

Boiling Spring Academy Virtual Fieldtrip

Video Two: School Introduction and Cardinal Directions



Photo courtesy of Donna Vissman

Boiling Spring Academy
Primm Historic Park
Brentwood, Tennessee

Presented by

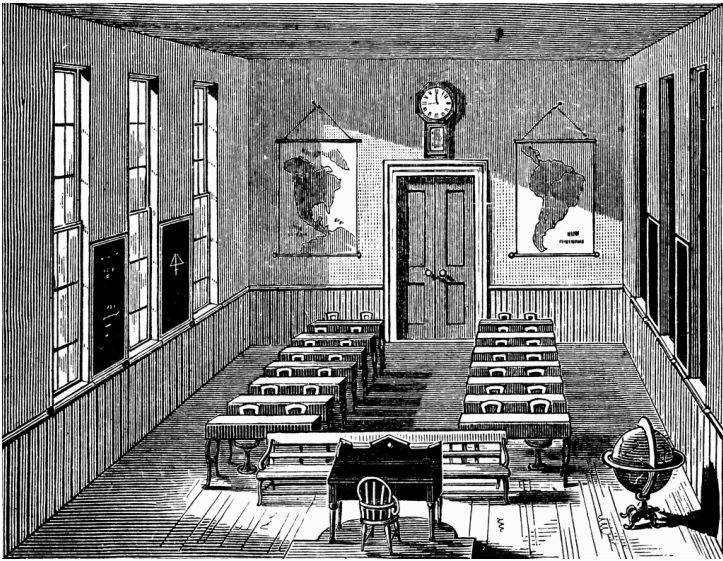


LESSON TWO -- School Introduction and Cardinal Directions

Students are encouraged to participate in the activities that are occurring in the schoolroom--

Students will be:

- Showing their cleanliness-hands up
- Going through the motions with Look (point to eyes), Listen (point to ears) & Learn (point to head)
- Stand and Sing America-words on video screen and included in this packet
- Cardinal Directions activity. Stand and face north or the teacher, follow instructions of turning. Additional directions can be added.



SCHOOL DURING THE 1800s

- During pioneer times school was not a required part of life for children.
- Students would begin their morning with chores at home. They would make their lunch before walking to school along a dusty road or a path through fields and woods.
- Once at the school, many of the children had additional chores to do at the school.
- Attendance was spotty depending on the home



needs. The school term was based around the needs of the community. The farm family needed all available hands for spring planting and fall harvest, so there often wasn't school during these times.

- A typical school day started between 8a-9am and lasted until around 4pm.
- Early schoolhouses were small and a simply furnished one room. Each schoolhouse had one teacher who was responsible for teaching a variety of subjects to all children that attended regardless of age.
- The room was heated by a single wood stove. Parents in the school district were expected to chip in to provide wood for the school, so lots of times kids might walk to school carrying a log or two.
- There was no restroom or running water in the schoolhouse. Students used the "outhouse" when they had to use the restroom.
- There wasn't any electricity back then, so light came from the windows and a few lamps. School was only taught during daylight.
- Teachers taught all kinds of subjects, but the three they focused on were the "three Rs," "readin', writin', and 'rithmetic." They don't all begin with "r," but they were important and required for almost any occupation the student would want to enter into.
- Students have been learning the same things for hundreds and hundreds of years. It might look a little bit different, but they're all learning to read, write and do math.

- Students were not grouped by age but by ability. Since all ages were in the one room and could hear other groups reciting, it was possible for younger students to move ahead and be grouped with older students
- Most lessons consisted a group of students sitting with the teacher at the recitation bench, reading or reciting orally things they had learned. Other students would be working quietly at their desk on their assignments until it was their turn to go to the recitation bench. Students were expected to memorize lots of things, standing in front of the schoolroom to recite their lessons. Older students often helped younger students who were beginning to read and write.



Typical chores for pioneer children at home

Children had daily tasks such as helping with:

- Cleaning, washing clothes and cooking
- Caring for younger sister and brothers
- Gathering eggs, milking cows, churning butter, feeding animals, cleaning the animal stalls
- Tending the fire and cutting the firewood; carrying water home from nearby creeks or rivers
- Helping in the fields and with planting and harvesting of crops



Student School Chores

1. Bring in firewood and place beside the stove
2. Empty the ashes from the wood stove
2. Go to the nearby spring and collect water for drinking and washing of hands.
3. Straighten out the benches and tables; tidy the room
4. Sweep the schoolhouse
5. Clean the blackboard and erasers
6. Set the mousetraps



One Room School Rules and Etiquette Manners First!

Once the teacher rings the small hand bell all students must be seated silently, their feet flat on the floor, backs straight in the seats, and hands folded neatly on top of their desks.

Teachers were strict in the one room school in order to keep harmony in the classroom. Dealing with misbehavior was part of the teacher's job. Rules were well known to everyone and enforcement of the rules were quick and firm.

School Rules



Here are some rules that the students would have to follow....

1. Students who break the rules can expect consequences
2. Respect and obey the teacher at all times.
3. All students will behave as young ladies and gentlemen at all times.
4. All students will assume good posture. Feet will be flat on the floor and when not working on lessons, hand folded and placed on top of the desk. Students should face forward at all times.
5. Silence is Golden! Students will not speak unless spoken too. There will be no giggling, whispering, or squirming in the desks.
6. When you wish to speak, you must raise your hand and wait to be recognized, and then stand beside your desk before speaking.
7. When speaking, complete sentences and proper language will be used at all times.
8. Gentlemen will remove their hats before entering the schoolhouse. Ladies may wear their bonnets as part of the fashion.
9. Ask for permission to go to the outhouse or leave the schoolhouse.
10. Enter and exit in a quiet manner



Punishments



Punishments took numerous forms. A rod or ruler about 18 inches long was commonly used by a teacher on students who had bad behavior and included sharp slaps with the rod. Lesser punishments included things such as:

1. Wearing a dunce cap while sitting on a high stool
2. Standing for long periods with arms outstretched palm up while holding a heavy book on that hand for a long period of time
3. Standing with one's nose inside a circle drawn on the blackboard for long period of time
4. Loss of recess
5. More after school chores
6. Writing assignments—"I shall not....." 100 times

If you have not said a kind word to someone today, or you have not done a kind deed, consider it a day lost and do better tomorrow.

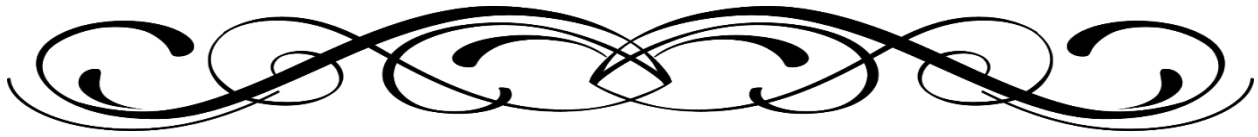


America

My country tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing.
Land where my fathers died!
Land of the Pilgrim's pride!
From every mountain side,
Let freedom ring!



(The Pledge of Allegiance was not used in the 1800s schoolhouse. The pledge was not written until 1892 and not adopted by Congress until 1942)



OPTIONAL STUDENT POST-VIDEO ACTIVITIES

Thought questions

1. When you get to school in the morning, what is already done for you? Who do you think does all of this? Do you have classroom chores like in the one-room school?
2. What is your favorite subject? Do you think it was taught in the 1800s?
3. In what ways would a one room school be better or worse?
4. What do you think a classroom will be like in 100 years?

Challenge Questions

1. The map in the Academy shows how many states made up the United States in 1830. Use a source to lookup how many States made up the United States in 1830? _____
2. How many states were west of the Mississippi River in 1830? _____
3. The 1832 map of Tennessee at the Academy has 63 counties. Is that more, less or the same as today? _____



Activities

1. Your schoolmarm showed you how to rearrange the letters in SILENT to spell a word that is important during your lessons. What was it?

SILENT

2. Answer the following questions after reading the above description of school in the 1800s:
What was a typical home job for a pioneer child?

- A. Getting water
- B. Tending the fire
- C. Milking the cow
- D. Making butter
- E. All the above

When did most pioneer children attend School?

- A. Year round
- B. Fall and Spring
- C. Winter and Summer
- D. Never

How big was a typical pioneer school?

- A. 1 room
- B. 3 Rooms
- C. Several buildings

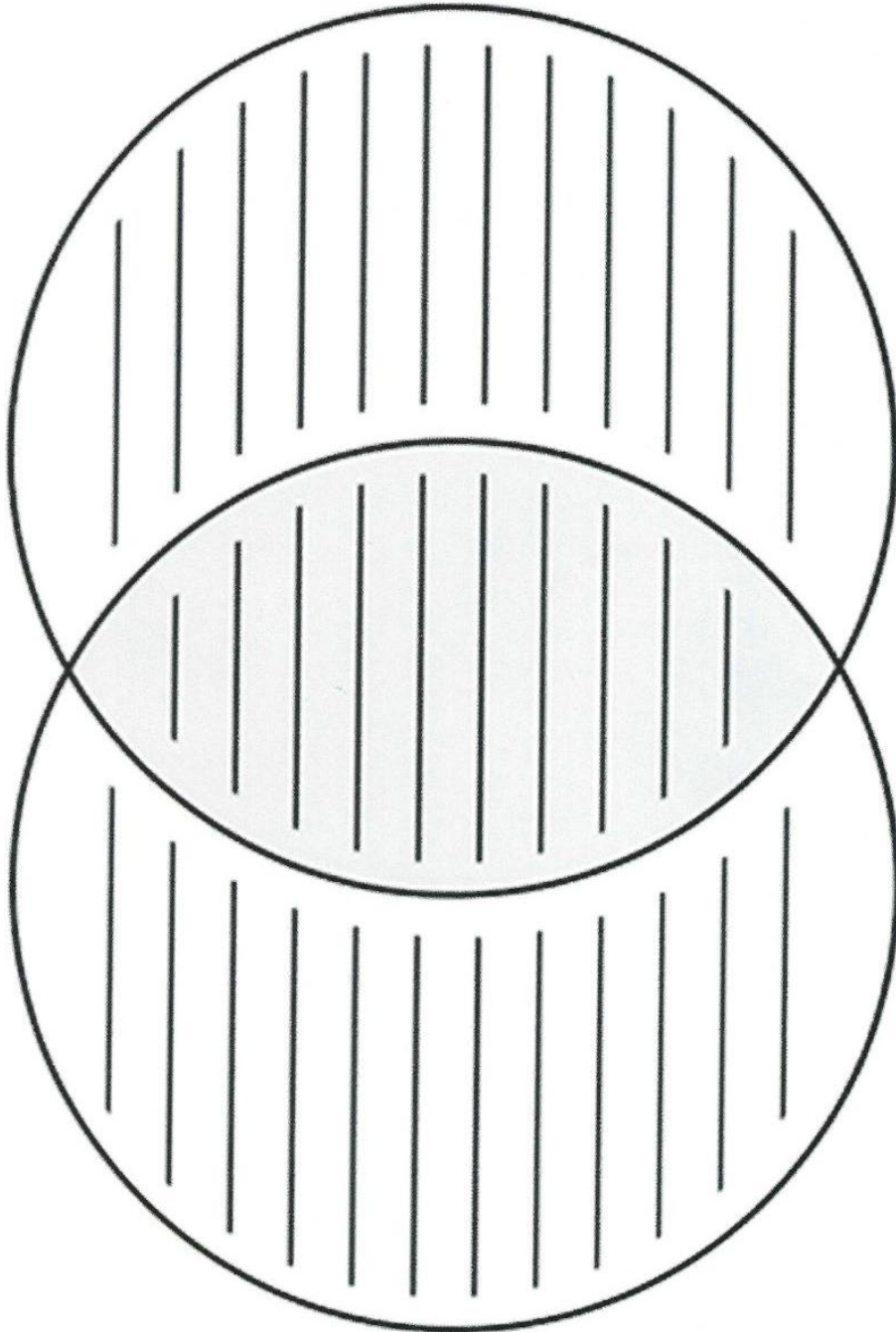
3. Compare & Contrast School in the 1800s versus School today on a **Venn Diagram**. You should include at least 3 items in each section—School Then---Now and grey area-- the same

Name _____

Now _____

Then _____

Venn Diagram



Fun at Home

At Home Chore-Hand churned Butter

The old fashion method of churning butter was performed in a tub or barrel with a tall spoon-like pole.

Required Materials

- A small jar with lid – baby food jar or mason jar will do
- Heavy or whipping cream (not light or half & half) (depending on container size about 1/4 cup)
- Salt (just a pinch for taste).

Directions:

1. Fill your glass jar $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ full with cream, you need room to shake the cream!
2. Make sure the lid of the jar is tight and shake. Making butter requires a bit of arm strength, so you might be trading off with someone.

CHECK YOUR HOMEMADE BUTTER EVERY 5 MINUTES TO SEE THE CHANGES. It may take up to 15 minutes

3. Usually after the first 5 minutes, there is no real visible change.
4. Near the 10-minute check-in mark, look for whipped cream. There's no reason you can't sneak a taste at this point just so you can see what's happening! You can even stop the process now and enjoy whipped cream on some fresh fruit and a bit of sugar.
5. Several more minutes and a ball will form surrounded by liquid. The liquid is buttermilk. This is an excellent opportunity to "talk science" -- about how a substance can change its properties from a liquid to a semi-solid, and finally to a solid plus a liquid.

Children should then drain off the water into a cup -- some adventurous children may enjoy drinking the rich buttermilk. Once the butter has solidified, rinse the butter gently under lukewarm water to remove the whey. You can also add a little salt at this point if you haven't already. The soft ball of butter is ready to spread on bread or a cracker. When done, refrigerate

KEY TO QUESTIONS

Thought questions

1. When you get to school in the morning, what is already done for you [?Lights turned on, heat or air conditioning on, the floor swept] Who do you think does all of this? [Teachers, custodians etc.]
2. What is your favorite subject? Do you think it was taught in the 1800s? Variety of answers
3. In what ways would a one room school be better or worse? Variety of answers [Possible areas to explore include being able to advance at your own pace, having brothers and sisters in your class, older children tutoring younger children, how a teacher can teach all grades all subjects, having the same teacher for years and how discipline would be different.]
4. What do you think a classroom will be like in 100 years? Variety of answers

Challenge Questions

1. The map in the Academy shows how many states made up the United States in 1830?. Use a source to lookup how many States made up the United States in 1830. 24 states
2. How many states were west of the Mississippi River? 3 Now there are 24 but in 1830 there were only 3 states- Louisiana, Arkansas and Missouri
3. The 1832 map of Tennessee at the Academy has 63 counties. Is that more or the same as today? (now 95)

Activities

1. Your schoolmarm showed you how to rearrange the letters in SILENT to spell a word that is important during your lessons. What was it?

SILENT L I S T E N

2. Answer the following questions after reading the above description of school in the 1800s:

What was a typical home job for a pioneer child?

- A. Getting water
- B. Tending the fire
- C. Milking the cow
- D. Making butter

E. All the above

When did most pioneer children attend School?

- A. Year round
- B. Fall and Spring

C. Winter and Summer

- D. Never

How big was a typical pioneer school?

A. 1 room

- B. 3 Rooms
- C. Several buildings

3. Compare & Contrast School in the 1800s versus School today on a **Venn Diagram**-Variety of Answers [Possible areas to explore that are different include: School building with multiple rooms, electricity & bathrooms; support staff such as aides, librarians, music, art & PE teachers; multiple ages in one classroom; school lunch provided; school technology; compare your school rules & discipline to the 1800s; very few books; writing tools; transportation to school. Areas that might be the same-student brings lunch from home; core subjects of reading, writing and Math; memorizing math facts; still responsible to learn.]