# The Classroom – Then and Now

## Lesson Overview

### Overview:
This lesson will explore pictures of school classrooms today and in 1900. Students will point out similarities and differences between modern and olden day classrooms. Each student will determine what he/she would miss most if attending school in 1900 and explain why he/she would miss it.

### Grade Range:
PreK-2

### Objective:
After completing the lessons in this unit, students will be able to:
- Study images to compare and contrast classrooms from two time periods.
- Identify and share what he/she would miss if attending school in 1900 and explain why he/she would miss it.

### Time Required:
One class period of 45 minutes

### Discipline/Subject:
Reading/Social Studies

### Topic/Subject:
Culture, Folklife

### Era:
Rise of Industrial America, 1876-1900

## Standards

### Illinois Learning Standards:
- Common Core Standards:
- English Language Arts Standards:
  - Reading: Informational Text: Grade 1
  - RI.1.9. Identify basic similarities in and differences between two texts on the same topic (e.g., in illustrations, descriptions, or procedures).

## Materials

### Handouts:
I Would Miss Worksheet, LOC item, Photograph of classroom

### Analysis Tools:
Photo Comparison one copy for teacher-direction worksheet

### Other:
Art supplies

### Library of Congress Items:
- **Title of Source:** Grade school children posed in classroom, with teacher standing in back of room, Washington, D.C.
- **Creator of Source:** Johnston, Frances Benjamin
- **Date of Creation:** 1899?
- **URL of Source:** http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/96525653/
### Procedures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Step #</th>
<th>Resource or Material Used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Students will study the structure of the classroom environment by comparing and contrasting two photos (one classroom from 1900 and our current classroom) while the teacher provides guided questions.</td>
<td>Classroom photograph LOC Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a. Show a picture of the current classroom on a screen in front of the class. Ask what the picture is.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Show the picture of the 1900 classroom. Ask what the students see. Explain that this picture was taken a very long time ago.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Explain that we are going to look at how classrooms have changed over time and how they have stayed the same.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Give each student a printed version of the images.</td>
<td>LOC Item</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Read the directions and lead discussion to compare and contrast the images.</td>
<td>Analysis Form</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. After completing the guided research, discuss what is happening in each picture. Ask students to look at the images and think about what is different and missing from the 1900 classroom that we have today.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. On the provided sheet, ask students to draw a picture of what they would miss the most if they attended school in 1900.</td>
<td>Handout: What I would Miss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. When finished drawing, students will dictate to the teacher the name of the item and why they would miss that item. For example, a student might say they would miss having a computer because they like to practice their spelling words on <a href="http://www.spellingcity.com">www.spellingcity.com</a>.</td>
<td>Handout: What I would Miss</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Evaluation

Students will be evaluated through observation during the compare/contrast of the classrooms, drawing and awareness of classroom environments.

### Extension

In order to further develop the students’ understanding of classroom life in 1900, the teacher can have a “Day in the Life of a Classroom in 1900.” Girls will be asked to wear dresses and boys will be asked to wear overalls or suspenders. To begin the day, the teacher will read excerpts of A One Room School by Bobbie Kalman so students can further understand what life in the classroom in 1900 was like. No technology will be used that day. A snack of biscuits and molasses will be served. Games played during recess will include marbles and leap frog. Students will also be asked to draw a picture of what a classroom might look like 100 years from now.

**Author Credits:**
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In the 1900 classroom I would miss

__________________________________________.

I would miss ______________________ because

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________.
PHOTO COMPARISON

The teacher shows both images on a large screen and provides students with printed versions. The teacher then reads the directions below and leads the following discussion question with the whole class.

In each picture...

1. Draw a red circle around the flag. Why do we have flags in classrooms?

2. Draw a blue square around the teacher. Why do we have teachers in classrooms?

3. Draw a blue square around the computer. Why do we have computers in classrooms?

4. Draw a blue square around the chalkboard. Why do we have chalkboards in classrooms?

5. Draw a blue square around the reading center. Why do we have reading centers in classrooms?

6. Draw a blue square around the mailboxes. Why do we have mailboxes in classrooms?

7. What else do you see that you recognize?