



Historic School
History/Geography
Lessons

*To prepare for the future,
Examine the present.
To understand the present,
Study the past.*

Historic School

History/Geography Lessons

Lesson time: 20 minutes

Objective: The students will become familiar with the way Nebraska was settled.

Background Information

During the 1880's, students of history and geography were responsible for learning many dates and details. Consequently, the students will need to know some of that specific information before participating in the lesson at Historic School.

the students need to understand the contributing factors that led to settlement and statehood of Nebraska. Nebraska became a state on March 1, 1867. The "Great American Desert" was generally considered unfit for farming, but the first people who came to settle came not as farmers, but as town builders. They came to make money by trading, and eventually by selling land claims.

The "desert" was conquered by railroads that could bring lumber and coal to settlers and link them with the east. As one Nebraska promoter put it, "Improvement in Illinois was snail-paced at first, for it came in on Ox-teams. It entered Iowa on steamboats, and was therefore only confined to the banks of navigable rivers. Its advent into Nebraska was on locomotives, which, plying on iron rivers that render all prairies navigable, leave no corner of the land untouched!"

The railroad is also a symbol of both the financial speculation and government support of the times. The 1874 depression was the result of unrestrained speculation by Eastern financiers in railroad securities. That depression hit at the same time as drought and grasshoppers. By 1879 good times did return.

"Boom and Bust" was frequently repeated in new settlements.

The railroads were hailed and eventually cursed by many. But, according to Robert Manley's book, The Town Builders, promoters told prospective settlers that they wouldn't have to pay school taxes in Nebraska. They planned to levy the tax against the railroad property! In short, the railroad was the most important influence in Nebraska's settlement. It allowed for settlement away from the Missouri River.



The federal land policies aided the settlement of Nebraska. They allowed the settlers to acquire land solely through their labors. The Homestead Act, which passed in 1862, allowed for settlers to acquire a quarter section if they lived and improved upon it for 5 years. The Timber-Culture Act of 1873 entitled the settlers to an additional quarter section if they planted trees and tended them.

Existence in the sandhills and high plains was tough on the 160 acres allowed under the original Homestead Act. For a time, nobody in power could be convinced of the hardships of trying to make a living on 160 acres of Eastern Nebraska farm land. An O'Neill congressman named Moses P. Kinkaid was convinced. He was elected to Congress in 1902 and convinced President Theodore Roosevelt.

The Kinkaid Act (1904) was responsible for a new population jump in our area.

Advertising campaigns by public and private agencies alerted the people in the Eastern United States and Europe to the new opportunities that awaited them in the West. This tactic plus the new unemployment and restlessness of the people in the East and in Europe,

coupled with the federal land policies and the railroad to put re-settlement on the minds of the people. The land was accessible, available, and known about.

Nebraska was chosen by early settlers because these people were often corn farmers. The adequate rainfall, temperature, and flat, treeless land let itself to raising corn. The railroads were becoming available to transport the product to market. Machinery was being improved rapidly to accommodate more and better farming. Consequently, the valleys and uplands of eastern and central Nebraska were settled by farmers.

In the western part of Nebraska the cattlemen settled the rangelands. The geographic conditions lent themselves to a ranching lifestyle until the agrarian groups evidently needed more room and finally settled in the western part of the state. While irrigation would eventually find favor in the western counties near the river, the early settlers did not dismay at the lack of water. They believed that "rainfall follows the plow." Plow they did! And, for a few years they reaped a good harvest. Banner and Dawes counties enjoyed a high population in the 1880's. Much changed as communities were passed over by the railroad.

Time teaches all things.

An ad placed by UP.

Authorized General Eastern Agents:

JAMES F. AGLAE, 405 West Second St., Leech, Mo.
A. C. HARVEY, St. Anthony, Vermont.
FRED. M. PUNK, 1112 Market St., Kansas City, Mo.
M. T. DENNIS, House, 1000 Washington St., New York.
H. L. GREENE, 212 Broadway, New York.

Authorized General Eastern Agents:

M. H. JUDD, Council Bluffs, Iowa.
L. E. HODSDON, 27 Clark Street, Chicago.
A. O. GRISWOLD, 4 Alway Street, Cleveland, Ohio.
J. S. J. WELSH, 4 Belmont House, Cincinnati, O.
D. C. BLACKMAN, 401 Exchange St., Buffalo, N. Y.

3,000,000 ACRES

Low Prices!
 LONG TIME!
 Low Rate of Interest!
 CLEAR TITLES!

Free Information on application TO
LEAVITT BURNHAM
 Land Commissioner,
 OMAHA, NEBR.

Procure Tickets via Council Bluffs and Omaha--For Sale at principal Stations all over the country AT LOWEST RATES.

FARE RETURNED TO LAND BUYERS.

Cattle and Pigs near Grand Island, NEB.

Historic School Activities

1. Discuss the importance of the railroad in the settlement of Nebraska. Explain the importance of the railroad in westward expansion.
2. Have students give the date of Nebraska's statehood. Relate to the stars on the flag, if available.
3. Discuss how the federal land policies aided in the settlement of Nebraska. a) the Homestead Act and b) the Timber-Culture Act and the dates of their enactment.
4. Discuss how advertising affected the settlement of Nebraska. Note features of Nebraska's climate and geography which would entice settlers to the state.
5. Have students name and locate on the map the country from which their ancestors came.

Preparatory Activities for Geography/History

1. Collect pictures of early days in Nebraska. Those available from the State Historical Society work well. Make a bulletin board display. Study the pictures to note land forms and use of the natural resources by the settlers. Give students the drawing of an environment included in this guide. Ask them to construct a settlement based on the given environmental factors. What would the people do to meet their needs?
2. Analyze some ads from newspapers noting how they grasp the reader's attention and sell their product. Compare those techniques to the present day campaigns used to promote Nebraska for tourism and industrial growth. Students may create their own slogans and/or make brochures advertising the benefits of their town or neighborhood. Analyze some ads from old newspapers or from the railroads. (Samples are included in this guide) Notice the tactics used to encourage settlement.
3. Have students research what country (or state) their family came from to settle in this area. Some families may disclose why they moved to this area. Examine the reasons of families who have only recently located in Nebraska as well as students whose families came as early settlers.
4. Read railroad stories and invite a model railroad enthusiast or railroad official to visit class.
5. Research to find out when Nebraska became a state. It tried twice! Who was Governor in 1888?

Look back to the Old, if you would learn the New.

Follow-up Activities for Geography/History

1. Have students compare a Nebraska map to the Union Pacific and Burlington Railroad lines. Compare this map to an old map showing settlements in the 1880's and then to a present day map. Note changes and possible reasons. What other transportation routes are shown on modern maps?
2. Continue an emphasis on environmental adaptation for human settlements. Create a mobile featuring the environmental reasons for the location of their community. Watch the newspaper for articles relating human issues and environmental issues in our area. Establish a settlement of the future. Decide on the environmental factors that will influence the development of the settlement (outerspace, underwater, or underground?) and make a collage of this futuristic settlement. Remember to meet all the needs of the settlers.
3. Discuss changes in settlement locations. Why did Ashford and Freeport disappear from Banner County? Why did Dunlap and O'Linn disappear from Dawes County? How have towns in our area changed recently? How has the concept of "neighborhood" or "community" changed with more rapid transportation, school consolidation, and better communication? How do people meet their needs for community feelings? Examine the emotional and economic results of "ghost towns."
4. Examine the advertisements of the past to entice settlers to come to Nebraska, noting the reasons outlined for coming to this area. Notice that some were written in the language of the European country from which settlers might come. Then, watch modern advertisements about Nebraska and compare in the various media. Note that colorful pictures are used. Games and puzzles are sometime included for the children. A positive approach is employed such as "wide open spaces" instead of "barren flatlands." Some students may develop ideas from tourism in their own area. Now have students create an advertising campaign for 2087. What media will you use? What assets will you reveal? What changes do you predict will have occurred that must be considered?



CALIFORNIA
Conquered the World
ROOM
MILLIONS

43,795,000
ACRES

UNTAKEN
Railroad & Private Land for a Million Farmers
A CLIMATE FOR
MILLIONS OF BUZZARDS.

This glowing lithograph is typical of the advertising issued by state immigration bureaus eager to lure tax-paying residents.

Das Weizenfeld Amerikas!
Gefundes Klima!
Freie Heimstätten!
Gute Märkte.

Die Northern Pacific Eisenbahn - Compagnie führt ihre in Central and West. Minnesota zu folgenden Ländern von Süd- und Ostwärts einhalten: 1) Das beste Weizenland; 2) ausgereicherte Holz- und Kohlen; 3) reiches Vieh- und Milch- mit Honig und anderen Erzeugnissen - die schönsten Flüsse, die Wasser und eisbedeckte Landschaften und das beste Land auf den Ebenen der Welt zu Recht erworben werden sollen für billig mit 100 Acres oder weniger. Abwanderer sollten durch diese Länder gehen, um die besten Länder zu finden. Preis der Landesgabe an Einwanderer von \$4.00 bis \$8.00 pro Acre; mittlerer Boden \$2.00 bis \$4.00. Ein Acre 2 1/2 bis 3 Acre. Befruchtung: Northern Pacific 7-10 Acren Arbeit pro Acre und geben beim Verkauf mit \$1.00 angesetzt. Mehr andere nicht angeführte Informationen finden für weitere detaillierte Beschreibungen.
 Gebiete erhalten von dem neuen Act (1872) 1600 Acre nahe an der Bahn entlang, wenn sie mit ihrer Natur darauf geeignet sind.
 Hilfe zu verminderten Preisen.
 Von allen Correspondenten der Office für Käufer oder Verkäufer von Grundbesitz ist die Northern Pacific Bahn für den Käufer mit ihren Familien frei. Die Bahn ist frei für Kaufleute und Reisende Eisenbahnfahrern oder Geschäftsleute nach dem Gebührenden für zu bezahlen.
 Man sende für ein Circular, das alle Details und eine Liste der neuen Heimstätten enthält. Nicht:

Land-Department Northern Pacific R. R.
St. Paul, Minnesota,
 über No. 23 Fifth Avenue, Corner N. St., Room 11-12

The Northern Pacific in the 1870s plastered Germany with posters extolling cheap wheatland in Minnesota's grand climate.

Cheap Farms! Free Homes!
 ON THE LINE OF THE
UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD.

A Land Grant of 12,000,000 Acres of the best Farming & Mineral Lands in America.

3,000,000 ACRES IN NEBRASKA,
 In the Great Platte Valley,
THE GARDEN OF THE WEST, NOW FOR SALE!

These Lands are in the central portion of the United States, on the east degree of North Latitude, the central line of the great Temperate Zone of the American Continent, and for grain growing and stock raising unsurpassed by any in the United States.

Cheaper in Price, more favorable Terms given, and more convenient to market than can be found elsewhere.

Five and Ten Years' Credit given, with interest at Six per cent.

COLONISTS AND ACTUAL SETTLERS CAN BUY ON TEN YEARS' CREDIT. LANDS BY THE LAW GIVEN TO ALL CREDIT PURCHASERS.

A DEDUCTION OF 10 PER CENT FOR CASH.

Free Homesteads for Actual Settlers.
 The Best Locations for Colonies.

Persons of Foreign Birth are entitled to the benefit of the Homestead Law, On declaring their intention to become citizens of the United States, and may avail themselves of this provision immediately after their arrival.

FREE PASSES TO PURCHASERS OF LAND.

Send for new Descriptive Pamphlet, with new Maps, published in English, German, Swedish, and Danish, mailed Free everywhere.

Address, **O. P. DALY, Land Commissioner,**
P. O. Box 100, OMAHA, NEB., U. S. A.

Wegweiser
 SÜD-MINNESOTA UND OST-DAKOTA.

Winona und St. Peter Eisenbahn

Es ist kein Landwirth der dieses, die für Amerika diese Länder such.
1,100,000 Acres Vorzügliches Land
 mit der besten Fruchtbarkeit und in der besten Lage für den Anbau.
 Preise von 2 bis 3 Dollars pr. Acre, und lange Zeit.
 Die besten Stellen bei Eisenbahn.
 Auf den Eisenbahn stellen Eisenbahn Colonien oder Land für die Colonisten.
 Gewährt, gibt eine Liste der Namen der Stationen, zwischen die
Winona und St. Peter Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft.
 Es ist, C. Stinson, A. H. Macdonald,
 Land-Commissioner, Land-Commissioner
 in der Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft von Winona und St. Peter Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft
 in der Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft von Winona und St. Peter Eisenbahn-Gesellschaft

NEBRASKA LANDS

FOR SALE.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS GRANTED TO THE

Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Company,

IN NEBRASKA, ABOUT

1,500,000 ACRES

Of the richest prairie, interspersed with some timber lands, lying in the south-west part of NEBRASKA, South of the PLATT RIVER, which is the best agricultural portion of this State. Through this healthy and productive region this great Railroad is now constructed 65 miles to LINCOLN, the Capital of Nebraska, and is being rapidly extended to

FOUR KEARNEY,

Making its entire length about 200 miles on an East and West line. These lands extend 20 miles North and South of the Railway, in alternate sections, and are sold in one or more tracts of 40 acres each, on

TEN YEARS CREDIT,

At 6 per cent. interest. For the first two years after purchase, the annual interest is all that is required; then, on and after the third year, only one-ninth of the principal, and a decreasing amount for interest, is payable yearly, till all is paid in ten years.

PRICES range from \$4 to \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$10, and \$12, generally averaging about eight dollars per acre.

PRODUCTION: will pay for the land, stocking it, and ample improvements, much within the limits of the ten years credit offered, AND, on this GENERAL plan, every industrious, capable man may become the owner of a good farm and home.

CIRCULARS, in the English and German languages, giving full particulars, are supplied gratis, and any wishing to induce others to emigrate with them, or to organize a colony, should apply for all they want to distribute.

LAND-EXPLORING TICKETS,

Are sold in Plattsmouth, at regular fare, and allowed on land bought within 30 days from date of Ticket. This gives a FREE PASS over our Railroad in Nebraska, out and back, if desired. *Buyers should comply with the terms of this gratuity.*

A SECTIONAL MAP, showing the exact location of our lands, is sold for 20c. Apply to or address,

GEO. S. HARRIS,

Land Commissioner, Lincoln, Nebraska, U. S. A.

UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD

COMPANY

Have a Land Grant direct from the Government, of

12,000,000 ACRES

OF THE

BEST FARMING AND MINERAL

LANDS

IN AMERICA.

3,000,000 ACRES

Choice Farming Lands on the line of the Road in the

STATE OF NEBRASKA,

IN THE

GREAT PLATTIE VALLEY

Now for Sale for Cash, or Credit at low rates of Interest

These lands are near the 41st Parallel of North Latitude, in a healthy climate, and are as rich and productive as any in the United States. Convenient to market, both East and West. Prices range from \$2.50 to \$10 per acre.

Great Inducements to Settlers with Limited Means!

2,500,000 ACRES rich Government Lands, along the Road, between OMAHA AND NORTH PLATTE, surveyed and open for entry under the Homestead and Pre-emption Laws, and can be taken by actual settlers only—an opportunity never before presented for securing homes near a great railroad, with all the conveniences of an old settled country. Descriptive Pamphlets, with maps, now ready, and sent free to all parts of the United States, Canada, and Europe. Address—

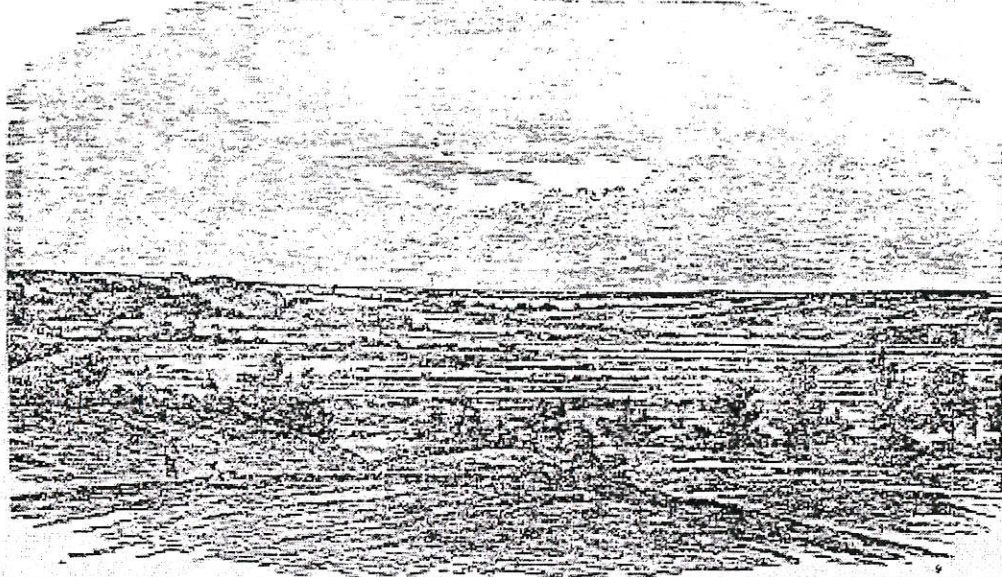
O. F. DAVIS, Land Commissioner,

U. P. R. CO., OMAHA, NEB.

PRODUCTS will PAY for LAND and IMPROVEMENTS.

LARGE DISCOUNTS FOR CASH.

BETTER TERMS THAN EVER!



VALLEY OF THE BIG BLUE, SOUTH OF NEWARD, NEB.

THE BEST PRAIRIE LANDS

IOWA AND NEBRASKA

ARE FOR SALE BY THE

Burlington & Missouri River Railroad Co.

10 Years' Credit. **LOW PRICES** 2 Per Cent. Interest.

ONLY THE INTEREST PAYMENT DOWN.
PAYMENTS ON PRINCIPAL BEGIN THE FOURTH YEAR.

BUY LAND EXPLORING TICKETS.

And the Cost of same will be Allowed on First Payment made on Land bought within 90 Days from Date of Ticket.
HALF FARE to Families of Purchasers. LOW FREIGHTS on Household Goods and Farm Stock.

See Circulars with full information on every question. Will be sent FREE to every applicant.

ADDRESSES

LAND COMMISSIONER B. & M. R. R.

Office National Map of Iowa, 25 cents.

Washington, D.C.

CHICAGO, ILL., for Western Lands.

BURLINGTON, IOWA, for Iowa Lands.

PREMIUMS FOR IMPROVEMENTS.

BUY BEFORE JULY 1st, 1875, and Secure these Terms.

**CHEAP FARMS!
FREE HOMES!
ON THE LINE OF THE
U. P. RAILROAD.**

A LAND GRANT OF
12,000,000 Acres
OF THE
BEST FARMING
AND
Mineral Lands in America.

12,000,000 Acres of Choice Farming and Grazing Lands on the line of the road, in the

STATE OF NEBRASKA,
IN THE
Great Platte Valley,
NOW FOR SALE, for cash or long credit.

These lands are in a mild and healthy climate, and for grain-growing and stock-raising, unsurpassed by any in the United States.

Prices range from \$2 to \$10 per
ACRE.

HOMESTEADS FOR ACTUAL SETTLERS.

2,500,000 Acres of Government Land between Omaha and North Platte, open for entry as HOMESTEADS ONLY.

SOLDIERS OF THE LATE WAR

ARE ENTITLED TO A

FREE HOMESTEAD OF 160 ACRES,
within Railroad limits, equal to a

DIRECT BOUNTY OF \$400.

125,000 ACRES

NOW FOR SALE.

IN HALL COUNTY.

Send for the new edition of descriptive pamphlet, with new maps, mailed free everywhere. Address,

O. F. DAVIS,
Land Commissioner U. P. R. Co.,
ОМАХА, НЕБ.

Nov. 18, 1871.

**WHAT IS IT ?
FOR HEAVENS SAKE, WHAT IS IT?..**

PACIFIC OCEAN

MISSOURI RIVER

THIS IS THE
ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTA FE R.R.
THE **BANANA LINE.**
The Tree is known by its Fruits.

W.F. WHITE,
Gen. Pass & Ticket Agt. Topeka

A Santa Fe poster (left) created a lush, subtropical vision across the deserts, mountains and bare plains.

Quit the Strenuous Life

Are you tired of waiting for others? In the daily grind of office or factory beginning to "get on your nerves"? Perhaps the fact is over-crowded; or there may be no chance for promotion... Who says who you can't make a good living at pleasure and profitable work, while living the foundation for future independence? Go west—buy lots of acreage of

Washington Fruit Land

While your friends are earning a good income, you may be had from the sale of chickens, eggs, berries and poultry. Take care of your hens five years and they will take care of you the rest of your life. Washington District, D.C. with more acres have increased and decreased daily opportunities for sale of poultry manna. Made from an expert.

MAX BASS, General Immigration Agent Great Northern Railway
229 Swan Clark Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

The Great Northern's short cut to prosperity: Let your hens support you until your orchards mature.

