

Lesson Plan

Main Street

This is an adaptation of a lesson plan prepared by Rose Marie Marinace while participating in a past New Hampshire Historical Society summer institute.

What Students Learn

Students identify and analyze changes in their hometown based on photographic evidence and research. When the project is complete, students should understand that their own town or local area is linked to a larger context of history and culture. While students of all ages may participate in this activity, older students may be given more responsibility for independent research of facts.

Procedures

- At your local historical society or at the New Hampshire Historical Society's Tuck Library, obtain and laminate copies of old photographs of buildings, roads, monuments, farms, people, etc., that were taken in a significant and still accessible part of your town or local area. Main Street is a convenient place to start, but any other notable area for which photographs are available will work nicely.
- Make copies of historical and modern maps of the significant area you can visit on a field trip. Tuck Library has extensive collections of old county and town maps.
- Hand out the field trip assignment sheet.
- Take the field trip (With older students or in a regional school in which students come from many towns, you may wish to make this activity a homework assignment rather than a field trip.) A supply of cameras and film will be needed for each student or cooperative student group.
- Having identified locations of historical photographs, students take photographs, replicating as best as possible the angle from which the original image was captured.
- Develop the film.
- In class, analyze similarities and differences between the old and new photographs. Address the questions on the assignment sheet.
- Share the findings with the rest of the class.

Lesson Materials

- Maps, both historical and current
- Old photographs of significant sites in your area that are currently accessible (Tuck Library is an excellent resource. Your local historical society or local newspaper may also be a source of old photographs.)
- Disposable cameras (or film for students' cameras) or digital cameras

Bibliography

Most entries, as well as other teacher resources, are available through the New Hampshire Historical Society's Tuck Library and its Museum Store. Especially noteworthy are the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps from the late 1800s. They are available on microfilm at Tuck Library. The list of nineteenth-century maps below includes each county in mid-century and each county near the end of the century. Topographical maps available on-line through the University of New Hampshire also are of value.

- Chace, J, Jr. *Map of Hillsborough County, New Hampshire*. Boston: Smith, Mason and Co., 1858.
- _____. *Map of Rockingham County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia: Smith and Coffin, 1857.
- _____. *Map of Strafford County, New Hampshire*. Boston, 1856.
- Fagan, L. *Map of Cheshire County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia: Smith and Morley, 1858.
- New Hampshire Atlas & Gazetteer*. Freeport: Delorme, 1986. [This resource is available in later editions, too. The teacher happens to prefer this edition.]
- Old Maps of Belknap County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1985.
- Old Maps of Carroll County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1988.
- Old Maps of Cheshire County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1990.
- Old Maps of Coos County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1989.
- Old Maps of Grafton County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1989.
- Old Maps of Merrimack County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1981.
- Old Maps of Rockingham County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1981.
- Old Maps of Rural Hillsboro County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1981.
- Old Maps of Strafford County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1985.
- Old Maps of Sullivan County, New Hampshire in 1892, The*. Fryeburg: Saco Valley Printing, c1989.
- University of New Hampshire Library. *Government Information Department: Digital Collections*. <http://docs.unh.edu/digital.htm>.
- Walling, Henry Francis. *Map of Merrimack County, New Hampshire*. New York, 1858.
- _____. *Topographical Map of Carroll County, New Hampshire, from Actual Surveys*. New York, 1861.
- _____. *Topographical Map of Coos County, New Hampshire*. New York, 1861.
- _____. *Topographical Map of Grafton County, New Hampshire*. New York, 1860.
- _____. *Topographical Map of the County of Sullivan, New Hampshire*. New York, 1860.
- Woodford, E.M. *Map of Belknap County, New Hampshire*. Philadelphia, 1860.

Assessment Tools and Techniques

See the assignment sheet. Follow up the activity with a full class discussion based upon students' completion of the assignment sheet. A project may take any of several forms: a paper, a poster, or a class "museum," for example.

For related activities, see "Maps and Local History," another lesson plan by this teacher on the New Hampshire Historical Society's Web site at <http://www.nhhistory.org/edu/support/nhgeogindex.htm>

Assignment Sheet: Main Street

Your name: _____

The town: _____

The location: _____

Field Trip

1. Everyone will receive historical and current maps of the assigned location—e.g., Main Street.
2. Each student (or group) will receive one or more laminated copies of old photographs taken in the assigned area sometime in the past.
3. You or your group will need to locate where the photograph was taken and
 - locate the spot on your historical maps
 - take identical photographs from the same spot and angle (as much as possible)
4. Map the area yourself. (Are there any changes?)

Photograph Analysis

Place your old and new photographs side by side and answer as many of the following questions as possible. Add any observations you have made that are not covered by the questions below. Prepare for a discussion of your analysis to share with the class.

1. Can you determine when the old photographs were taken? What are your clues?
2. List any immediately visible changes you can identify.
3. Look at the people in each photograph. How are they dressed? How old are they?
4. Identify any forms of transportation in the photographs.
5. What architectural features appear in each photograph?
6. What evidence of economic activity appears in each photograph?
7. Observe (or do additional research) to note changes in utilities—electricity, gas, phone, water, etc.—and in the state of roads—e.g., paved or unpaved. Are the changes good or bad for the environment?

Curriculum Information

Information relating to the *New Hampshire History Curriculum* refers to the K-12 resource in two volumes developed by the New Hampshire Historical Society in partnership with Public Service of New Hampshire, the New Hampshire Department of Education, and the New Hampshire Council for the Social Studies. The K-6 volume is available on-line through the school programs section of the Society's Web site (<http://www.nhhistory.org>).

Grade Level

Middle School and High School

New Hampshire Social Studies Standards

Economics 2, 3, 4; Geography 2, 4; History 4, 5

New Hampshire History Curriculum Focus Topics

Boundaries; Natural Environment and People, Technology and Science

New Hampshire History Curriculum Eras

1850–1877: Civil War and Reconstruction

1870–1900: Development of the Industrial United States

1890–1930: Emergence of Modern America

1920–1945: Great Depression and World War II

1945–early 1970s: Postwar United States

1968–present: Contemporary United States