

A teacher in Colorado complained in 1875, "I am sure there is not another schoolhouse in the nation as primitive as mine!"

But many teachers would not agree, especially Miss Molly Robinson of Logan County, Nebraska. Her schoolhouse, which is also her house, is built of sod!

The pioneer settlers of Nebraska faced many difficulties. Nebraska's climate is unpredictable. There can be extremes of heat and cold. Summers are hot with light rainfall. Winters bring bitter cold and high winds. Vegetation is limited to grasslands and low evergreens. As a result, wood and water, two necessities for living, are scarce.

Many buildings in 1876 are made of sod rather than wood. Oblong pieces are cut out of the surface of the grassland. These sod "bricks" are used for construction. Sod buildings can range from simple cabins to elaborate two story houses. Miss Robinson's school is a low, single room, sod cabin. It has a dirt floor and a roof made of grass and mud. Each spring, plant roots in the sod cause the schoolhouse to bloom. Tiny prairie wildflowers pop out of the sod bricks and turn the schoolhouse into a spring bouquet. Yet, however colorful the schoolhouse in springtime, it is still a rough, uncomfortable place.