

Women's Clothing on the Trail

Essential Curriculum Objectives:

- Grade 2 (SS): Culture and Diversity: Clothing
- Grade 4 (SS): Trails/Immigrants
- Grade 10 (SS): Social Changes
- All (LA): Compare & Contrast

Goal:

- To compare and contrast the functionality, purpose, and social context of women's clothing during the late 1800s with clothing of the present.

Teachers Instruction:

- Organize the students into groups and have them brain storm answers:
 - *List the names of the clothes you wear.*
 - *What clothes are only worn by men or women?*
 - *Why do you wear these clothes? (Give examples for different weather or activities, i.e. I wear a hat in winter to keep warm; or I wear a bathing suit when I go swimming.)*
- Discuss as a class the findings of the different groups. Return to groups, show the visual of women's clothing in the 1800s and discuss:
 - *List the different layers of women's clothing in the 1800s.*
 - *What is the purpose for each layer?*
 - *List how the clothing may help or hinder activities.*
 - The under sleeves help protect the fabric of the dress.
 - Skirts hinder women from running quickly.
- Discuss once more the findings of the groups. Further the discussion by introducing a comparison between the clothes women wear today with the clothes women wore during the 1800s. How has social fashion changed/ stayed the same? Have the class brainstorm reasons women's clothing has evolved to include clothing worn only by men in the 1800s.
- Further comparisons may be made with a writing assignment.