

Iowa State Fair – Historical Lesson Plan

Level: Elementary School, Grades K-5

Skills: Listening, History, Reading, Mathematics and Language Arts

Objectives:

- Students explore the historical highlights of the Iowa State Fair.

Background

The Iowa State Fair is 166 years old and was held in multiple cities across Iowa until it reached its final home in Des Moines in 1879. By visiting the Iowa State Fair website and looking under historical highlights you can get a list of cities and the year(s) the Fair was held in each. Also, there is a highlight of each Fair. The historical highlights page gives insight into the history of the Iowa State Fair and why it is a national favorite.

History at the Fair

The Iowa State Fair has two on-grounds museums that are open during the Fair. Both are filled with historical facts and artifacts along with interactive displays that bring the history of the Iowa State Fair to life.

Map Reading and Dissertation

1. Provide each student or group of students with a map of Iowa.
 - a. Each student or group can pin or mark each city that the Fair has been held in along with the year.
 - b. Have the student or group create a road map of the Iowa State Fair starting in 1854 till 1879.

Mathematics/History

2. Have each student or group calculate the mileage from your city to each Fair and then take into account the mode of transportation that would have been used to reach each Fair.

Language Arts

3. Have each student or group use the information found on the Iowa State Fair website along with their own research to either write a paper or give a presentation on one of the Fairs located on their map.

References

***Iowa State Fair <http://www.iowastatefair.org/about-us/history/>