



“Life 100 Years Ago” - Upper Elementary Virtual History Program

Grade Level: 3rd, 4th, 5th

Time of Year: Fall, Spring

Length: 1 Class Period

Location: Classroom

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 a “1920s - Money Matters” activity sheet and 1920’s Job Profiles. 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. Use job profiles of typical occupations from the 1920’s and historic price lists to complete a mathematical worksheet and learn about money management.
5. Have fun learning how to play with period toys.

Materials Needed:

- Job Profile for each student (multiple profiles are included, students should pick one as their primary worksheet and use the others for reference).
- Copy of “1920s – Money Matters” worksheet for each student.
- Wooden top for each student.
- Class toys (mix of sets of Pick Up Sticks and Jacks) for shared use between students.
- Copy of “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?

10-20 minutes **“1920’s – Money Matters” Exercise and Discussion**

- Pass out the “1920s - Money Matters” worksheet and Job Profiles.
- Read through the Job Profiles with the students. Discuss what it would be like to do those jobs and how different or similar they are to the jobs of people they know today.
- The “1920s – Money Matters” worksheet is a math exercise using historic prices. Have students pick one Job Profile to use to answer the questions on the worksheet.
- Using other profiles as a comparison, have students consider how different jobs and earned salaries affect what they can afford.
- What do the Job Profiles say about how people’s work was valued in the 1920’s? Do we place similar value on these jobs today?

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 rules.

TEKS Connections:

§113.14. Social Studies, Grade 3, B 1-3, 5-6, 8, 13-14.

§113.15. Social Studies, Grade 4, B 5, 7-8, 10-11, 13, 18.

§113.16. Social Studies, Grade 5, B 5, 7-8, 11-12, 20, 22.

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

§110.6. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 4, B 1, 3, 7, 13.

§110.7. English Language Arts and Reading, Grade 5, B 1, 3, 7, 13.

§112.14. Science, Grade 3, B 9-10.

§115.5. Health Education, Grade 3, B 1-3.

§115.6. Health Education, Grade 4, B 1, 5.

§115.6. Health Education, Grade 5, B 4.