

PIONEER DAYS VERSUS LIFE TODAY

Grades 3-5

OBJECTIVES:

- Students will compare and contrast characteristics of life during pioneer times with present-day.
- Students will work in cooperative groups.
- Students will present their conclusions visually.

SUNSHINE STATE STANDARDS/BENCHMARKS:

Completion of these activities meets benchmarks:

SS.A.2.2.3, SS.A.4.2.2, SS.A.5.2.1, SS.A.6.2.3, LA.A.2.2.1, LA.A.2.2.5, LA.A.2.2.7, LA.A.2.2.8, LA.B.2.2.1, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.4, LA.B.2.2.6, LA.C.1.2.3, LA.C.3.2.2, LA.C.3.2.3

MATERIALS:

Access to the Internet
Encyclopedias (on CD-ROM or in print)
Books on pioneer times
Chart paper
Markers
Paper for notes and final drafts

PRE-VISIT ACTIVITY:

1. Facilitate a brainstorming session to establish what the whole class knows about each of the following topics in both contemporary and pioneer times. Create a separate list for each on sheets of chart paper or on the whiteboard:
 - Farm work
 - House work
 - Having fun
 - Traveling
 - School life
 - Health

2. Choose a graphic organizer that you would like students to use for their comparison project. Options include but are not limited to a topical chart, Venn Diagram, or a 3-D comparison booklet. Share with the class an example of whatever option you choose (if an explanation is needed) and show them the attached scoring rubric so that they can keep track of their performance along the way and perform their own self-assessment as they complete the project.
3. Have the students break into five or six small groups with three or four students per group. Each group selects or is assigned one of the above topics to research. Groups will look at web sites (if available) and/or books, encyclopedias, CD-ROMS, etc. to uncover information about their topic in pioneer times.
4. The students will take notes about the information they uncover using the guiding questions on the attached activity sheet.

AT THE HISTORY CENTER:

Have students pay special attention to information regarding their topic while at The History Center. Although not all topics are covered in the pioneer exhibit, the museum will give students a well-rounded perspective of pioneer life.

POST-VISIT ACTIVITY:

1. Have each group discuss their observations from The History Center and combine this information with the research that they have already gathered.
2. Have students create a final draft of the chosen graphic organizer. The final drafts should include all their gathered information in a neat manner.
3. Have groups present their comparisons to the class.

GUIDED QUESTIONS FOR NOTE-TAKING

Questions about Traveling

Describe the different ways to travel in pioneer times.

How fast could a family travel 25 miles?

Why would people choose to travel when it was so difficult and slow?

How is traveling the same as it used to be?

How is traveling different than it used to be?

Questions about Fun and Games

What kinds of games and leisure activities were common among young people?

What kinds of games and leisure activities were common among adults?

What kinds of toys did children have in pioneer times?

How are games and toys the same now as they were long ago?

How are games and toys different today?

Questions about School Life

Describe a school in pioneer times.

Which children attended school?

How many years did children in pioneer times typically go to school?

How are schools the same now as they used to be?

How are schools different than they used to be?

Questions about House Work

What chores were there to do around the house?

Who usually took care of the housework?

How did children help with this work?

How is housework the same as it used to be?

How is housework different today?

Questions about Farm Work

What chores were there to do outside on the farm?

Who usually took care of the farm work?

How did children help with this work?

How is farm work the same as it used to be?

How is farm work different today?

Health Questions

What was used for medicine long ago?

Who took care of those who were sick?

When someone was sick, where were they taken for medical care?

How is health and medicine the same as it used to be?

How is health and medicine different today?

Comparison Evaluation Rubric

Points Criterion/Performance Level

The Information We Found:

	4	We found a wealth of information from at least three sources.
	3	We searched at least two sources until we found accurate and complete information about our topic.
	2	We searched only one source and located some accurate information about our topic.
	1	We quit searching before we found accurate and complete information.

Group Cooperation:

	4	Everyone in our group helped search and encouraged others to do their best.
	3	All group members helped gather information from the web sites.
	2	A few of us did most of the searching and the others helped a little.
	1	One person did all the searching.

Organizing the Information We Found:

	4	Our graphic organizer includes information from all five of the guiding questions.
	3	Our information is in order and includes information from four of the guiding questions.
	2	We didn't organize our information very well; we included information from three of the guiding questions
	1	Our information is very disorganized and includes information from only two of the guiding questions.

Neatness, Punctuation, Grammar, and Spelling:

	4	We used our best handwriting and made no mistakes in spelling, grammar, and punctuation on our graphic organizer.
	3	We used neat handwriting and made one or two errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation when we made our graphic organizer.
	2	We did a pretty good job of handwriting and made only three or four errors in spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes.
	1	Our handwriting is not very good, and we have many spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes.

Mastery of Content:

	4	We became “experts” on our topic and can explain it and answer questions from our class.
	3	We learned a lot about our topic and can explain it and answer most of the questions from our class.
	2	We learned some new information, and can do a fairly good job of explaining it and answering a few questions.
	1	We didn't learn much from this project and cannot explain it very well or answer questions.
		Total