

“It’s News to Me!”
Teaching with Colorado’s Historic Newspaper Collection
Model Lesson Format

Lesson Title:

A Walk To 1908

Subject and Grade Level:

Colorado History, 4th Grade

Focus of Lesson: A brief explanation of what students are to learn in this lesson (content and/or skills). What is the purpose of the lesson?

The purpose of this lesson is to familiarize students with the day-to-day happenings and events of their hometown in the year 1908. The rationale for the year 1908 is relative to a fieldtrip that will occur following the classroom/lab learning experience. The fieldtrip is to our local history museum, The Animas History Museum. When at the museum, the children will participate in a classroom designed to look and feel like 1908. They will wear period dress and will enjoy lessons taught by a “schoolmarm”.

The students will utilize the Colorado’s Historic Newspaper Collection web site to explore one issue of the DURANGO DEMOCRAT. Students will work in pairs to read/review an issue on a date of their choice in 1908. The learning pairs will then analyze their findings to compare present day happenings to the past. They will utilize a Venn Diagram to illustrate their findings. Their diagrams will be presented in poster format and will be assessed on several different aspects (to be detailed further in this lesson).

Standards Assessed: Which standards will you be assessing in this lesson? Identify the content area, the standard number and any key components or benchmarks that are applicable.

Information Literary Standard 1: The information literate student accesses information efficiently and effectively.

Assessment: Explain the assessment. (Include the formal 'assessment assignment' and any forms, worksheets, etc. in the Materials Section)

The assessment of the students' work is the completed Venn Diagram. A rubric for assessment purposes is included in the Materials Section.

Other worksheets for the students are included such as:

- the Step-by-Step Guide
- the Historic Newspaper Data Collection Sheet
- the Venn Diagram

Standards Addressed: Which standards will you be addressing (but not assessing) in this lesson? Identify the content area, the standard number and any key components or benchmarks that are applicable.

Reading and Writing Standard 1: Students read and understand a variety of materials.

Reading and Writing Standard 4: Students apply thinking skills to their reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing.

Reading and Writing Standard 5: Students read to locate, select, and make use of relevant information from a variety of media, reference, and technological sources.

Time: The number of class periods required for the lesson as well as the length of class period.

To accomplish the goals of this lesson, teachers will need to allot approximately four 45 minute class sessions.

Materials / Teacher Preparation Section: List the technology, handouts, chart paper, text resources, etc. needed to complete the lesson. Include what you need to do to prepare ahead of time for your students to complete the lesson.

Handouts such as the step-by-step guide, historic newspaper data collection sheet, and Venn Diagram worksheet must be compiled for each student (even when working in pairs).

A healthy library of current newspapers is handy for making comparisons. Classroom sets of current newspapers can be ordered through the Newspapers in Education program. Teachers may also want to subscribe to the free electronic editions of the daily Rocky Mountain News or The Denver Post through the Newspapers in Education program.

A full lab with high speed connection is preferable although this lesson could be completed as a center within a classroom with computer/network access.

Large poster board and markers, as well as rulers, scissors, and pencils are required.

A ready made scoring rubric should be available for the teacher with which to assess the students.

Possible Procedures: Enumerate the procedure teachers can follow to teach the lesson to students. Provide the URL for the digital primary sources that you will use.

First class:

Instruct students in how to access and use the web site of the Collaborative Digitization Program (<http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>) . During this first class session, the teacher should use the “cheat sheet” entitled Step-by-Step Guide.

Second class:

Allow students to work together to identify 2 essential questions to guide their learning when exploring one issue of the DURANGO DEMOCRAT together online. Sample questions are: What kinds of products are advertised in the paper and how do they compare to products we use today? Are current events similar in nature to those we are familiar with in our community now?

1. While examining the DURANGO DEMOCRAT, the students need to complete the worksheet entitled Historic Newspaper Data Collection Sheet.
2. Reading the issue and completing the worksheet may take some groups as little as one class session, while other pairs of students may require 2 sessions and further assistance.

Third class:

Complete a thorough Venn Diagram in worksheet form which will then be transferred to “poster size” for a final product.

Fourth class:

Present the posters and discussion of the students’ findings.

Created by Wendy Hillmer and Erika Hupperts, Riverview Elementary School, Durango, Colorado

Student Name(s): 1. _____
2. _____

Historic Newspaper Data Collection Sheet

Fill in the basic information:

Date of Newspaper: _____

Name of Newspaper: _____

Region of Newspaper: _____

Guiding Essential Question(s):

World-wide news stories	Local news stories

Advertisements

Social/community human interest

Words that are new / different

Meanings

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Walk to 1908

1. Either type URL
<http://www.coloradohistoricnewspapers.org>
Or find the shortcut to the site on the desktop or under favorites.
2. Click on the word "*collection*". You'll find it on the tool bar going across the top of the site.
3. Click on the words "*Newspaper Collection*". You'll find them on the far left hand side of the screen at the top.
4. Click on the words "*High Speed Connection*".
5. Find LaPlata County in the far Southwest corner of the state of Colorado. Click on our county.
6. Using the tabs on the top of the page, select "*Browse Region*".
7. Using the downward arrow on line 1, select "Durango Democrat".
8. On line 2 enter the year 1908 and whichever month you choose.

9. On line 3 you need to click on a date that is highlighted. And then wait while your newspaper is loaded onto the computer.

10. To view the newspaper, you'll need to utilize the "drag bar" on the bottom of the page since the entire paper will not be visible at one time. To turn the pages of the newspaper use the tool bar at the top of the page. To view an article more closely, simply click on it and wait for the computer to load it. Close it when through in order to continue analyzing your issue.

Additional Notes

- Be sure to use the tabs on the top of the page NOT back and forward commands.
- This is only one method of utilizing the web site. Once you have tried this, you can explore the other search options.

A Comparison between newspapers written over 100 years ago (CHNC) and now...
 VENN Diagram Rubric
 A Student's Assessment

	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Comparison	Skillfully identifies more than 6 similarities between the newspapers	Skillfully identifies more than 4 similarities	Not able to demonstrate knowledge by comparing two separate newspapers
Contrast	Skillfully identifies more than 10 differences between the newspapers	Skillfully identifies more than 6 differences	Not able to demonstrate knowledge by contrasting two separate newspapers
Defining ideas completely	Able to articulate ideas with specificity	Uses some detail to explain ideas	Not able to articulate ideas clearly
Spelling	Every work is spelled perfectly.	1-5 errors	More than 5 errors
Cooperative effort	My partner would choose to work with me in the future.	My partner would work with me if assigned, knowing I would help get the job done well.	My partner would not enjoy having to work with me again.