



“Life 100 Years Ago” – Lower Elementary Virtual History Program

Grade Level: 1st, 2nd

Time of Year: Fall, Spring

Length: 1 Class Period

Location: Classroom

TEKS Connections: §113.12. Social Studies, Grade 1, B 1-2, 6-9, 14-17.

§113.13. Social Studies, Grade 2, B 1-2, 4-7, 13-16.

§110.3. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 1, B 1, 3, 7, 13.

§110.4. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 2, B 1, 3, 7, 13.

§112.12. Science, Grade 1, B 9-10.

§112.13. Science, Grade 2, B 9-10.

§115.3. Health Education, Grade 1, B 1, 2.

§115.4. Health Education, Grade 2, B 1, 2.

Required Resources: Equipment to show students an online lecture video, worksheets printed from The W.H. Stark House’s website, and supplies for the hands-on activity.

Overview:

“Life 100 Years Ago” is designed as an interactive, in-class history program for elementary school students. It covers Roaring 20’s culture and economy, mechanization and technological development in the early 20th century, and changes to the US government through the 18th and 19th amendments. It consists of an 8-minute illustrated video, narrated by W.H. Stark House historians, Joshua Cole and Hannah Danielson, along with 1920s Paper Dolls Coloring Sheets. Students will also learn about and play with period toys.

Summary of Content:

1. Compare and contrast kid’s lives in the 1920’s and kid’s lives in the 2020’s.
2. Review the general history of the 1920’s in the United States and what made the “Roaring 20’s” so important, emphasizing the development of technology, culture, and government.
3. Consider the perspective of kids living the 1920’s and how new experiences changed their lives over the decade.
4. Using paper dolls, students will have fun learning about the clothes and fashion of the 1920’s. Paper dolls were a popular and affordable toy for children. Fashion magazines and companies would sometimes use them to show off the latest trends.
5. Have fun learning how to play with period toys.

Materials Needed:

- 1920’s Paper Dolls Coloring Sheet for each student.

- Wooden top for each student.
- Class toys (mix of sets of Pick Up Sticks and Jacks) for shared use between students.
- “Let’s Play Vintage Games” Instruction Sheet for class.

Procedures:

8 minutes

Watch the “Life 100 Years Ago” Video

- To access the video, go to <https://whstarkhouse.org>.
- Locate the drop down “Learn” tab on the top right corner of the page.
- Select “Virtual History” – “Elementary” - Scroll down to “Video.”

5 - 10 minutes

Discuss the Video

- How was life different in the 1920’s and how was it the same as today?
- What was the most interesting thing you learned about the 1920’s?
- What do you think life will be like in another 100 years? What will be the same and what will be different?

10-15 minutes

Paper Doll Play

- Hand out the 1920’s Paper Dolls Coloring Sheets.
- Have the students color the paper dolls and discuss the styles of clothing.
- Cut out the dolls out and play. Depending on the age and ability of the student, you may need to assist them with this or do it for them. Use tape for extra security when “dressing” the doll.
- How are these clothes similar to the ones we have to day and how are they different?

15-20 minutes

Game Time

- Play the games with your students (some games work better when played with at least 2 people).
- Use the “Let’s Play Vintage Games Worksheet” for guidance and game rules.