

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

Topic: Lumber Industry

Lesson 2: Introduction to Iowa's Lumber Industry

Objective:

Students will understand how the Iowa lumber industry was linked with the economy.

Materials:

Transparency: "The Five Leading Iowa Manufacturing and Processing Industries"

United States Wall Map

Activities:

1. Review concepts discussed in Lesson 1 concerning rural and urban population trends in Iowa between 1870 and 1940.
2. Have students identify the employment venues of their parents by category. Make a list as they are identified. For example, they might mention farming, industry, computer programming, mail carrier, police officer, etc.
3. Next, project the transparency "The Five Leading Iowa Manufacturing and Processing Industries." Cover the right half of the chart so students will not see the columns for each year 1870-1940.
4. First identify which of the occupation categories would be viable today. Then have students predict which ones would tend to be earlier (1870s) and which would be later (1940s). Then show the whole chart and have students identify the industries which were strongest for the longest period of time. Discuss the trends from the perspective that Iowa was still predominantly a rural state.
5. Direct students, attention to the lumber industry. Note that lumber was one of the leading industries from 1870 to 1910. By 1910 the pineries of northern Minnesota and Wisconsin had been exhausted. Have students suggest possible interpretations for the data on this table, noting that more data would be needed in order to conclusively depict Iowa's lumber industry relative to Iowa's total industrial growth.
6. Using a map of the United States, briefly review the following facts about the lumber industry noting Iowa's relationship to the national economy:
 - A. Most of the logs for Iowa's sawmills came from the forests of Wisconsin and Minnesota.
 - B. This raw material was rafted down the Mississippi.
 - C. Logs were processed into finished lumber.
 - D. Finished products were shipped to distributors and retailers across the country.
5. Have students analyze this scenario to determine what factors contributed to a successful lumber industry in Iowa towns along the Mississippi. Possible suggestions might include:

- A. Iowa was located near large forests of available timber.
- B. Iowa had a readily available transportation system: the Mississippi River.
- C. Iowa was on the edge of a rapidly expanding frontier needing building materials.
- D. Iowa had a readily available work force able to take jobs.
- E. Iowa's railroad system provided transportation of finished products both to and from the rapidly growing West.

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**THE FIVE LEADING IOWA MANUFACTURING AND
PROCESSING INDUSTRIES BY YEAR**

INDUSTRY	Census Year							
	1870	1880	1890	1900	1910	1920	1930	1940
Flour and grist mill products	X	X		X				
Lumber	X	X	X	X	X			
Meatpacking		X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Carpentering and building	X		X	X				
Woolen goods	X							
Carriages and wagons		X						
Blacksmithing		X						
Printing and publishing			X		X	X	X	X
Railroad cars, repairs, etc.			X	X	X	X		
Foundry and machine shop products					X	X	X	
Food preparations						X		
Household appliances							X	
Bread and bakery products							X	X
Corn syrup, sugar, oil, etc.								X
Planing mills not with sawmills								X
Furniture	X							