

UNIT II: THE GOLDEN AGE (1897 - 1918)

Topic: Agriculture

Lesson 14: Agricultural Education

Objective:

Students will appreciate that agricultural education was a key to an economically successful farming operation.

Materials:

Student access to *The Iowa Farmstead*, pp. 2, 3 and 10
Dictionaries

Activities:

1. Have students read the advertisements and study the illustrations on pages 2 and 3. Discussion questions: Who was encouraged to attend school? What kind of information might students learn at school? Use a dictionary to look up terms unfamiliar to students.
2. Have students read page 10. Remind students that farmers rarely purchased seed corn from a store. Farmers commonly saved good ears from the last harvest and used them for seed in the spring. Discussion question: Why was it useful to begin teaching new agricultural practice in rural classrooms? These rural school agricultural lessons were the beginnings of 4-H.
3. For more information on 4-H:
Wessel, Thomas R. *4-H, An American Idea, 1900-1980*. Chevy Chase, Maryland: National 4-H Council, 1982.
Friedel, Janice Nagra. "Jessie Field Shambaugh: The Mother of 4-H." *Palimpsest* 62 (July/August 1981) 98.
Reck, Franklin Mering. *The 4-H Story*. Chicago: National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, 1951.
Whitmore, Faye. *The Very Beginnings*. Shenandoah, Iowa: World Publishing Company, 1963.