

Styles of Barns in Iowa

Subject: Social Studies: 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.

Understands massive immigration after 1870 and how new social patterns, conflicts, and ideas of national unity developed amid growing cultural diversity.

Anticipatory Set: Ask students what they know about different types of barns in Iowa. Ask them if they feel that the style of barn built was influenced by the settlers' ethnic background.

Objective: Students will be able to understand and identify different barn styles that represent farmsteads in Iowa. They will also be able to share information about how ethnic background and landscape influenced the type of barn that was built.

Teaching to the Objective:

1. Students will divide up into groups and research different styles of barn architecture. (Log, English, Pennsylvania-German, Round, Bank Barn, Hip).
2. Students will become the "authority" on the style of barn that they research.
3. The group will decide which information is the most important about the style of barn that they research. The group will prepare a poster identifying their style of barn and the critical attributes of the style. They will also provide a picture/drawing of the barn and identify the characteristics of the barn style.
4. Students will share importance of the ethnic background of the barn style.
5. Each group will present their information to the class.
6. While information is being presented, students will fill in a T-chart on the different barn styles.