

Title: Lesson 1 – What were schools like in the past? (45 minute lesson)

Lesson Author: Charity Paeschke

Key Words – past, present, Abraham Lincoln

Grade Level – First Grade

Time Allotted: 45 minutes

Lesson Overview: The students will examine what

Guiding Question(s):

What were schools like in the past? What are schools like in the present? How are the schools of the past different from the schools of the present? How are schools of the past similar to schools of the present? What was school like for Abraham Lincoln?

Learning Objectives (SWBAT)

- Students will distinguish between schools of the past and schools of the present.
- Students will demonstrate understanding by completing a sort of pictures from the past and present.

Virginia History and Social Science SOL

1.2 The students will describe the stories of American leaders and their contributions to our country, with an emphasis on George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, George Washington Carver, and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Essential Historical Skills Taught:

Chronological Thinking:

Students will distinguish between schools in the past and the present.

Assessment Tool(s): Sort of school items from the past and present

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Pictures for group sort
- Schools long ago and today Assessment
- T-chart “Schools of the Past, Schools of the Present”.
- Map of the United States During the 1800s
- Introductory Power Point
- Herbert, Janice (2007). Abraham Lincoln for Kids, His life and Times. Chicago, Review Press.
- Copy of one room school house or means to project from computer (Library of Congress Digital ID - ndfahult b368) – 2 images are provided choose the one that you would like to use)

- Copy of A Lincoln Sum book or means to project from computer (Library of Congress Digital ID: icufaw bmc0217)

<http://memory.loc.gov/> (Search for Lincoln Sum Book)

- Copy of The New-England Primer or means to project from computer (NY Public Library Call# 352936).

<http://www.archive.org/details/newenglandprimer00ford>

Modifications:

Read *One-room School* by Raymond Bail it is A picture book that is useful in explaining to children what a one-room school was like.

Provide students with real items from the past and present and have them sort them into piles (For example a real wood slate and a spiral notebook, a copy of *The New England Primer* and one of their own reading books).

Provide each student with a copy of *The New England Primer*. Practice reading like Abraham Lincoln did in a blab school. Everyone reading at the same time.

Instructional Procedures/Process:

1. Share introductory Power Point with the class. As you show each slide ask students to speculate on what the answer to each question will be. Remember this is just a brainstorming so accept any reasonable answer.
2. Make a t chart before class starts that has "Schools in the Past" and "Schools in the Present".
3. Tell students that today we are going to be talking about schools in the past (Schools that existed long ago) and school in the present. Explain that the past is something that already happened and the present is what is happening right now.
4. Show students a map of the United States in the 1800's. Explain that the United States looked different than it does today. Show a map of the United States today. Ask how is it different? Are there any things that are the same?
5. Ask students to list things that they associate with school in the present. You may want to guide the conversation towards tools we use today, what does the physical building look like, etc.
6. Show students a picture of a one room school house. Tell them that in the past schools were just one room and that student of all ages were in the same room. Tell them to imagine Kindergarteners through High School students all learning in the same room with only one teacher. Ask them what they think that may have been like?
7. Instruct the students that Abraham Lincoln went to school in the past. Tell them that Abraham Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States and that he is a famous American leader.

8. Explain that they did not have the supplies that we have now in the present. Using a computer and a projector show the students an example of a The New England Primer that was used long ago. Tell them that Abraham Lincoln read a book very similar to the one shown.
9. Show them a picture of Abraham Lincoln's Sum book and tell them that Abraham Lincoln once wrote a rhyme "Abraham Lincoln is my name and with my pen I wrote the same. I wrote in both haste and speed and left it here for fools to read." in his sum book.
10. Read pages 2 and 9-10 in *Abraham Lincoln for Kids; His life and Times*. These pages tell of his love of reading and relate some of the experiences he had at school.
11. Put a large piece of chart paper on the wall at student level. Label one side **Past** and the other **Present**.
12. Split students into small groups. Give each group a set of pictures on items from the past and present. Ask them to sort them. Then call on each group to tape their pictures onto the paper on the appropriate side. Allow students not in that group to give thumbs up or thumb down as each item is placed. If a student signals thumbs down, ask them to explain why that item does not fit on that side of the paper.
13. Pass out paper sort to each child and have them completed independently.

Closure: Ask students to give examples of schools in the past to complete the t chart used to begin the lesson. When possible align tools, supplies, etc. with those from the present. (For example a wood slate's modern match would be a notebook or a piece of paper. A chalkboard in the past may be a smart board in the present.) Ask student how school today is different from school long ago. Ask them how school today is similar to school long ago. Tell them that tomorrow they are going to experience what school was like for Abraham Lincoln.