Children Then and Now
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OVERVIEW

Groups of three students will create a story about children who lived in the 20th Century.

STANDARDS

• History Standard 3.1: Students know how various societies were affected by contacts and exchanges among diverse people.

• Reading and Writing Standard 2: Students will generate topics and develop ideas for a variety of writing and speaking purposes.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this activity, students will be able to:
• Recognize and write a beginning, middle and end to a story.
• Write about ethnic groups in the 20th Century.
• Write about the conditions that the various children encountered.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

• What are the living conditions of the various children?
• Are the children in the pictures from the same ethnic background?
• What kinds of activities did children do in the 20th Century?
• What similarities and differences can you make about your childhood and the children from the 20th Century?

MATERIALS

• Children photos 1-6 in 20th Century topic on the Doing History CD-ROM disk or internet site
• Paper
• Pencils
PROCEDURE

1. Put the students into groups of three. The students decide who is a 1, 2, or 3.

2. Have each group select a photo from the Children category. They study the picture and information included about the picture.

3. Using this information, the number 1 student begins to write an introduction to a story about the children the group selected. After the introduction is completed, the number 2 student writes the middle to the story. Finally, the number 3 student writes the end to the story.

4. Read the stories aloud in a class discussion and discuss how accurate/inaccurate that each group of children was depicted. Focus on the inquiry questions for this discussion.

ASSESSMENT

During the class discussion have an informal assessment where students give praises and suggestions for the stories. Have them focus on:

- Accuracy/inaccuracy of the stories
- Whether or not the stories have a cohesive beginning, middle, and end.