“Long Ago and Now”

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GRADE KINDERGARTEN

INTRODUCTION
This lesson is designed as part of a larger unit of study. Prior lessons would have included mapping concept and skills. Students would already have familiarity with the idea of the “bird’s eye view.” Mapping of the classroom and then the school campus using blocks and geometric shapes would have been introduced. Later, paper maps and satellite maps of the school neighborhood from Google Earth locating local shops, parks, and markets would have been examined. Building on their knowledge of Venice today, the concept of Long Ago will be introduced. The purpose of this lesson is to compare and contrast Venice one hundred years ago to the Venice of today. This lesson will include photos and maps from those two time periods for the students to study and then compare to the Venice that they know today as their neighborhood. The history of Venice, which was founded as an amusement resort, will capture their imagination and certainly engage them. A possible walking field trip to the few remaining canals might be a culminating activity as few of the students would be aware of their existence.

CALIFORNIA SOCIAL STUDIES STATE STANDARDS

K.4 Students compare and contrast the locations of people, places and environments and describe their characteristics.

K.6 Students understand that history relates to events, people, and places of other times.

K.6.3 Understand how people lived in earlier times and how their lives would be different today.

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Sponsors

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DURATION

2-4 days, as Kindergarten attention spans are short, instruction approximately 20 minutes daily.

MATERIALS (see Appendix)

Long Ago

1. Photos of July 4, 1905 *Venice of America* amusements, children in dress of day, car and boats
2. Map of pier, canals, and streets
3. Aerial photo of resort showing canals

Now

4. Photos of Venice Beach today, including neighborhood and children
5. Map of contemporary Venice, boardwalk, and school neighborhood
6. Aerial photo of Venice today
7. *Elmo* or other document projector
8. Blackline images for students to color then write their own responses
9. Pencils, crayons
10. Magnifying glasses

PREPARATION

1. This lesson could be prepared either as a Power Point presentation or as images for an overhead projector or Elmo document projector depending on classroom resources. Being able to project two images simultaneously would be ideal. This will allow students to visually compare photo and map images during instruction.
2. Additional photos and maps can be prepared for small group study at desks.
3. Outline drawings of images for students to color or complete to demonstrate understanding and write a sentence about their drawing (dictated to an adult)
ACTIVITY

PURPOSE FOR LEARNING
Set the purpose for the lesson—the students are going to compare what they know about Venice today and what they see in old photographs. Begin lesson with an overhead photo of Venice Beach area today showing the boardwalk, bicycle riders and skaters. Encourage prior experience discussion so that students can relate going to the beach and their activities once there. Discuss the concepts Amusement Park and Long Ago. Discuss how to look for details in photographs and how to ask themselves—“What is the same and what is different?”

GUIDED PRACTICE
Show overhead photo of same boardwalk area of Venice in 1905 at the opening of the Kinney Venice-In-America Resort and have students tell why it is different from the first photo. Guide student participation to recognize the place and some of the buildings. Once they have established Venice Beach as the location, have them study the people, clothing, cars, etc. Using the large projected image, explore the details that they see including the dress of the adults and children, the autos, and the lights.

Explain that the next step is to work with a group to study more pictures from Long Ago. They will have a baggie of photographs and some magnifying glasses. After looking closely at the photos for things that are the same and things that are different, they will share their photos. They will ask questions and respond to each other in complete sentences. The questions for them to ask are:

- **What** do you see? I see ____ in this photograph.
- **Who** is in the picture? In this photo are _______ and ________.
- **What is something that is the same** as what you would see today? I see _________ that is the same as today.
- **What is something that is different** from what you would see today? I see _______ that is different from today.

INDEPENDENT PRACTICE
Students can then return to their desks and continue the lesson in their small group to look at a packet of photos showing the canals and gondoliers, the amusement pier with rides, and children with their families in bathing costumes of the 1905 era. Remind them to think, “What do I see in my picture?” The answers must be in complete sentences, too. “I see ___ or I think ____ is the same or different.”

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING
Teacher will circulate through the room to encourage carefully study of the pictures. Teacher will also support good use of the vocabulary and question and answer format.
CLOSURE

Closure of lesson would be to share and compare the observations from the various small groups and to emphasize that this all happened Long Ago.

SUBSEQUENT LESSONS

• Have students show their understanding by illustrating something long ago and today on a split sheet, then write a sentence about it. “Here is a girl at the beach long ago and here I am today.” (dictated to an adult.)

• Using a graphic organizer, compare the results from the previous lesson for Long Ago and Now in Venice. “What is the same and what is different today?”

• Using the same lesson format display an overhead transparency of a map of Venice in 1905. Examine the map of the school neighborhood including Venice Beach in 1905, noting the amusement park and how the canals are portrayed on the map. Discuss indicators on the map for housing and modes of transportation including streets for driving cars, electric street car lines, and canals for boats. Compare the map of 1905 to the map we have studied of Venice today.

• After studying the photos and maps, ask the students what happened to the canals and the amusement park? What changes do they think took place? Why isn’t it there today? They could ask questions in the Think-Pair-Share strategy with a partner and then share with the class.

• Teach a lesson on before and after using photos of Venice Beach in 1890 showing sand and a few wooden cabins. Then show in sequence: the building of Venice-of-America completed in 1905, the filling in of the canals in 1929, the depression era oil derricks on the same beach, the boardwalk of the 1970’s, and the boardwalk of today. Encourage students to share their experiences with change. Remind them that before we had a big playground behind our school but now after, we have a high school right behind our classroom. They need to use the sentence format, “Before there was a small house next door; after there is a big new house.”

• The final lessons would include the concept of bird’s eye view through aerial photography then and now.

FOLLOW-UP LESSONS AND/OR HOMEWORK

• Ask parents if they have any memories of old Venice or photos that they might want to share. Many families have been in the area for generations. Parents could share their memories, even photos, with the class.

• Comparative long ago and now coloring pages of transportation in outline form: cars, gondolas, boats trolleys and trains with space to draw and explain in their own words.

• A walking field trip in neighborhood to the few remaining canals.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Various images from USC Digital Library at http://digitallibrary.usc.edu (listed in the Appendix)

Various images from the Automobile Club of Southern California’s Westways magazine and map collections (listed in the Appendix)

Google Images of the Pacific Red Car (color postcard), 1890 Santa Monica Beach (children in bathing costumes), and Online Image, Venice, California, Streetview (listed in the Appendix)
APPENDIX: (see attached image file)

From *Abbot Kinney's Venice-Of-America: The Golden Years*  
   p. 82 “Venice Pier and Surrounding Area 1914”

From *Images of America: Venice, California*  
   p. 43 “Broadway School”  
   p. 18 “Venice Amusement Park 1925”  
   p. 19 “Venice Today”,  
   p. 58 “Venice of America, Opening Day”  
   p. 59 “A Venetian Gondola”  
   p. 132-133 “Windward Ave. 1910” and “Windward Ave. today”

From *Los Angeles, Then and Now*  
   p. 130-135-Photos from 1904-1910 and current

From *Venice Postcard Series*  
   Inside Cover—“Venice and Its Beach” (Children in bathing costumes)

From *Santa Monica Bay: The First 100 Years*  
   p. 49 “Opening Day of the Pacific Electric”  
   p. 114-115 “The Venice Canals at Main and Windward”  
   p. 132-133 “The Midway at Venice”  
   p. 76-81 “Digging the Canals”  
   p. 80 “Boating on the Aldebaran Canal”

From *Coney Island of the Pacific: Venice, California*  
   p. 168 “St Mark’s Hotel”

USC Digital Library Images  
“Ocean Park beach homes looking south toward Venice, California 1900.”, Title Insurance and Trust  
C.C. Pierce Photography Collection, 1860-1960  
http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/search/controller/view/chs-m6652.html

“Canals in Venice, CA. 1920-1929.”, Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce Collection, 1890-1960  
http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/search/controller/view/chs-m4999.html

“Aerial view of the pier in Venice, looking west, 1918”,  
http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/search/controller/view/chs-m4988.html

Los Angeles Pacific Co. Electric Lines “Balloon Route-4 Double Tracks to the Pacific Ocean. Steam and Electric Launches at Playa del Rey”, California Historical Society  
http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/assetserver/controller/item/chs-m13242/CHS-13038?v=hr
APPENDIX: (continued)

Images from the Automobile Club
   1924 Aerial Photo-“Abbott Kinney’s Dream City”, Westways Magazine, May, 1957, p. 6-7
   Automobile Road Map from Santa Monica to San Pedro and Long Beach via Coast Boulevard
   Automobile Boulevards from Los Angeles to Venice and Santa Monica

Google Images
   Pacific Red Car (color postcard) www.lapl.org
   1890 Santa Monica Beach (children in bathing costumes) www.localbeachhotels.com
   Google Maps Online Image-Street view, Venice, California

Additional photos of Venice today taken by teacher