MAIN STREET

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OVERVIEW

Students will evaluate the function of a town’s main street and the purposes of towns.

STANDARDS

- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- History Standard 4. Students understand how science, technology, and economic activity have developed, changed, and affected societies throughout history.
- Geography Standard 4: Students understand how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape patterns of human populations, interdependence, cooperation, and conflict.

OBJECTIVES

- Students will research and record data.
- Students will identify characteristics of main streets.
- Students will draw conclusions about the services that towns provide.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- Who lives in this town?
- What businesses are there?
- How do you get your needs met there?
- What kind of roads/sidewalks do you see?
- What are the people doing?
- What transportation do you see?
PROCEDURE

1. In order for students to draw conclusions about the function of main streets and the purposes of towns, they need to evaluate the following primary sources found on the Doing History CD-ROM and/or the Internet website.
   - Photos: Click on Market and Supply Towns
   - Printed Sources: See “Farm and Market Towns” documents.

2. Below are two different ways of organizing your students so they can access the primary sources on the CD-ROM and/or Internet website. This choice is largely dependent on the number of computers available.
   a. Print the photographs and primary source documents listed above and give a complete set to each team of students.
   b. Independent student research can occur within a lab situation in which each student has access to a CD-ROM and/or the Internet website.

3. Each group of students needs to investigate the complete packet of primary sources and photographs listed above and answer the inquiry questions. Each team member needs to take his/her own notes.

4. After examining the evidence, have the students complete a Venn Diagram comparing a main street in their town to the main street they have been observing.

   My Town               Old Town