

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

Topic: Lumber Industry

Lesson 6: The Lumber Market

Objective:

Students will understand the effect seasonal changes had on the lumber industry.

Materials:

The Dubuque Lumber Reporter

Life in a Lumber Camp, by George Austin Woodard

Activities:

1. Introduce the lesson by distributing copies of *The Dubuque Lumber Reporter*. Discuss the fact that this paper contains excerpts from the *Dubuque Weekly Times* for the year 1880 and gives information about the lumber market for that year.
2. There are sixteen daily entries in the paper. Assign one or two students to each of the daily entries. Have the students look for statements which would associate the seasonal changes with market changes. The following generalizations should logically grow out of the discussion:
 - a. During the winter, logs were cut in the northern pineries.
 - b. Cut logs were transported over snow-covered logging roads awaiting the spring thaws.
 - c. When spring came, log rafts were formed and logs transported down streams and rivers to sawmills.
 - d. Lumber camps broke up when warmer weather came.
 - e. Sawmills operated throughout the spring, summer, and fall until the streams froze over.
 - f. When snow had fallen in the northern pineries, logging operations began again.
3. Direct students attention to the various advertisements within the newspaper. Compile a list of millwork products which can be identified by observing the advertising. Are these products available today? What current materials have replaced these products? Where might these products be produced if they are marketed today?
4. Summarize the lesson by reading orally the last four paragraphs of *Life in a Lumber Camp*, which reinforce the generalizations listed above.

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