

Schools at the Turn of the Century

Kim Hamilton
Carbondale Elementary
Carbondale, Colorado

OVERVIEW

Students will compare and contrast schools in Colorado at the turn of the century with schools in Colorado today.

STANDARDS

- Reading and Writing Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing. This includes making predictions, analyzing, drawing conclusions, and discriminating between fact and opinion in writing, reading, speaking, listening, and viewing.
- History Standard 2.2: Students know how to interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources of historical information.
- History Standard 2.3: Students apply knowledge of the past to analyze present-day issues and events from multiple, historically objective perspectives.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- Interpret information from historical photographs and text
- Compare and contrast information with their present day experiences

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What did schools look like at the turn of the century? How were they organized? Where were they located?
- What did classrooms look like at the turn of the century? How were the desks arranged? What would you find in a turn of the century classroom?
- Who went to school together? How were students grouped and separated?
- How did students dress? How did teachers dress?
- How did students behave? What did students learn?
- How did teachers teach? What materials did they use?

MATERIALS

- All photographs and text from the Doing History CD-ROM disk or Internet site for the Cities Topic, Schools and Classrooms Theme.

09/29/2001

This activity was created with funding from the Colorado State Historical Fund.

PROCEDURE

1. Have students review all the photographs and primary sources about Schools and Classrooms, thinking about the above inquiry questions.
2. In small groups, have students complete a Venn Diagram, comparing and contrasting schools and classrooms at the turn of the century to their own school and classroom.
3. Have groups report their findings, creating a whole class Venn Diagram.

ASSESSMENT

Ask students to draw a detailed picture of a classroom at the turn of the century. They should try to incorporate as much of the information as they can that they gathered from the primary sources and Venn diagrams.