



CHAMBER POTS

Where do you go to the bathroom if you have no bathroom? In the past people dug holes for their waste and some people placed shacks over the holes for privacy. These were known as “outhouses” because they were outside the house.

What if it was really cold outside? What if you lived in an apartment building? People used containers called chamber pots to collect waste inside the house. They looked like a large pot. They usually had a handle and a lid. In the morning someone in the family had to empty and clean the chamber pot. How would you like that job?

Sometimes people just threw the waste out the window! That was not a good idea. It made people sick because of bad germs in the waste. As cities got bigger, so did the problem. How do you think the problem was solved?