

A Weekend in Denver

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OVERVIEW

Students will analyze primary sources and draw conclusions about life in Denver at the turn of the century.

STANDARDS

- Reading and Writing Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes. This includes telling stories, presenting analytical responses to literature, conveying information, explaining concepts and procedures, and persuading.
- History Standard 2.2: Students know how to interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources of historical information.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- Interpret information from historical photographs and text
- Draw conclusions about what activities people did in their free time at the turn of the century
- Write and illustrate a piece of historical fiction that accurately describes turn of the century life in Denver

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What did the churches look like? What were church services like?
- How did families entertain themselves? What different activities were available?
- Which activities were for special occasions? Which activities were more common?
- What sports did women play? What sports did men play? How did they dress?

MATERIALS

- All photographs and text from the Doing History CD-ROM disk or website for the Cities Topic, Community Life Theme.

April 23, 2003

This activity was developed with funding from the State Historical Fund.

PROCEDURE

1. Have students review all the photographs and primary sources about Community Life, thinking about the above inquiry questions.
2. As a whole class or in small groups, discuss the students' thoughts and answers to the inquiry questions.

ASSESSMENT

Discuss what the genre of historical fiction is. How is it different from other fiction; how is it different from nonfiction. Ask students to write and illustrate a historical fiction story about a turn of the century child's or family's weekend, using the information learned from the primary sources about community life.