

Daily Life—Then & Now
2nd grade

Library of Congress Midwest Region
“It’s Elementary: Teaching with Primary Sources” 2011

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Overview

School is a very large part of a child’s daily life. The purpose of this lesson is to have students recognize and understand the similarities and differences between their daily (modern) life and the daily lives of people in the past. The students will use primary sources to compare and contrast the daily lives of students in schools/learning (Plains Indians, a pioneer, and modern day). The students will work in pairs to develop an oral story based on the daily life of schools/learning of one of these three groups. This lesson can be completed in three class periods.

Standards

History:

- Benchmark 2, Indicator 1: The student compares and contrasts daily life of an historic Plains Indian family, a pioneer family, and a modern family in Kansas.

Common Core

- W2.3: The student will write narratives in which he/she recounts a well-elaborated event or short sequence of events, includes details to describe actions, thoughts, and feelings, uses temporal words to signal event order, and provides a sense of closure.

Objectives

Content:

- The student will be able to give examples of what daily life and education was like for an historic Plains Indian and a pioneer child.
- The student will be able to identify examples of what their (modern) daily schooling or learning is like.

Skills:

- The student will look at primary sources and be able to, through discussion and activities, compare and contrast information.
- The student will be able to infer information gained after looking at primary sources.

Essential Questions

- How do children learn?
- Why is learning important?

Resource Chart

| Image/Resource | Description | Citation | URL |
|--|---|--|--|
|  <p>Plains Indians Image 1</p> | <p>SUMMARY View of a Native American (Plains Indian) camp shows men, women, children, horses, and tepees. The people are posing, working, and relaxing in groups.</p> <p>CREATED/PUBLISHED [between 1880 and 1910?]</p> | | <p>http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hawp:@field(NUMBER+@band(codhawp+10032050))</p> |
|  <p>Plains Indians Image 2</p> | <p>SUMMARY Native American students and white teachers pose outside of the Ottawa Indian School in Kansas. It is a one room, board and batten structure with two double hung windows on the facing wall and a bell in front.</p> <p>CREATED/PUBLISHED 1870.</p> | <p>Western History/General Department, Denver Public Library</p> | <p>http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/hawp:@field(NUMBER+@band(codhawp+10032601))</p> |
|  <p>Plains Indians Image 3</p> | <p>SUMMARY Photo of ten Kansa Indian school boys holding bows and arrows at the Agency School, Washunga, Oklahoma Territory.</p> <p>CREATED/PUBLISHED Between 1870 and 1890.</p> | <p>Western History/General Department, Denver Public Library, 10 W. 14th Avenue Parkway, Denver, Colorado 80204.</p> | <p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/208332</p> |

| Image/Resource | Description | Citation | URL |
|--|--|---|--|
|  <p>Pioneer School Image 1</p> | <p>SUMMARY A photograph of children sitting at their desks in a District 101 school, Cimarron, Kansas.</p> <p>CREATED/PUBLISHED 1911-1912</p> | <p>Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Memory</p> | <p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/217508</p> |
|  <p>Pioneer School Image 2</p> | <p>SUMMARY This black and white photograph shows a group of students standing before a one-room school house, in an unknown location, in Sedgwick County, Kansas.</p> <p>CREATED/PUBLISHED Between 1870s and 1890s</p> | <p>Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Memory</p> | <p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/219152</p> |
|  <p>Pioneer School Image 3</p> | <p>SUMMARY View of three boys with lunch pails walking from the Blue Mound School near Valley Falls in Jefferson County, Kansas. Also visible in the background are a shed and a girl standing near the school.</p> <p>CREATED/PUBLISHED Between 1900 and 1929</p> | <p>Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Memory</p> | <p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/208705</p> |
|  <p>Pioneer School Image 4</p> | <p>SUMMARY This black and white photograph shows a group of students with their teacher in a classroom in Valley Falls, Kansas.</p> <p>CREATED/PUBLISHED Date: between 1900 and 1910</p> | <p>Kansas State Historical Society, Kansas Memory</p> | <p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/207857</p> |

| Image/Resource | Description | Citation | URL |
|---|--|--------------------|---|
|  | <p>SUMMARY Photograph of a modern day elementary classroom. Note the student is using a SMART Board.</p> <p>CREATED/PUBLISHED Circa 2011</p> | SecurEdge Networks | http://www.securedgenetworks.com/secure-edge-networks-blog/?Tag=Technology%20in%20the%20Classroom |

Day 1

1. The teacher will explain to the students that they are going to be learning about the daily life of people in the past. The students will then compare this to life in modern day.
2. The teacher will ask the students what they think “daily life” is. [Possible responses: going to school, playing at recess, riding their bike, going shopping, watching TV, playing video games, etc.]. As the students brainstorm, write their ideas on the SMART board or white/chalk board. After the list is complete, circle anything on the list that has to do with their daily learning or schooling. Using those circled items, expand the discussion to what their daily life looks like at school. Write down any ideas that were not on the previous list, emphasizing how school and learning is a large part of their daily life.
3. The teacher will explain to the students that since they have looked at their modern daily lives at school, they will now learn about the daily school/learning lives of two groups from the past—an historic Plains Indian child and a pioneer child.
4. Show students the pictures of the daily lives of an historic Plains Indian. (Show students **Plains Indian** Images 1-3) Discuss what they see. (See “For the Teacher” for possible prompts, if needed). How are they learning in their daily life? How is it similar or different from modern day learning?
5. Show students the pictures of the daily lives of a pioneer child. (Show students **Pioneer School** Images 1-4) Discuss what they see. (See “For the Teacher” for possible prompts, if needed) How are they learning in their daily life? How is it similar or different from modern day learning?
6. Complete the **Compare & Contrast--“THEN & NOW”** with the students (on SMART board, or together with a hard copy).

Day 2

1. Review the photographs from the previous day, allowing for reviewed discussion/questions, etc. (Show **Plains Indian** Images 1-3 and **Pioneer School** Images 1-4.)
2. Explain to the students that they will be working with a partner to write an oral story based on the daily life of either an historic Plains Indian or a

pioneer child. Their story should reflect what they have learned and inferred from the primary source photographs that they went over the previous day (you can have them use their **Compare & Contrast--“THEN & NOW”**).

3. Give students time to brainstorm/discuss/ask questions.
4. Partners will write their narratives. All students should start out their narrative with, “I am a _____ boy/girl and I would like to tell you about my daily school life.” (In the blank should be inserted either “historic Plains Indian” or “pioneer”.

Day 3

1. Partners will present their oral story to the class.
2. Students will individually fill out their exit card, completing this lesson. Explain to the students that they need to have at least three similarities or differences listed. (See **Exit Card—“Daily Life—Then and Now”**)

Assessment

1. Partner Assessment: Evaluate the stories, noting the information provided within the story and how it demonstrates knowledge of daily life from the past.
2. Individual Assessment: Evaluate the exit cards—making sure that each student lists at least three similarities/differences between “then” and “now”.

For the Teacher:

Possible Prompts for primary source images on day 1



Plains Indians—Image 1

- See the group of women sitting in a circle? They could be talking/teaching/sharing how to perform certain tasks in their daily lives. What could they be talking about? (tanning hides, cooking, etc.)
- We know that Indians hunted buffalo. How do you think the men taught the boys how to hunt?



Plains Indians—Image 3

- Do you notice anything about what the children are holding? (bow and arrows).
- How is that different that today’s school?



Pioneer School—Image 1

- Notice the stove, the chalkboard, desks, etc.
- Describe the differences in their classroom and this school.



Pioneer School—Image 2

- Ask students to look at building, surrounding area, chimney, etc.
- Discuss their findings.

Answer Key (answers may vary):

Compare & Contrast--“THEN & NOW”

How are the Plains Indians and the Modern Day school images alike?

- Boys and girls go to school together.
- We sit in desks.
- Mom or Dad teach me to cook in our kitchen.
- I learn how to hunt for sport.

How are they different?

- We don't learn together in a village.
- My dad doesn't take me out and teach me how to hunt buffalo.
- I don't learn how to hunt for survival .
- There are all kinds of kids in my school—not just Native Americans.
- My school is bigger.
- We can't bring bow and arrows or weapons to school.
- If I am not in school, I mostly learn from my parents—not from many village members.
- Our desks are bigger and look different.
- We have heaters in our windows, we don't have a stove.
- We have a SMART board or a white board, not a chalk board.
- We have computers.
- Our school is a lot bigger—it has more rooms.

Oral Narrative—no answer key needed

Exit Card—“Daily Life—Then and Now”

[Answers will vary, here are some good examples.]

Ways an historic Plains Indian’s daily school/learning is different from mine:

- We don’t learn together in a village, as everyone goes about their daily work.
- My dad doesn’t take me out and teach me how to hunt buffalo.
- I don’t learn how to hunt for survival.
- There are all kinds of kids in my school—not just Native Americans.
- My school is in a building.
- We can’t bring bow and arrows or weapons to school.
- If I am not in school, I mostly learn from my parents—not from many village members.

Ways a pioneer child’s daily school/learning is different from mine:

- Our desks are bigger or our desks look different.
- We have heaters in our windows, we don’t have a stove.
- We have a SMART board or a white board, not a chalk board.
- We have computers.
- Our school is a lot bigger—it has more rooms.

Ways my daily school/learning is similar to Plains Indian or pioneer child

- Mom or Dad teach me to cook in a kitchen.
- I learn how to hunt for sport.
- Boys and girls go to school together.
- We sit in desks.

Compare & Contrast **“THEN & NOW”**



Plains Indians



Pioneer School



Modern Day School

| How are they alike? | How are they different? |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
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Name _____

Date _____

EXIT CARD—"Daily Life—Then and Now"

Ways a historic Plains Indian's daily school/learning is different from mine:

Ways a pioneer child's daily school/learning is different from mine:

Ways my daily school/learning is similar to a Plains Indian or a pioneer child:
