



## Compare and Contrast: District Schoolhouse

Subject: History, Social Studies

Time: 45 minutes

Grades: 3-5

Standards:

- MA SS.3.T5.3: Using visual primary resources such as paintings, artifacts, historic buildings, or text sources, analyze details of daily life, housing, education, and work of the Puritan men, women, and children of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- MA SS3.RI3: Demonstrate the relationship between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, mathematical ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text, using language pertaining to time, sequence, or cause/effect.
- MA SS4.RI7: Interpret information presented visually, orally, or quantitatively (e.g., in charts, graphs, diagrams, timelines, animations, or interactive elements on webpages) and explain how the information contributes to an understanding of the text in which it appears.
- MA SS4.RI10: Independently and proficiently read and comprehend informational text, including history/social studies, science, mathematical, and technical texts, exhibiting complexity appropriate for at least grade 4.
- MA SS4.W.2: Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly.
- MA SS4.W.8: Recall relevant information from experience or gather relevant information from print and digital sources; take notes and categorize information, and provide a list of sources.
- MA SS5.RI.3: Explain the relationships or interactions between two or more individuals, events, ideas, or concepts in a historical, scientific, mathematical, or technical text based on specific information in the text.
- MA SS5.W.7-9: Research to Build and Present Knowledge



## Background

Using OSV's 3D tour, students will examine the district schoolhouse in partners. Partners will then discuss partners the similarities and differences between their own classroom and the district schoolhouse. The students will put their observations into a Venn diagram.

The purpose of this lesson is to get students to explore the life of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century student. Students will then share their observations on three sticky notes that they will put on the board and defend to the rest of the class verbally.

## Lesson Objectives

- By the end of the lesson, students will be able to name at least five similarities and differences between their modern-day classroom and a 19<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouse.
- Through careful observation of the district schoolhouse, students will be able to identify and define at least one artifact that was previously unfamiliar to them.

## List of Materials and Resources

- Computer
- Writing utensil
- Paper
- Sticky notes (3 per group)
- 3D tour: <https://www.osv.org/education/3d/>

## Key Terms and Vocabulary

- Venn diagram
- Curriculum
- Schoolkeeper
- Artifact

## Procedure

### *Before the Lesson:*

- Draw an example of a large Venn Diagram on the board.
- Print out copies of the Venn diagram for each student.
- Prepare the sticky notes for each group.

### *Opening to Lesson:*

- Explain to the students that they will be using a 3D tour of a 19<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouse in order to learn more about what life was like for students in the early 1800s.
- Working in partners, they will explore the District Schoolhouse.

- They will use their Venn diagram to compare and contrast the 19<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouse and their own modern-day classroom, as well as other information like who attended school and what students learned.
- Using the Venn diagram example on the board, model how to use a Venn diagram to note similarities and differences.
- Break the students into partners or small groups. Students can also work individually, especially if remote.
- Pass out or provide students with Venn diagram template.

#### *Body of Lesson:*

- Direct students to the 3D tours page on the OSV website. They will be exploring the District Schoolhouse.
- Give the students at least 15 minutes to explore the schoolhouse. They should fully explore the building and click through all of the pins and videos.
- Use the Venn diagram to note similarities and differences between the 19<sup>th</sup>-century classroom and their classroom today.
- The students should write down least five observations in their Venn diagram.
- Questions to consider:
  - What were teachers like in the 1830s?
  - What did kids study? How does that compare to what we study today in school?
  - When did students attend school?
  - Did all students have equal access to an education?
  - What is this classroom missing that your classroom has?
- After they observe the 3D tour, pass out three sticky notes to each group.
  - On one sticky note, write a similarity that the group came up with.
  - On one sticky note, write an observation about your modern school.
  - On one sticky note, write an observation about the 19<sup>th</sup>-century school.

#### **Lesson Wrap-Up**

- Each group will present their three sticky notes to the class and place on the large Venn diagram at the front of the classroom. This will serve as a way of checking students' knowledge.
- Ask:
  - Are there any observations we did not add to our Venn diagram? *Help the students to fill in the diagram with additional information.*
  - What surprised you the most about school in the 1800s?
  - Is there anything else you wish you knew about school in the 1800s?
  - Do you think you would like to be a student in the 19<sup>th</sup>-century? Why or why not?
  - What artifact did you see in the schoolhouse and was unfamiliar to you? What was it used for?

## Modifications for Remote Learners

- Utilize the **Venn diagram template** for remote learners. Students can either print out this template for use at home or draw their own Venn diagram to complete.
- Remote learners can either explore the tour of the District School on their own or in breakout sessions with partners or small groups.
- *Synchronous: Discussion and wrap-up together as a class:*
  - As a class, discuss the similarities and differences between the 19<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouse and their modern-day classrooms.
  - Compile a Venn diagram as a class, or make a simple similarities and differences chart.
- *Asynchronous: Wrap-up individually, remotely:*
  - Individually or in their breakout groups, students can fill out the **District Schoolhouse Compare and Contrast worksheet** to record their thoughts about the 19<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouse.

## Extension Activities

- **Compare and Contrast:** School in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was very different from school in 17<sup>th</sup>- and 18<sup>th</sup>-century New England. Use what you have learned about OSV's 19<sup>th</sup>-century school to compare to education in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
- **19<sup>th</sup>-Century School Lesson:** Role-play a 19<sup>th</sup>-century school lesson with your students. Rehearse how to "make your manners" with students, which means bowing for boys and curtsying for girls. School in the 1800s meant memorizing and then reciting lessons for the schoolkeeper. Call small groups of students up to the front of the room to spell, recite short poems, or do math. Before and after each response, students should make their manners for the teacher. If you would like to demonstrate some 19<sup>th</sup>-century-style school punishments, a student can demonstrate one of the lighter punishments, such as standing on one leg in front of the class, switching seats, or holding his or her arms out to their sides for as long as they can. After they complete the lesson, give everyone a Reward of Merit for their hard work. Ideas for period material can be found here:
  - [The North American Arithmetic](#), by Frederick Emerson
  - [The American Spelling Book](#), by Noah Webster
- **Write a Journal Entry:** After exploring the school, students will imagine what it was like to be a student at a one-room schoolhouse in the 1800s. Read some excerpts *The District School as it Was* to hear a firsthand what school was like for a 19<sup>th</sup>-century child.