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STUDENT MATERIALS

Children's Lives: Comparing Long Ago to Today

LESSON PLAN FOR SUPPORTING QUESTION

How has play changed over time?



KINDERGARTEN

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Children Waiting for the Train, June 30, 1893

PART 1



This 1893 photograph shows a boy and girl at a train station. The boy sits on a bench wearing a large cape, holding a walking stick, while the girl sits on a small trunk and holds a doll and parasol. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Gatch, W.M., "Waiting for the train," 30 June 1893*



Analyze an Image

Who?	
What?	
When?	
Where?	
Why?	
Questions I have...	

Name _____



T-Chart

Life Long Ago	Life Today

Portrait of Two Young Girls with Doll in Baby Buggy, 1890

PART 2



The portrait is of two young girls with doll, covered by a blanket, laying in their baby buggy. The photograph was taken in Shenandoah, Iowa, in 1890. *Courtesy of State Historical Society of Iowa, W.H. Brewer, Shenandoah, 1890*



This photograph was taken in 1903 and shows two children playing in Tennessee. One of the children is being pulled in a cart by a dog. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "In Sunny Tennessee," ca. 1903*

Children in Beijing, China, Play "Blind Man's Bluff," ca. 1924

PART 2



In this photo, taken in Beijing, China, the children are playing "blind man's bluff" which is like the game of tag. In blind man's bluff, the child who is "it" is blindfolded and has to find and tag the other players. Once a player is tagged as it, they have to put on the blindfold. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, "Chinese Children at Play (Blind Man's Bluff)," Keystone View Company, ca. 1924*

Children Playing with Boats in Grundy Center, Iowa, April 1940

PART 2



The image shows three children from Grundy Center, Iowa, playing outside with toy boats. The 1940 photograph was taken by John Vachon, an employee of the Farm Security Administration, who was employed to publicize the conditions of the rural poor in America. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Vachon, John, "Children playing with boats, Grundy Center, Iowa," April 1940*

Children Play “Ring Around the Rosie” in Chicago, Illinois, April 1941

PART 2



The children in this photo live in Chicago, Illinois. They are playing “ring around the rosie” on the sidewalk. The ring around the rosie game involves children forming a ring and dancing in a circle around a person. When they say the final line everyone stoops or curtsies. The slowest child to do so becomes the “rosie” and takes their place in the center of the ring. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Roskam, Edwin, “Children playing ‘ring around a rosie’ in one of the better neighborhoods of the Black Belt, Chicago, Illinois,” April 1941*

Yaeko Nakamura and Family Buy Toys from Fred Moriguchi at Manzanar Relocation Center, 1943

PART 2



This image shows Yaeko Nakamura looking at puzzles with her daughters, Louise Tami and Joyce Yuki Nakamura in a store within the Manzanar Relocation Center in 1943. They are being assisted by the store clerk, Fred Moriguchi. The Manzanar Relocation Center was one of 10 American camps where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II from December 1942 to 1945. *Courtesy of Library of Congress, Adams, Ansel, "Mrs. Yaeko Nakamura and family buying toys with Fred Moriguchi, Manzanar Relocation Center," 1943*

Name _____



Children's Play Today & Long Ago

Draw what you like to play	Draw what kids liked to play long ago

Games

by Katharyn Bine Brosseau

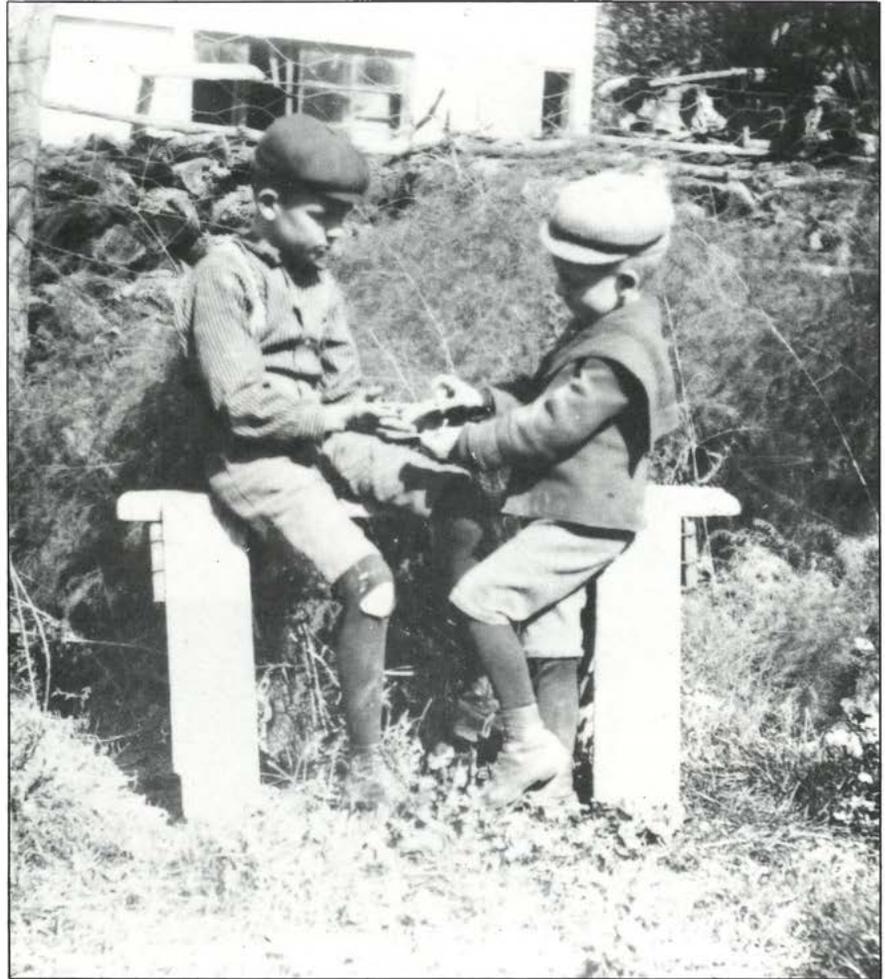
HAVE YOU ever played Cat's Cradle? The two boys in the photograph are playing this traditional string game in Iowa Falls about 1900. Cat's Cradle, like many children's games, is part of folklife. Children learn such games from their family and friends.

Traditional games have simple rules, so that kids of many ages can play. Many traditional games, like Leapfrog and Follow-the-Leader, need at least two players, but can be more fun with more people. In games like Red Rover, kids have to choose teams and play against one another.

Children in Iowa didn't play baseball in the mid-19th century (it wasn't invented yet). But they did have fun playing Leapfrog, Red Rover, and Follow-the-Leader.

Why play games?

Why do kids play games? They play for entertainment. Many outdoor games are good exercise, too. Kids also learn



SHSI, Foster Collection

These Iowa Falls boys play a traditional string game called Cat's Cradle about 1900.

how to cooperate with others, how to solve problems, and how to get along with others. Some games even teach kids how to behave. Simon Says, an old traditional game, teaches kids to copy others' actions when they don't know what to do. Captain

May I (also called Mother May I) shows kids how to be polite when asking others for favors.

A game's rules can change over the years. Kids have created many versions of tag. In all the versions, one person is "it" and must try to touch one of the



SHSI, Foster Collection

Three boys spy on an Iowa Falls tea party around the turn of the century.

players. In touch tag, the person touched becomes "it" and tries to touch another person. One version of tag is freeze tag. Players who have been touched must stand "frozen" until they are touched by another player. Kids also play TV tag, a version where a player is "safe" from the "it" person if they name a

television show just as they are touched.

Games you play

Think about the games you play. Who taught them to you? When you meet new kids, do you learn new games? List the games that you play, and think about their rules.

Imagine how you would teach other kids to play your games. Have you ever made up your own game? Do your games require equipment, like marbles, a jump rope, or a ball?

Do you think video or computer games are a part of folklife? 