

UNIT II: THE GOLDEN AGE (1897-1918)

Topic: Agriculture

Lesson 17: Transportation and Communication

Objective:

Students will learn that transportation and communication improvements lessened rural isolation.

Materials:

Student Access to *The Iowa Farmstead*, pp. 7 and 14

Activities:

1. Review the kinds of transportation and communication available to people living in rural areas at the end of the nineteenth century:
 - a. People walked or used horses and wagons for short trips.
 - b. Railroads provided transportation for people and goods for longer journeys.
 - c. Most people did not travel often except to town to do their trading.
 - d. People kept current on the news when they picked up their mail in town, usually no more often than once a week.
2. Have students read pp. 7 and 12 of *The Iowa Farmstead*.
 - a. Discuss the advantages of daily mail delivery. Consider the receipt of family letters, newspapers and farm magazines.
 - b. Have the class discuss advantages the telephone brought to farm families. What percent of farm families had telephones by 1920? What does this tell about farm families' desire for telephones?
 - c. Discuss the changes that the automobile brought to the farm. List the advantages on the board.
3. Summarize the ways in which the farm family became less isolated with these twentieth century conveniences.