GET MICROPHONE!

This is a story about a long time ago. Long before you were born; long before Martin Luther King taught people to respect each other; long before the war that ended slavery; even before George Washington was the first president; New York City was a brand new town.

Here's what it was like:

There were no light bulbs! Instead, people had to use candles and oil lamps to see in the dark! TF, SR, FS

There were no computers! Instead, people had to use books to find out information they needed to know. DM, DD, SA

There weren't even any pens or pencils! People used feathers dipped in ink to write. These were called quills. OK, LR, MD

There were no radios and no TVs! People got all their news from newspapers.
There were no factories. Everything was made by hand!

Everything was metal or wood. There was no plastic! OK, HA

There weren't even sewing machines! Dressmakers had to use needle and thread and sew by hand. DD

When people needed food, there were no grocery stores! They went hunting for their food, grew their own food on farms, or went to one outdoor market to buy their stuff. DM, DJ, MD, MH, MD, SA, QK, LK

When they wanted to get around, there were no cars, buses, trains, or planes! They mostly had to walk or ride horses. Boats were the only way to get to far away places. DJ, SR, UP, TL, MD, TF, LK, QK, HA
To stay warm, there were no heaters or furnaces. Every house had a fire.

To cook their food, there were no ovens! They had to hang a pot over the fire!

Girls weren't allowed to wear pants. They could only wear skirts and dresses.

No one had sneakers! Everyone wore shoes or boots made out of leather.

If you traveled away from home, there were no hotels. There were taverns where only men could get a room.

Finally, for fun, there were no video games. Instead, they played with rag dolls, tops, and balls.