

Number the boxes in the correct order to show the different steps for ironing with a sad-iron and ironing with an electric iron.

STEPS FOR IRONING WITH AN ELECTRIC IRON



<http://images.clipartpanda.com/ironing-clipart-ironing.gif>

STEP

Start ironing

Plug in electric iron into power point and click power point on

Wait a few seconds for the iron to heat up

STEPS FOR IRONING WITH A LACE IRON



<http://clipart-library.com/clipart/504851.htm>

STEP

Wait for lace-iron to get hot

Get wood or coal and start a fire in the fireplace

Place heating plate over fire

Place lace-iron on heating plate to heat in fire

When iron cools down, heat in fire again

When iron is hot, put on gloves and start ironing