

REGINA PLAINS MUSEUM

Learning Kit

TEACHER'S GUIDE:

School Days



Themes and Ideas

School Days

In the past and today, schools play an important part in the community. One-room schools often served as the focal point for many small towns, being used as meeting places for the community as well as where local children were taught. This Learning Kit lets students explore the history of schools, and begin to examine the nature of their school environment today.

Vocabulary Words

- Teacherage – a small house on school grounds, provided as a place for the teacher to live.
- Dunce cap
- Strap or switch
- Inkwell
- Straight pen
- Slate

Activity Ideas

- Interview someone who attended or taught at a one-room schoolhouse. What do they remember about that time? What has changed since then?
- Do some research to find the locations of one-room schoolhouses across the province. Where were they located? When did they exist? Mark them on a map of Saskatchewan.
- Begin a correspondence program with a smaller school in the province. Students can write letters to pen-pals, comparing their different school experiences.



Lesson Plan

Unit: School Days – Schools Now and Then

Theme/Skill(s):

- Students will compare and contrast the past and present
- Students will use a variety of sources to learn about schooling in the past

Equipment/Resources:

- chart paper
- art materials
- computer and internet access (for the Virtual Museum exhibit, see “Introductory Activities”)

Objectives:

- Students will use several different methods to create comparisons
- Students will examine their present environment as well as that of the past

Assessment:

- Students will be assessed through the product of their work, whether it is written, oral or visual. Refer to the evaluation tools included with this Learning Kit. Ongoing participation can also be monitored.

CELS:

Critical and Creative Thinking: Students will examine their current environment and compare it with the past.

Personal and Social Values and Skills: History is used as a tool to help students begin to observe and analyze their contemporary environment. Values of the past are compared to values of the present.

Curriculum Connections:

Social Studies: Students explore the theme of heritage by learning about the history of schools in Saskatchewan. This lesson is also suitable for Grade 2, Unit 2 (Heritage), which explores the history of local schools.

| | Activities/Tasks: |
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| <p>Introductory Activities:</p> | <p><i>Visit</i> the Virtual Museum of Canada’s exhibit on “Country School Memories” (the URL is available in the “Additional Resources” section of this kit).</p> <p>What can these images tell you about what schools used to be like? Do the stories describe a different school than the one that you attend?</p> <p>If desired, create a list of things to look for. This list can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom layout • Subjects taught • Time spent in school • Number of years attending school • Class size • Number of grades/levels per class • Materials in the classroom • Role of the teacher • Role of the school in the community |
| <p>Development:</p> | <p><i>Contrast and Compare</i> schools now and then. This can be done in several ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a “now and then” chart • Draw a picture of your classroom now, and draw what you think a classroom would look like 100 years ago. • Make comparing lists of materials that would be found in a modern and in a historical classroom <p>Share your findings with classmates, or other school members.</p> |
| <p>Group Work:</p> | <p>Students can work in groups to compare schools now and then in different ways. One group can concentrate on materials, another can concentrate on subject areas, another on classroom appearance, etc.</p> |
| <p>Review of Learning:</p> | <p>Review what you’ve discovered and try to find any general trends or changes that have happened in schools over time.</p> <p><i>Discuss:</i> What would you change about schools now? Is there anything that you’ve learned about the one-room school that you think would work in your classroom?</p> |

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| Extensions: | <p>Interview someone who attended or taught at a one room school. Ask them to speak to the class. Use the information to create your comparisons.</p> <p>Students can teach one-room schoolhouse-style lessons. Choose volunteers to run a spelling bee, geography games or other activities.</p> <p>Imagine what a school of the future would be like. Add another column to your comparison chart, listing ways that you think schools may change. Will there be different learning materials? What would a classroom look like? How would students dress?</p> |
| Adaptive Dimension: | <p>Focus questions can be used to guide students' comparisons. Comparisons can be further simplified by splitting into "same" and "different" categories. The number of similarities and differences can be tallied up at the end.</p> |



Lesson Plan

Unit: School Days – The One Room... Classroom?

Theme/Skill(s):

- Students will experience the one room schoolhouse in their own classroom

Equipment/Resources: (these are optional materials to help you re-create a period classroom) ** Please note that the materials in the Learning Kit are NOT intended for use in a drama.

- Costumes
- Chosen passage for a writing/dictation lesson
- Dunce cap
- Handwriting charts
- Map of Canada/Saskatchewan
- Bag lunches
- Bucket with a dipper
- A hand bell

Objectives:

- Through role-play students will gain an understanding of how schools have changed through the province's history.

Assessment:

- Students will end with a reflection on the dramatic experience.
- Student participation and immersion into the drama should also be observed.

CELS:

Communication: Students communicate ideas through actions and words in a dramatic setting. Students also reflect on their ideas out of role.

Personal and Social Values and Skills: Students examine the social and cultural aspects of past and present school environments.

Curriculum Connections:

Drama:

- Students display a willingness to enter and commit to a dramatic situation.
- Students contribute ideas appropriate to the drama
- Participate in purposeful discussion about drama, both in and out of role.
- Recognize the need to work together in a dramatic situation.

(taken from the Saskatchewan Learning Elementary Drama Curriculum – the Foundational Objectives Developmental chart for grades 1 – 5).

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| Extensions: | <p>Create a presentation about school history to present at a school assembly or another classroom. Create a dramatic presentation to show others what your class has experienced.</p> <p>Include recess and lunch in your experience. Have students bring bag lunches and drink from pail and dipper as students in the past would have. Play games at recess like hopscotch and jacks, or organize a class baseball game.</p> <p>As a real challenge for teachers, and an opportunity to build relationships on a school-wide level, set up a student exchange program so that there are students of all grade levels in one classroom – this would truly re-create the environment of the one-room school!</p> |
| Adaptive Dimension: | <p>Response to the activity can take place as an entire class. Record observations in a chart or on the blackboard.</p> <p>Dramatic exercises can take place in smaller groups depending on student comfort level. Also, the drama can be held to one class period, or a morning or afternoon.</p> |

Additional Resources

School Days

Print Materials

Archer, John. Honoured with the Burden: A History of the Regina Board of Education. Regina: John Archer, 1987.

Bocking, D.H., ed. Saskatchewan: A Pictorial History. Saskatoon: Western Producer Prairie Books, 1979.

Broadfoot, Barry. The Pioneer Years 1895-1914: Memories of Settlers who Opened the West. Toronto: Doubleday, 1976.

Cochrane, Jean. The One-Room School in Canada. Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 1981.

Seniors' University Grou. Remembering One-Room School Days. Regina: Seniors' University Group, University Extension, University of Regina, 1990.

Internet Sources

www.rootsweb.com/~cansk/school/places.html - the Saskatchewan one-room school project

http://sites.onlinemac.com/kcampbell/One_Room_Schoolhouses.htm - a good listing of sites related to one-room schools

http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/pm.php?id=exhibit_home&fl=0&lg=English&ex=00000086 - a virtual museums exhibit of country school memories from Melfort, Saskatchewan. Includes images and information