

ANTICIPATORY SET (5 minutes): Leading a conversation about some of the differences between schools of the past and schools today.

Schools now are a lot different than they were a hundred years ago. If you were alive in the year 1900, you probably lived on a farm and went to a rural one-room schoolhouse.

How do you think these schools were different from your school?

- How old are you? You are all about the same age, but back in 1900, there would be kids of all ages in here. You would even have have a few 15 or 16-year-olds in your classroom
- Do you think kids back then took a school bus to school? No, they probably walked!
- What time does the school day end? In 1900, schools ended at four o'clock.
- Do you have to go to school? Even if you don't want to? Children in the past were not required to go to school until the 1880s.
- Who here likes coffee? Well, lots of kids in 1900 drank coffee! Some even drank it for lunch.
- Do you have homework? Kids in these rural schools did not get homework. But they did have a lot of chores to do after school.

**FIRST LECTURE (1 minute) (PAGE 1)**

In 1900, a lot of kids lived on farms around Steele County. Living on a farm was more difficult than living in a town because there were so many chores to do. Parents expected their children to help out, so kids had less free time. Kids your age had to finish their morning work before they could leave for school.

**ACTIVITY (5 minutes)**

Now flip to the first page in your booklet. On the left is our "THEN" page. The "NOW" page is on the right. Color in the pictures on the "THEN" page and then write a sentence about the chores kids had to do before school in 1900. After, draw a picture of what you do before school. Write a sentence that explains your drawing.

**SECOND LECTURE (1 minute) (PAGE 2)**

Like today, kids back in 1900 probably didn't live next door to their school. But their parents didn't have time to drive them and there were no school buses. That means that many kids your age had to walk all the way to school by themselves. Sometimes they walked over a mile, uphill both ways!

**ACTIVITY (8 minutes)**

Color in the picture on the "THEN" page. Then write a sentence about how kids got to school in 1900. After, draw a picture of how you get to school today. Write a sentence that explains your drawing.

**THIRD LECTURE (1 minute) (PAGE 3)**

Many rural schools back in 1900 only had one classroom. This means that kids in kindergarten all the way up to eighth grade learned together in the same space. There was only one teacher and she could not give lessons to everyone at once, so she took turns. The rest of the students worked together. The eighth graders helped the younger children

**ACTIVITY (8 minutes)**

Color in the picture on the “THEN” page. Then write a sentence about how kids got help in class in 1900. After, draw a picture of what you do to get help today. Write a sentence that explains your drawing.

**FOURTH LECTURE (1 minute) (PAGE 4)**

Today when it's lunchtime you go into the cafeteria. Some of you wait in line for a school lunch and some of you bring a lunch from home in a lunchbox. If your food is supposed to be hot, you can put it in the microwave. In 1900, you packed it in a glass jar and then put the glass jar of food into a kettle of hot water. But not all kids packed a lunch. Some moms took turns making lunch for the entire class. Sometimes the teachers would cook for the students.

**ACTIVITY (8 minutes)**

Color in the picture on the “THEN” page. Then write a sentence about lunch in 1900. After, draw a picture of what you eat for lunch today. Write a sentence that explains your drawing.

**FIFTH LECTURE (1 minute) (PAGE 5)**

Today getting a sip of water is easy. All you have to do is go up to a drinking fountain. In 1900, this task was a lot more complicated. Rural schools did not have running water back then. Many classes got their water from nearby farmers. The teacher sent students to fill a bucket and bring it back to the school. The bucket sat at the back of the room and students used a dipper to drink the water. There was only one dipper for the whole class to share!

**ACTIVITY (8 minutes)**

Color in the picture on the “THEN” page. Then write a sentence about where kids got water in 1900. After, draw a picture of where you get water from today. Write a sentence that explains your drawing.

**LECTURE (1 minute) (PAGE 6)**

Many of the classes students took back in 1900 were probably similar to the ones you take today. Like you, these students needed to learn their numbers and letters, how to read, and how to do basic math. But students in 1900 did not have computers. They had to write everything by hand. This means they needed to learn penmanship--how to write well and in cursive. Fewer and fewer children are learning how to write and read in cursive today. This is a chance for you to practice.

**ACTIVITY (8 minutes)**

Trace the letters on the “THEN” page. After, write out the letters in your normal handwriting on the “NOW” page.

**LECTURE (1 minute) (PAGE 7)**

Kids are always getting into trouble. This was true in 1900 as well. Going to school in the countryside gave children even more choices when it came to misbehaving. They had access to entire fields and forests full of little critters. Sometimes students let mice or birds into the classroom! Or a prankster might have filled the boots in the coatroom with water. It was not uncommon for a teacher to open her desk drawer and find a frog inside! Punishments have

changed since 1900. Teachers used to spank students that misbehaved. Now students might get a timeout or go to the principal's office to talk about what they did wrong.

**ACTIVITY (8 minutes)**

Color in the picture on the "THEN" page. Then write a sentence about how kids got into trouble in 1900. After, draw a picture of ways that you get into trouble today. Write a sentence that explains your drawing.

**IF TIME REMAINS:** Have students continue to color in their booklets. Or ask students to draw what they think schools of the future will look like