

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Learning Lagniappe: Educator Extras

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Collection

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http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/mfb

The Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Collection comprises approximately thirty cubic feet of material from the Public Affairs Office of Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) divided into series. The collection documents changes in Mississippi farm practices and land use from the late nineteenth through the early twenty-first centuries, as well as the institutional history of MFBF from its inception during the Great Depression. The collection also shows the effects of natural disasters on agriculture; health and safety issues; visiting politicians, including several U.S. Presidents; and the evolving roles of women in society. Images can be accessed through keyword search or by browsing within each series, as they become available online.

Subjects that can be addressed within this Digital Archive:

Agriculture (farming, livestock, processing, marketing, etc.), Mississippi social life, politicians, entertainers and artists, children, natural disasters, and festivals.

Suggested Classroom Activities:

Search for images from your city or county and discuss as a class how they compare with the activities taking place there today.

For more lessons and activities based on the Digital Archives and other collections visit the Classroom Materials page on our website at

<http://www.mdah.ms.gov/new/learn/classroom-materials/lesson-plans-and-teaching-units/>

Teacher Discussion Guide on Reverse

Teacher Discussion Guide

Use images from the MDAH Digital Archive entitled “Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation Collection,” (found at http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/mfb) to lead your class in a discussion analyzing and interpreting the following images:

1. Type “catfish” in the “search for keyword” box.
 - a. Where does catfish farming appear to play a major role in both the economy and social fabric of Mississippi? **Belzoni and Humphreys County (Mississippi Delta region)**
 - b. What are some of the businesses that are associated with catfish farming? **Catfish ponds; machinery to keep ponds aerated and healthy; restaurants; fishermen; shipping; processing plants; feed mills; sales.**
 - c. What is one way that catfish farmers promote their products? **The World Catfish Festival in Belzoni where visitors can eat, exhibit, and crown a Catfish Queen who travels the state for a year and represents the Catfish Farmers of America.**
2. Type “cotton cartoon” in the “search for keyword” box. Analyze a single cartoon as a class or break into small groups to analyze each individually and then discuss them all as a class. Questions to consider include:
 - a. Who is the intended audience for this cartoon?
 - b. What message is being communicated?
 - c. Identify the “good guy” and the “bad guy.”
 - d. How does the title of the cartoon reflect its content?
 - e. Are any special literary devices (such as puns, alliteration, hyperbole, etc.) used to convey the message?
3. Type in “farmer market” in the “search for keyword” box.
 - a. What types of produce can be identified in the images? **Melons, beans, fruits, potatoes, peas, gourds.**
 - b. Most of the scenes are from the Jackson Farmer’s Market in the 1950s. What do you notice about the clientele in these images? **All of the shoppers are white. Two African American men appear in the images, one working with potato processing machinery and the other as a truck driver transporting goods to the market.**
 - c. Do some research to learn about the role of farmer’s markets in communities today. Have they increased or decreased in popularity? How have they (if at all) impacted larger, chain grocery stores? How does the quality and cost of produce at farmer’s markets compare with that of grocery stores? Do farmer’s markets affect the nutritional health of people in their communities?
4. Type in “politicians” in the “search for keyword” box. Images of politicians signing bills, speaking at banquets, and crowning beauty queens appear. Why would the Farm Bureau have had such an active interest in politics? **Politicians have the ability to make laws that protect and help farmers. Politicians have a voice in many areas, including the economy (domestic and international), the environment and climate change, disaster relief, and labor relations, all of which impact Mississippi farmers on a daily basis. As an advocate for farmers across the state, the Farm Bureau works regularly with politicians to ensure they are aware of the needs of Mississippi farmers.**
5. Type in “needlepoint county map” in the “search for keyword” box and locate your county. How does the needlepoint icon reflect your county? Is the reflection still relevant today or is there another icon that would better represent your county in the 21st century?