

UNIT 1: THE RISE OF TECHNOLOGY (1870 - 1896)

Topic: Agriculture

Lesson 10: Current Agriculture

Objectives:

1. The students will gain an understanding of current agricultural operation.
2. Students will compare current agricultural practices with past practices.

Materials:

Student copies of activity sheet on farming then and now.

Activities:

1. Introduce students to the CampSilos Website found at <http://www.campsilos.org/index.htm> Module 4 focuses on the theme “Farming Today and Tomorrow.” Have students complete some of the activities found at this site.
2. Invite a guest speaker to come to the classroom to discuss current farming in Iowa. Encourage the speaker to focus on changes which have taken place in machinery and technology.
3. Conduct interviews of senior citizens knowledgeable about Iowa farming past and present. Have students prepare questions ahead of time and practice reading the questions. In addition, if interviews are to be taped, students should be comfortable with the mechanics of using a tape recorder.
4. After the preceding activities have been completed and students have had an opportunity to overview current agriculture, culminate the lesson by developing a then and now chart that overviews improvements in farming practices over the past decades.

Example:

Farming in 1880	Farming Today