

Extension Activity #4

Be A Barn Builder

Anticipatory Set: Have you ever noticed that barns come in different sizes and shapes? Why do farmers build different kinds of barns? Why might Farmer Jones need a different barn than Farmer Johnson? Imagine that you are a barn builder in the year 1880. Two different farmers have asked you to design a barn for them. Below are the descriptions that you will need from each farmer and the type of land that they live on. Use a ruler and graph paper to design a barn for each farmer that will meet his needs. Make sure that you explain the barn's specific functions.

Purpose: Students will be able to realize that barns served specific purposes for specific farmers.

Objective: Student will design two barns. One barn will be for farmer Jones and one barn will be for Farmer Johnson

Teaching to the Objective:

1. Hand out graph paper, ruler and pencils to students.
2. Hand the description of each farmer to each student.
3. On the overhead go over simple architectural drawings for door, window, etc. so that students will understand how to do the basic plan. Show the students how to notate the swinging and sliding doors, and windows.
4. Students can be very creative in the way they indicate stalls or pens for livestock.
5. After students have decided on the floor plan, have the students also sketch the outside of the barn.
6. Students may need to review different styles of barns before they design their own.

Assessment: Students will share completed barn floor plans, designs and written explanations for their designs.

Farmer Jones

Farmer Jones lives in northern Iowa. He is a dairy farmer with about 75 cows. The dairy cows need to be milked every day. Farmer Jones needs a dry, clean place to milk cows. He also needs a place to store the milk and keep it clean and cold before he sells it. The snow covers the grazing land in the winter, and Farmer Jones must feed his cows hay in the winter. He needs a place to store enough hay to feed the cows all winter long.

Farmer Johnson

Farmer Johnson lives in central Iowa and grows corn and raises hogs. His team of 4 draft horses help pull his Grain wagons. He needs a good strong barn to house his horses, equipment, and provide storage for his grain and a place for his hogs.

Scenarios courtesy of the Utah Heritage Foundation