

# The Milkman

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Long ago, before we had big **refrigerators** in our homes, people needed fresh milk every day. Milk gets bad very quickly when it is warm, so families could not buy a lot of milk at once. The **milkman** was the person who brought fresh milk to every house, every single day.

The milkman started work very early in the **morning**, sometimes at 3 or 4 AM. He carried many glass **bottles** full of fresh, cold milk. At first, milkmen used horses to pull their carts through the streets. Later, they used special **trucks** to deliver milk faster.

Every family on the milkman's **route** needed milk. The milkman would walk up to each house and leave fresh milk bottles by the front door. He would also take the empty bottles from yesterday and bring them back to the dairy farm to clean and use again.

Being a milkman was a good job. A milkman could make enough money to take care of his **family**. Many milkmen had the same route for many years. They knew all their customers and became friends with the families on their route.

Today, most milkmen are gone. Big **supermarkets** sell milk in plastic containers, and people have refrigerators to keep milk fresh for many days. However, some places still have milk delivery services, especially for **organic** or special kinds of milk.



## A. Vocabulary

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1. refrigerator \_\_\_\_
  2. milkman \_\_\_\_
  3. morning \_\_\_\_
  4. bottles \_\_\_\_
  5. trucks \_\_\_\_
  6. route \_\_\_\_
  7. family \_\_\_\_
  8. supermarket \_\_\_\_
  9. organic \_\_\_\_
  10. deliver \_\_\_\_
- a. food grown in a natural way
  - b. parents and children who live together
  - c. glass containers for holding liquids
  - d. to bring something to a place
  - e. a person who delivers milk to houses
  - f. the early part of the day
  - g. big vehicles for carrying things
  - h. the path someone takes to visit many places
  - i. a big store that sells food
  - j. a machine that keeps food cold

## B. True or False

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1. Milkmen delivered milk every day because people had big refrigerators. \_\_\_\_
2. Milkmen started work very early in the morning. \_\_\_\_
3. All milkmen used horses to deliver milk. \_\_\_\_
4. The milkman left fresh milk and took empty bottles. \_\_\_\_
5. Being a milkman was a very bad job with no money. \_\_\_\_
6. Milkmen knew many families on their routes. \_\_\_\_
7. Today, all milk comes from supermarkets. \_\_\_\_
8. Milk was delivered in plastic containers in the old days. \_\_\_\_
9. Some places still have milk delivery services today. \_\_\_\_

## C. Fill in the Blanks

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**Word Bank:** morning, milk, bottles, route, supermarket, fresh, deliver

1. The milkman brought fresh \_\_\_\_\_ to every house each day.
2. Milkmen started work very early in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Milk was carried in glass \_\_\_\_\_ to each home.
4. The milkman's \_\_\_\_\_ included many different houses.
5. Today, people buy milk at the \_\_\_\_\_.

## D. Comprehension Questions

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1. Why did people need milk delivered every day long ago?
2. What time did milkmen start work?
3. What did milkmen do with the empty bottles?
4. How do most people buy milk today?
5. Are there any milkmen still working today?

## E. Discussion Questions

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1. Would you like to have a milkman deliver milk to your house? Why or why not?
2. What other things do people deliver to houses today?
3. Why do you think the milkman job disappeared?

# Answer Key

*The Milkman — Teacher Reference Only*

**A. Vocabulary:** 1-j, 2-e, 3-f, 4-c, 5-g, 6-h, 7-b, 8-i, 9-a, 10-d

**B. True/False:** 1-F, 2-T, 3-F, 4-T, 5-F, 6-T, 7-F, 8-F, 9-T

**C. Fill Blanks:** 1-milk, 2-morning, 3-bottles, 4-route, 5-supermarket

**D. Comprehension:**

1. People didn't have refrigerators, so milk spoiled quickly
2. 3 or 4 AM
3. They took them back to the dairy farm to clean and reuse
4. They buy it at supermarkets
5. Yes, some places still have milk delivery services for organic milk