



LESSON 2: Connections to the Past

How Does My Identity Shape My Experience in America?

Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?

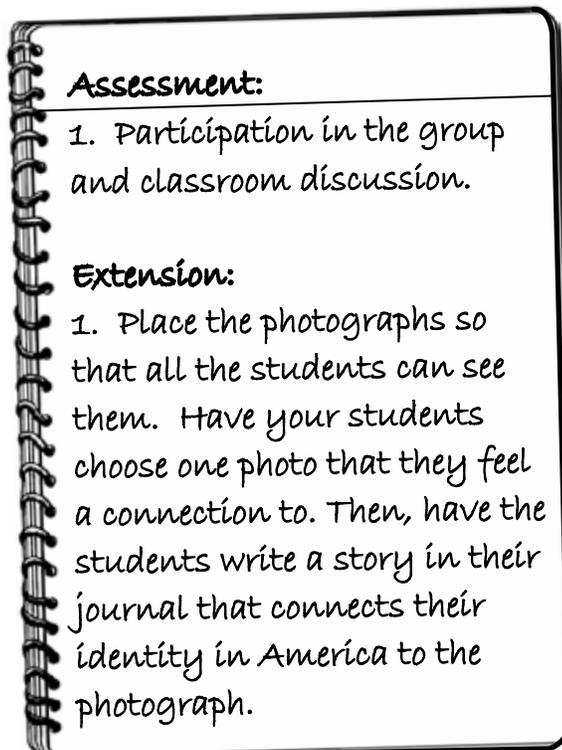
How do we connect with the past?

Objective:

Students relate to children of the 1940s.

Procedure:

- ✓ Divide the class into 7 groups.
- ✓ Distribute one of the 7 photographs (located in Lesson 2 Activity 2 Resources section) to each group.
- ✓ Ask your students the following questions and have them take notes on their responses:
 - What do these photos show us about time?*
 - How do these images represent America?*
 - What do they show about America's identity?*
 - How was life in the 1940s different from life today?*
- ✓ Share photographs on an overhead projector for group discussion.
- ✓ Have the class compare and contrast life in the 1940s and today.
- ✓ Ask your students if they would have wanted to live in the 1940s. Why or why not?



Grade Level: 4th
Time: 30 minutes
Materials:
 7 Photographs circa 1940
 Projector

Concepts Covered:

- Compare and contrast.**
- Work** cooperatively in a group.
- Explain** how the present connects to the past.
- Identify** both similarities and differences.
- Describe** how things change over time or remain the same.

CDE Standards:

- 4th Grade**
English/Language Arts:
Writing
 2.1.a 2.1.b
History/Social Science
 4.4.5



Activity 2: **What Was Life Like in the 1940s?**



*Primary class in new school, Prairie Farms, Montgomery, Alabama,
Marion Wolcott, Spring 1939*



Activity 2: **What Was Life Like in the 1940s?**



Swimming pool, Greenbelt, Maryland, Marion Wolcott, August 1939



Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?



Cajun children on Terrebonne Project, Schriever, Louisiana, Marion Wolcott, June 1940



Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?



*Skiers near Franconia, New Hampshire,
Marion Wolcott, March 1940*



Activity 2: **What Was Life Like in the 1940s?**



*Cotton carnival, Memphis, Tennessee,
Marion Wolcott, May 1940*



Activity 2: What Was Life Like in the 1940s?



First grade children and teacher, Goodman School, Coffee County, Alabama, Marion Wolcott, April 1939
