

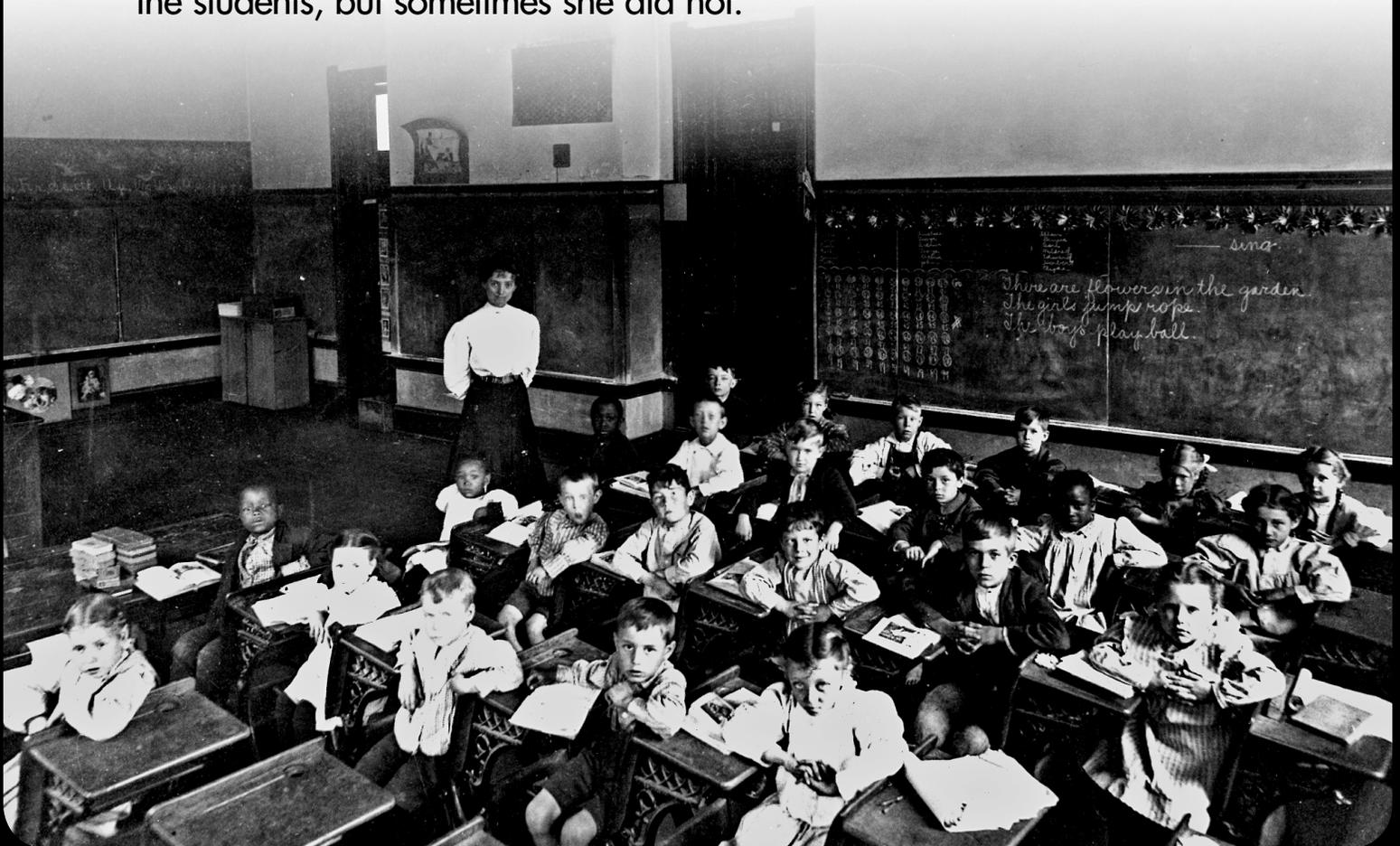
By the Kansas State Historical Society

## School Days

How did you arrive at school today? Did you walk or ride a horse? A long time ago, when Kansas first became a state, most students walked to school. A few lucky kids came on horses or bicycles.

In the early days, Kansas was a rural state. Most people lived on farms. Small schoolhouses were built every two to three miles. These rural schools often had only one room. Students ages five to twenty went to school together in one room. Can you imagine what that would be like?

The teacher arrived at the school very early in the morning. She would clean the school and build a fire in the stove. She had to be ready to teach lessons from first to eighth grade. Sometimes she had books for the students, but sometimes she did not.





Each grade had its own lessons. The teacher spent five to ten minutes on each lesson. Students had to learn quickly. Teachers moved from lesson to lesson rapidly. This meant the classroom was never quiet. Sometimes older students helped the younger ones. If the younger students were fast, they could listen to the older students' lessons.

Students learned spelling, reading, penmanship, and grammar. Geography, history, science, and math also were studied. Sometimes music and art were a part of their day. What do you study each day?

Lunch and recess were important parts of the school day. Students brought their lunch from home in a bucket. Many rural schools did not have playgrounds. Games that could be played without equipment and by children of all ages were popular.

Schools were important to the early settlers. They wanted their children to have a good education.