John Jarvie
Historic Ranch:
Jarvie Ranch Store

Authored by: Amanda Scheuerman
Jarvie Ranch Store Lesson Plan

By: Amanda Scheuerman

This lesson plan is intended for grades 3-5. See the end of this lesson plan for ideas on how to adjust this material for lower or higher grades.

**SUMMARY**

John Jarvie opened his store in 1880. Upon visiting the historic site, visitors can see an 1897 Sears Roebuck Catalog. Store patrons used this catalog to order a wide variety of goods from clothing to farming equipment. In this lesson, students will become familiar with 19th century items that patrons could order from Sears. They will explore 19th-century clothing as well as tools. Students will learn about 19th-century culture and economics.
Relevant Core Standards

Utah Standards 4th Grade
- Social Studies: Standard 1; History - 2. The historical eras, groups, ideas, and themes in Colorado history and their relationships to key events in the United States.

Colorado Standards 4th Grade
- Social Studies: Utah Studies; Standard I - Students will understand the relationship between physical geography and human life in Utah.
- Social Studies: Utah Studies; Standard II - Students will understand how Utah’s history has been shaped by many diverse people, events, and ideas.

Wyoming Standards 4th Grade
- Social Studies: Content Standard 2; Culture and Cultural Diversity - Students demonstrate an understanding of the contributions and impacts of human interaction and cultural diversity on societies.
- Social Studies: Content Standard 3; Production, Distribution; and Consumption - Students describe the influence of economic factors on societies and make decisions based on economic principles.
- Social Studies: Content Standard 4; Time, Continuity, and Change - Students analyze events, people, problems, and ideas within their historical contexts.
- Social Studies: Content Standard 5; People, Places, and Environments - Students apply their knowledge of the geographical themes (location, place, movement, region, and human/environment interactions) and skills to demonstrate an understanding of the interrelationships among people, places, and environment.
Background for Teachers

In 1880, John Jarvie, and his wife Nellie, opened the only store within 70 miles in Brown’s Park. While the store and their log house was being built on the north side of the Green River, the Jarvie’s lived in a dugout made of two rooms. After the store was built, it became the center of social and economic life in the region. The store provided much needed goods to the people that lived there and to the new settlers.

Background for Students

Prior to beginning this lesson, students should learn that rural communities traveled to local stores where they could order goods from as far away as Chicago.

Lesson Plan

Procedure

Part One
- Sears Clothing: Students will have the opportunity to explore a cultural artifact and make inferences about period clothing on the frontier.

Part Two
- Farming Equipment: Students will design their own frontier clothing based on examples found in the 1897 Sears and Roebuck Catalog.
Activity: Sears Roebuck Clothing

- Print or display on a projector the Sears and Roebuck Catalog pages attached to this lesson. Start with the pages specifically related to clothing and shoes.

- Explain that the Sears and Roebuck Catalog is a special artifact that can be found at the Jarvie Ranch store. Share with the students the procedures for ordering items from the catalog.
  - Patrons would enter the Jarvie Store, peruse the catalog, and then place orders with the proprietor. The proprietor would then send the order to Sears headquarters in Chicago. After the order was placed, Sears would ship the order via the Post Office. For large orders, Sears sent the items via freight train to the store. Upon arrival, the patron could return to the Jarvie Store to retrieve their purchases.

- Place the students in groups of 4-5.

- Have each group examine the Sears catalog pages paying special attention to the style of clothing that men, women, and children wore.

- Give each student paper and crayons (or colored pencils).

- Instruct the student to design their own 1897 period clothing using the Sears catalog as a guide. This could be done with a focus on frontier clothing or day-to-day clothing.

Questions

- What sorts of clothes did people wear in 1897?

- What types of clothes did cowboys wear?

- Why would clothes on the frontier differ from city clothes at the time?

- How did customers place an order with Sears?

- What is an artifact? (an item from the past that was created by a human and has historical or pre-historical significance)

- Why is the Sears Roebuck catalog considered an artifact?
Extension to Grades 7-12

Mapping Activity:

Materials: Union Pacific Railway Rand McNally Map (Next Two Pages), Paper, Pencil

Group Size: Individual

At John Jarvie Historic Property visitors can explore a reconstruction of the John Jarvie store. While there, they may come across the 1897 Sears Catalog. Settlers in Brown’s Park would visit the Jarvie Store, search the catalog, and place an order. John Jarvie sent off these orders to Chicago, Illinois and then waited for their shipment. Once they arrived, patrons would return to pick up their orders. These orders were often sent via the post office. Larger orders were sent on the railway.

In this activity, students will individually create a railway that goes from Chicago, Illinois to Browns’ Park, Utah. Explain to the students that the railroads served as a primary means of transportation and helped to grow the economy. John Jarvie’s store was connected to the large network of transportation, even though Brown’s Park seemed to be an isolated region.

Give each student a copy of the 1897 United States Map. This map has major landmarks and cities displayed. Instruct the students to draw a route from Chicago, Illinois to Brown’s Park, Utah. They are to consider the riverways and mountain ranges and how a train might cross such barriers. (20 minutes)

After each student has had a chance to draw their railroad map from Chicago to Brown’s Park, compare the maps to the Union Pacific Railway and Rand McNally 1897 Map. The map illustrates the actual railways and networks that connected the nation. Commerce ran along these railways. Explain to the students that although Brown’s Park seemed isolated, the settlers of the region were connected to Jarvie’s store which accessed a system of networks that connected the United States.
Rand McNally and Company and Union Pacific Railway Company, *New Map of the Union Pacific Railway, the short, quick, and safe line to all points West*
Activity: Sears Roebuck Catalog Ordering

Group size: Individual

Materials: attached Sears Catalog images, paper, pencil

Explain to the students that people could order from the Sears Catalog in 1897 from Jarvie’s store and have items shipped to them. The clothing situation on the frontier was much different than in the cities. Instruct the students to review the attached Sears Catalog pages. Many items listed in these pages would have been ordered by people living on the frontier.

Direct students to place a mock order for life in Brown’s Park. They should look through the Sears Catalog pages to decide which items would be necessary on the frontier. After they have decided which clothes to order, on a piece of paper have the students describe what they purchased and why they decided it was necessary for life on the frontier. This can be done in an essay format.
Jarvie Ranch Visit Extension

This lesson relates directly to a visit to Jarvie Ranch. Upon entering the Jarvie Store, students can browse through the Sears catalog. In addition, they can observe fabrics that were available at the time. In 1897, a patron could enter the store, pick out a suit design, and then choose which fabric they wanted the suit to have.

On Jarvie Ranch there are several farming instruments. Students will have the opportunity to compare the farming implements to those identified in the Sears catalog (see attached documents). They can then determine if it is possible that Jarvie ordered his farming equipment via the catalog. They can compare and contrast the equipment on Jarvie Ranch with those in the Sears catalog. They will learn how the tools were used and why such tools were needed.

While visiting Jarvie Ranch, students can discuss how items ordered from the Sears catalog got to Jarvie Ranch. Note that by 1897, the Transcontinental Railroad was completed.


Rand McNally and Company and Union Pacific Railway Company. New Map of the Union Pacific Railway, the short, quick and safe line to all points West. (Chicago: 1883). Retrieved from Library of Congress at https://loc.gov/resource/g3701p.rr005950/?r=0.345,0.21,0.517,0.223,0 on March 19, 2020.