

YOUR CITY: THEN AND NOW

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OVERVIEW

This activity will have students compare past and present-day photographs of historical buildings in your city.

STANDARDS

- History Standard 2: Students know how to use the processes and resources of historical inquiry.
- History Standard 3: Students understand that societies are diverse and have changed over time.
- Geography Standard 4: Students understand how economic, political, cultural, and social processes interact to shape patterns of human populations, interdependence, cooperation, and conflict.

OBJECTIVES

After completing this activity, students will be able to:

- Locate historical photographs of their city.
- Identify buildings in historical photographs that still exist.
- Make sketches or take photographs of historic buildings
- Explain how the preservation of historical photographs contributes to our understanding of the communities in which we live.

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

How has your city's "landscape" changed over time?

Where can you find historical photographs that show how your city used to look?

Which buildings in your community that were photographed in the 1880s or 1890s still exist?

How can you help preserve historic buildings?

PROCEDURE

1. Obtain a (digital) camera and prints of historical scenes in your city or town.
2. Make arrangements with your local historical society, public library or other repository of historical photographs for a field trip for your students. Or order prints of historical photographs from such institutions to show in class. Select street scenes that include buildings that still exist.
3. Provide the necessary background information about the photographs being studied. You may want to invite a local historian to class for the students to interview.
4. Take your students on a field trip to the area depicted in the photos so that they can photograph and take notes about the present-day site.
5. Have the students write several small paragraphs comparing the historical photos to their present-day photos. What has changed? What has remained the same?
6. Save the set of photos by making a classroom archive on your computer. If you did not use a digital camera to take the present-day photographs, you may scan them and the historical prints into the computer.