

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

Topic: Lumber Industry

Lesson 7: The Lumber Company

Objectives:

1. Students will understand the general physical features of a lumber mill.
2. Students will recognize millwork typical of the late 1800s.

Materials:

Musser Lumber Company (Advertising Pamphlet)
M. A. Disbrow and Company (Catalogue)
United States Wall Map
Colored markers—1-inch squares of colored paper

Activities:

1. Introduce the lesson by directing students to the *Musser Lumber Company* material. The Musser Lumber Company, located in Muscatine, Iowa was one of the largest companies in the area at the time. The company included a sawmill, a planing mill and a lumberyard. Read sections of the two articles with the class in order to give an overview of the layout of a sawmill, a planing mill and a lumber yard.
2. Direct students to the M. A. Disbrow Catalogue. Allow time for students to browse through the images. Using the list of buyers for milled work, have students tape colored markers on states where milled work was shipped. Given this information discuss Iowa's 19th century link to the national economy.
3. If possible, take a field trip throughout the community to homes or other buildings which might have existing examples of architecture pictured in the catalogue. If this is not possible, have students take copies of the Disbrow Company materials into the community to look for examples of the woodwork. Encourage them to take pictures to share with the class.