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# SCHOOL AS A COMMUNITY

by

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This unit, “School as a Community” is intended for Grades 2 and 3, as this is when the concept of “community” is generally presented in social studies.

The unit consists of a series of lesson plans with clearly defined goals and objectives, using the novel *Ralph S. Mouse* by Beverly Cleary as its core novel. The lesson plans are organized in steps that are easy to follow and include objectives, rationale, motivation, reading activities and suggestions for evaluating the work.

The unit also contains a comprehensive list of novels, activity sheets, peer and self evaluation sheets, and student record sheets.

Although the unit was written to be taught in eight segments of three hours, it is easily adaptable and could be extended into several weeks of study by using shorter daily time periods.

## OBJECTIVES

1. To give the students a complete understanding of the concept of “community”, by relating it to something with which they are already familiar: their school.
2. To show students that the school is a community in and of itself, with a history, a means of government, and a diverse population.
3. To heighten students’ awareness that their school is responsible for providing them with an education.
4. To show students that as a citizen of the school community they have certain rights and responsibilities.
5. To develop, in the students, a sense of pride in their school community and an appreciation of all that it provides.

**Day:** Five

**Topic:** School history

**Goals:**

- (1) The students will understand that school has changed over time.
- (2) The students will understand that their school has a history.

**Objectives:** The students will. . .

- (1) answer questions after reading a story.
- (2) devise questions to ask in an interview.
- (3) interview an older person about school.
- (4) make a Venn diagram comparing school over time.
- (5) formulate a definition for the word “history.”
- (6) make a time capsule.

**Rationale:** It is important for students to understand how school has changed over time since school is an integral part of their lives and an important part in the history of their country and the world. It is important for them to understand the history of their school since they are members of the school community.

**Review/Connection to prior lessons:** Review what the students learned the day before about the location of the school and how people get there. Ask students to close their eyes and travel back in time 100 years. Do they think people got to school the same way they do today? Do they think the school was located in the same place as it is now? Did it look the same? Why or why not? Do not confirm or correct their responses. Instead, tell them they will do some investigating on their own to find out.

**Motivation:** Give each student a press pass with a place to add their school picture and a reporter’s notebook. Tell them to pretend they are reporters for the *Cucaracha Voice* and think about what they would like to know about school.

**Pre-reading:** Review the 4W strategy with the students.

## 1872 Rules for Teachers

1. Teachers each day will fill lamps, clean chimneys.
2. Each teacher will bring a bucket of water and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.
3. Make your pens carefully. You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of the pupils.
4. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly.
5. After ten hours in school, the teacher may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books.
6. Women teachers who marry will be dismissed.
7. Every teacher should lay aside from each day's pay a goodly sum of his earnings for his benefit during his declining years so he will not become a burden on society.
8. Any teacher who smokes or gets shaved in a barber shop will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity, and honesty.
9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of 25 cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Elections approves.