

**Your City: Then and Now**  
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**OVERVIEW**

To have students compare past and present-day photographs of historical buildings in your city.

**STANDARDS**

- History Standard 2.2: Students know how to interpret and evaluate primary and secondary sources of information.
- Reading and Writing Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

**OBJECTIVES**

Students will be able to:

- Locate historical photographs of their city
- Identify buildings in historical photographs that still exist
- Make sketches or take photographs of historic buildings
- Explain how the preservation of historical photographs contributes to our understanding of the communities in which we live

**INQUIRY QUESTIONS**

- How has your city's "landscape" changed over time?
- Where can you find historical photographs that show how your city used to look?
- Which buildings in your community that were photographed in the 1880s or 1890s still exist?
- How can you help preserve historic buildings?

**PROCEDURE**

1. Make arrangements with your local historical society, public library or other repository of historical photographs for a field trip for your students, or order prints of historical photographs from such institutions to show in class. Select street scenes that include buildings that still exist. A great place to start is the Denver Public Library Western History Collection (online at <http://gowest.coalliance.org/> click on "search" and you're on your way!).

2. Provide the necessary background information about the photographs being studied. You may want to invite a local historian to class for the students to interview.
3. Take your students on a field trip to the area depicted in the photos so that they can photograph and take notes about the present-day site.
4. Have the students write several small paragraphs comparing the historical photos to their present-day photos. What has changed? What has remained the same?
5. Save the set of photos by making a classroom archive on your computer. If you did not use a digital camera to take the present-day photographs, you may scan them and the historical prints into the computer.