

Barn Stories #3

Subject: Social Studies: Agriculture: Language Arts: Agriculture

Grade Level: 6-8

McRel Standards: US History Era 6: The development of the Industrial United States (1870-1900)

Benchmark: Understands how the rise of corporations, heavy industry, and mechanized farming transformed American society.

Iowa Model Core Literacy: Writing: Uses writing as a tool for learning
Curriculum: Uses an effective writing process
Uses knowledge of purpose, audience formant, and medium in developing written communication.

Anticipatory Set: A barn on a farm has always been a hub of activity. The traditional barn in history might have been a place for a farmer to store his grain, shelter his livestock, repair broken farming equipment and milk the cows. Each barn has a unique story to tell, just as the livestock who lived and worked there, and the families that built and used the barns.

Objective: Students will interview an adult (over 65) who has lived on a farm. If possible this activity should be used in conjunction with a local retirement center or meal site. Students may choose to work in pairs if there are not enough adults to interview. The students will come up with a list of questions to use in the interview. The students will make an audio recording of each interview and then write the story from that interview recording. Then the students will compile the “Barn Stories” and share their collection with the residents of the center. One written copy should be left at the center for all the residents to enjoy.

Teaching to the objective:

1. Have students compose questions to use in the interview.
2. Have students prepare materials to take to interview.
3. Interview significant adults who have lived on a farm using prepared questions and a tape recorder.
4. Take a picture of the adult being interviewed if they give permission.
5. Review notes and tape recording of interview.
6. Write the “Barn Story.”
7. Proofread and edit the copy created.
8. Compile stories and pictures into a completed anthology.
9. Share work with people interviewed.

Assessment: Students will be graded on their completed “Barn Story.” A rubric will be developed for grading this story.