



1st Grade

Unit 1: Explore My School

Essential Question #1: How are things both similar and different at school?

Lesson Title: Changes at School

SS Standard I, Objective 1

Implementation Time: 45 minutes

Media Resources Needed: *My Great-Aunt Arizona* by Gloria Houston

Resources Needed: Old photos of school building and staff (if applicable and available); guest speaker

Materials Needed:

Chart paper

Markers

Blank drawing paper (1 per student)

Procedure:

1. Discuss the classrooms schedule with the students. Record on chart paper/white board the time school begins, time for reading, recess, lunch, etc.
2. Explain to students that schools are very important places and parts of a community. Schools are places where children and adults from different families and neighborhoods come together with a common purpose. Help students make predictions about changes within the school; i.e. schedule changes, progress through the grades, students moving in and out, teachers and principals change, etc.
3. If available, project photos of the school building and staff that illustrate change over time.
4. Ask students if they think schools have changed since their grandparents went to school. Tell them to be thinking about the differences as you read them a story.



5. Read *My Great-Aunt Arizona* to the class and discuss.
6. Instruct students that they are going to compare and contrast a school long ago with our school. Make a large T-chart on the paper or on the white board. Look again at the schoolroom in the book and ask students to tell you what differences they observe. Have students name what is being used by the students in the story while you list them on the T-chart. On the other side of the T-chart, list what we use at school today.
7. Draw an example of a Venn diagram for students to copy on to a blank piece of drawing paper. Label one circle “School Long Ago” and the other circle “School Today.” The circles should overlap in the middle where students can write one or two things that both have in common; i.e. teachers, students. Have students copy 3-4 words from each column of the T-chart to complete their Venn diagram.

Assessment:

Discuss the compare/contrast graphic organizer pointing out the similarities and differences of a school long ago and their school today. Discuss how technology has changed (even since you were in elementary school).

Extension:

Invite a grandparent or great-grandparent to come to class and talk about what school was like for them when they were young.