Laundry in the 1800s

Welcome to Hagley Museum and Library, the site of the original Du Pont Company powder yards! Today is laundry day at the Gibbons House. Follow along with our tour guide, Ann, as she washes, dries, and irons clothes as they would have done in the 1800s. While watching the video please answer these questions.

(Video link: hagley.org/field-trip-laundry)

1. Match the following 1800s laundry equipment with its purpose listed on the right.

   1. ____  
      Washboard  
      A  Dry Clothes

   2. ____  
      Wringer  
      B  Scrub dirt out of clothes

   3. ____  
      Clothesline  
      C  Press wrinkles out of clothes

   4. ____  
      Sad Iron  
      D  Squeeze water out of clothes
2. Why did Ann have to get water from an outdoor spigot?

3. In what order did Ann do the laundry? Place a number, 1-7, beside each step.

   _____ Hanging the laundry on the clothesline to dry
   _____ Scrubbing on the washboard
   _____ Fetching water from the spigot
   _____ Ironing the laundry
   _____ Rinsing the laundry
   _____ Adding soap to the water in the basin
   _____ Squeezing the water out with a wringer

4. How did Ann get the irons hot?

5. What did Ann do when the iron got cool?

   Answer Key
   1. _____ B
   2. _____ A
   3. _____ C
   4. _____ D
   5. _____ E
   6. _____ F
   7. _____ G

   1. The Gibbons House does not have running water or indoor plumbing.
   2. Wash the iron get cool, Ann put the cool iron back on a hot wood-burning stove.