

Social Studies Theme: Change

Lesson: *Communities Change Over Time*

Grade Level: 1-4

Overview: Students learn how different their lives are today in the United States than the lives of their older relatives, especially during a time like WWII.

Approximate Duration: one class period

National Social Studies Standards: NSS-USH.K-4.1 Living and Working Together in Families and Communities, Now and Long Ago

http://www.educationworld.com/standards/national/soc_sci/us_history/k_4.shtml

Objective: Students will be able to understand the way communities change over time due to historical events.

Procedure:

- Begin by telling children how your childhood was different from theirs. Include details such as what you did for free time, the toys you played with, foods you ate, what you did after school or on weekends, and the things you used in your classroom. Then ask children to tell what they know about their parents' and grandparents' childhoods. Ask them to describe any ways their ancestors' lives were different from their lives today.
- Read the *Sarah's Story* together, record in a Venn diagram the ways Sarah and her grandparents' lives were alike and different.

Assessment:

- Have teams of children role play a conversation between Sarah and one of her grandparents. Have them discuss how Sarah's childhood is different from and the same as her grandparent's childhood.
- Ask children to pantomime an activity that either Sarah or her grandparents enjoyed in their childhood. Have children guess the activity and identify it as Sarah's, Grandma McKnight's, or Grandpa McKnight's.
- **Technology integration:** Using computers, have students search for images of their city during World War II.

Sarah's Story: A Girl Learns about her Grandparents' Community during World War II.

Sarah has lived in New Orleans all her life. Every weekend, Sarah visits with her grandparents who live in New Orleans in a house that they bought in 1942. While talking one day, Sarah's Grandma explains, "When your Grandpa went off to fight the war in 1944, he would send his military checks home but it was not always enough. Rose, Dorothy, and I planted a victory garden on an empty lot. We ate what we harvested and we also shared with our neighbors."

Sarah said, "That is so interesting. Where did y'all have room to plant a garden?" Sarah's Grandma led Sarah down the street; they stopped in front of Dorignac's Grocery Store. "This Grocery was not built yet, we planted our vegetables right here."

