

ONE ROOM SCHOOLS

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OVERVIEW

This activity examines the benefits and limitations of one-room schoolhouses.

STANDARDS

- History Standard 1: Students understand the chronological organization of history and know how to organize events and people into major eras to identify and explain historical relationships.
- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- History Standard 3: Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.
- Reading and Writing Standard 2: Students write and speak for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Reading and Writing Standard 3: Students write and speak using conventional grammar, usage, sentence structure, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will analyze differences.
- Students will synthesize information.
- Students will communicate persuasively

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- What is being taught?
- How large is the class?
- Who is in the classroom?
- What does the classroom look like?

Doing History/Keeping the Past
Inquiry Activities

- How is the classroom arranged?
- How would a one-room schoolhouse help students learn?
- What would be the disadvantages of a one-room schoolhouse?

MATERIALS

Doing History/Keeping the Past CD-ROM disc or website:

- Farming/Ranching topic; Families, Children and Schools theme; Schools and Classrooms sequences.

PROCEDURE

1. Ask the students to respond to the inquiry questions above by examining the photos on the CD-ROM or website from the sequences listed above and the following primary sources from “In Their Own Words”:
 - a. “Rough & Tumble Games”
 - b. “Sod Schoolhouse”
 - c. “The One Room Schoolhouse”
 - d. “Classroom Benches”
2. Students can access the photographs in one of the following ways:
 - a. Send students individually or in small groups to the computer station to examine the photos on a CD-ROM or Internet site while other students are working on other assignments.
 - b. Print out and copy the photographs, giving copies to each group of students.
 - c. Send the class to a computer lab where all the students can examine the photographs on the Internet site at the same time.
 - d. Use a multi-media projector or overhead with an LCD projector to show the photographs to the entire class.
3. Have students write an editorial or letter to the editor either for or against the one-room school. The essay should explain at least 3 benefits or disadvantages of this type of school. Students should explain how it would or would not help them learn.