

Back to School
Maggie Clark
Fairmount Elementary
Golden, Colorado

OVERVIEW

Children will use photographs and primary sources to research school life in cities in the 20th century. They will use this information to compare and contrast school life today.

STANDARDS

- History Standard 2.2: Students know how to interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources of historical information.
- Reading and Writing Standard 5: Students read to locate, select and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- Gather information from historical photographs
- Identify differences in school life in the past and school today.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What did classrooms look like?
- How were classrooms decorated?
- How were children dressed?

MATERIALS

- Doing History CD-ROM disk or Internet site to research the topic: 20th Century: Families, Children and Schools.

PROCEDURE

1. Have the children use the inquiry questions to guide them through the CD-ROM disk or Internet site to research the 20th Century: Family, Children, and Schools topic.
2. Using the information provided, the children will work in small groups to compile notes about schools in the past.

Doing History/Keeping the Past
Inquiry Activities

3. As a class, generate a list of expectations for school children. Use prior knowledge as well as information from the photographs. Additional examples might include that children went home for lunch, children walked to school, boys wore dress shirts and slacks, girls wore dresses, at least on the day scheduled for their class photo to be taken.
4. Create a class Venn diagram to answer the question, "What's the same now and what is different?"
5. Have the children write a paragraph comparing and contrasting life in a classroom in the 1920's and school life today.

ASSESSMENT

Use the paragraphs the children write to assess their understanding.