Find the Differences: Historic Mississippi School Images

Objectives:
Using digitized photographs from the Mississippi Department of Education, students will discover differences between their schools and school photographs taken in the 1920s–1980s. Students will gain an understanding of the differences in school buildings during the 1950s–1960s, school transportation from 1930s–1980s, and sports or playground related activities in the 1940s–1960s. Students will answer questions using previously selected images from the MDAH’s Digital Archives page. Once they have answered all the questions, with class discussion, have each student write an essay on the images.

The Find the Differences: Historic Mississippi School Images lesson is adaptable for grades 6–10.

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Using digitized photographs from the Mississippi Department of Education, students will discover differences between their schools and school photographs taken in the 1920s–1980s. Students will gain an understanding of the differences in school buildings during the 1950s–1960s, school transportation from 1930s–1980s, and sports or playground related activities in the 1940s–1960s. Students will answer questions using previously selected images from the MDAH's Digital Archives page. Once they have answered all the questions, with class discussion, have each student write an essay on the images.


Procedures are adaptable for several grade levels and specific subject matter:

Activity One: School Building Differences
1. Divide students into groups of three to four.
2. Distribute *School Building Differences* worksheet to each group. Also, give each group a set of related images for either African American or white schools.
3. Give groups time to answer questions.
4. Discuss answers and any other differences the students or teacher discovered.

Activity Two: School Transportation Differences
1. Divide students into groups of three to four.
2. Distribute *School Transportation Differences* worksheet and images to each group.
3. Give groups time to answer questions.
4. Discuss answers and any other differences the students or teacher discovered.

Activity Three: School Physical Education Differences
1. Divide students into groups of three to four.
2. Distribute *School Physical Education Differences* worksheet to each group. Also, give each group a set of related images for either African American or white schools.
3. Give groups time to answer questions.
4. Discuss answers and any other differences the students or teacher discovered.

Activity Four: Essay and Discussion
Have each student write an essay using their favorite image or a compare and contrast of the past and present from the image list.
Extension Activities:

1. Have students search the School Photographs (Mississippi), 1920s-1980s collection at [http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs](http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs) to investigate the schools in their county and write an essay of their observations of the schools then and now, the changes that have occurred and some comparisons to today’s schools in the county.

2. Watch With all Deliberate Speed. This documentary looks at the historic Brown vs. Board of Education ruling that declared segregated public schools unconstitutional and explores how school desegregation was delayed for decades. Features interviews with individuals involved with the Brown lawsuit and dramatic readings related to the case. Produced by Feature Docs and Anchor Bay Entertainment, 2005.

Name: ___________________________________________________________ Date: ________________

School Building Differences Worksheet

Answer the questions below using the historic images from the School Photographs (Mississippi), 1920s-1980s  MDAH Digital Archives Collections. Use any or all of the following images for these questions.

1. Look at the images. How are the schools in the photographs different from your school? __________________ 
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________

2. How do you think the school buildings were heated and cooled? __________________ 
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Is there a date on the image, when do you think this image was taken? __________________

4. How many students do you think attended this school each year? __________________ 
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________

5. How else could this building have been used by the community? __________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
   _________________________________________________________________________________________
Name: _____________________________________________________________  Date:  ________________

**School Building Differences Worksheet Answer Key**

Answer the questions below using the historic images from the *School Photographs (Mississippi), 1920s-1980s* MDAH Digital Archives Collections. Use any or all of the following images for these questions.

1. Look at the images. How are the schools in the photographs different from your school? ________________
   
   Children of all ages, teachers, desks or tables, learning material on walls.

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

2. How do you think the school buildings were heated and cooled? ________________
   
   Wood stoves, fireplaces, gas heaters to warm the buildings and windows to cool the building.

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Is there a date on the image, when do you think this image was taken?  ________________

   1948-1955 (dates will vary)

4. How many students do you think attended this school each year? ________________
   
   One dozen up to several hundreds.

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

5. How else could this building have been used by the community? ________________
   
   Community center, church, day care, social groups, etc.

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________

   _________________________________________________________________________________________
School Building Differences Images: African American
Hughes Elem. School - classroom, 1953.
Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/165782
Series 1513 - School Photograph Scrapbooks, Item: 872.
Leflore School Grades 1 and 2
Album: Grenada County Schools, Grenada County, Mississippi

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/163191
Pascagoula Negro H.S. - audio-visual room, 1953
Pascagoula, Jackson County, Mississippi.

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/165553
Grove School, 1955
Sibley, Adams County, Mississippi
http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/165289
School Building Differences Images:
White
Series 1513 - School Photograph Scrapbooks, Item: 1647.
Ethel High School Building
Album: Attala County Schools, Attala County, Mississippi

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/160870
Series 1513 - School Photograph Scrapbooks, Item: 885.
Grenada Elementary School Grade 3
Album: Grenada City Schools, Grenada County, Mississippi
http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/163203
School Transportation Differences Worksheet

Answer the questions below using the historic images from the School Photographs (Mississippi), 1920s-1980s MDAH Digital Archives Collections.

1. Look at image Item (image) #14: The boy with his arms outstretched, what is he doing? ________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

2. Look at Item (image) #616: What year was the picture taken? What looks different about these buses?
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

3. Look at Item (image) #213: What is missing from this picture of buses and bus drivers? Which drivers look
   out of place in this picture? Why?
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________

4. Look at Item (image) #19: What safety equipment is missing from this 1970’s bus? _____________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________________________
School Transportation Differences Worksheet Answer Key

Answer the questions below using the historic images from the School Photographs (Mississippi), 1920s-1980s MDAH Digital Archives Collections.

1. Look at image Item (image) #14: The boy with his arms outstretched, what is he doing? ________________
   He is making sure the other children cross the road safely, like a crossing guard or policeman does today.

2. Look at Item (image) #616: What year was the picture taken? What looks different about these buses?
   1953. Buses today are a different shape and are longer, so they are able to accommodate more people. The stop sign that extends off the drivers side of the bus is missing.

3. Look at Item (image) #213: What is missing from this picture of buses and bus drivers? Which drivers look out of place in this picture? Why?
   Women bus drivers are missing, however, some of the drivers are actually high school students, a common phenomenon in rural areas of the state.

4. Look at Item (image) #19: What safety equipment is missing from this 1970's bus? ________________
   Buses today have crossing control arms on the front of the bus. These arms keep students from getting in front of the bus when boarding. They also remind students to look both ways for oncoming traffic.
School Transportation Differences Images

Hinds County, Mississippi

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrc/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/156943
Series 1758 - School Transportation Photographs, 1930s-1980s, Item: 616.
Buses, 1953.
DeKalb, Kemper County, Mississippi,

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/157545
Series 1758 - School Transportation Photographs, 1930s-1980s, Item: 213.
[school bus maintenance facilities], [195-]
Walthall County, Mississippi

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/157142
Series 1758 - School Transportation Photographs, 1930s-1980s, Item: 19.
[school bus safety], [197-]
Rankin County, Mississippi

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/156948
School Physical Education Differences

Answers the questions below using the historic images from the School Photographs (Mississippi), 1920s-1980s, digital archives collections. Use any or all of the following images for these questions.

1. What playground equipment do you see at these 1950s schools? Think about your playground. What is missing or different from this image?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

2. What types of games are the children playing?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

3. What playground equipment do you see in the images?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

4. Why do you think some of the boys have their shirts off?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

5. Use all the images. What things do you see that you have in your physical education class? What is different?

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________

_______________________________________________________________________________________
School Physical Education Differences Answer Key (answers will vary)

Answers the questions below using the historic images from the School Photographs (Mississippi), 1920s-1980s, digital archives collections. Use any or all of the following images for these questions.

1. What playground equipment do you see at these 1950s schools? Think about your playground. What is missing or different from this image?

   Basketball hoops, volleyball nets, swings, slides, seesaws, etc.

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

2. What types of games are the children playing? ____________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

3. What playground equipment do you see in the images? ________________________

   Basketball hoops, swings, slides, seesaws, etc.

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

4. Why do you think some of the boys have their shirts off? ______________________

   As a method of dividing up teams.

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

5. Use all the images. What things do you see that you have in your physical education class? What is different?

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________

   _____________________________________________________________
School Physical Education Differences Images:
African American
Children on Basketball Court [Solomon's Chapel]
Album: Tallahatchie County Schools - Colored, allahatchie County, Mississippi

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/162477
Greenlee School, 1954
Attala County, Mississippi

http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/165323
Roxie, Franklin County, Mississippi
http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/165459
School Physical Education Differences Images: White
Myrick High School Gym Interior
Album: Jones County Schools - White, Jones County, Mississippi.
http://www.mdah.ms.gov/arrec/digital_archives/series/schoolphotographs/detail/162951
MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY LESSON PLANS
TEACHER EVALUATION
COMPLETE BOTH SIDES AND PLEASE MAIL OR FAX TO THE ADDRESS ON THE NEXT PAGE. THANK YOU!

TEACHER NAME ___________________________________________________________________________

SCHOOL NAME & ADDRESS __________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________

EMAIL (OPTIONAL) _______________________________________________________________________

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS__________ GRADE LEVEL _________________________________

LESSON TITLE __________ Find the Differences: Historic Mississippi School Images

1. In your opinion, did this unit elicit better than average student response; if so, how?

2. Which segments of the unit exceeded your students’ attention span?

3. Will this unit be of assistance to you in developing future classroom activities; if so, how?

4. How did this unit add to your earlier teaching on the same subject?

5. Would this teaching unit be handier to use as a:
   ___multi-day unit   ___multi-week unit   ___other

6. Were the activities and lessons appropriate for your students? How?
Please rate the following lesson materials and activities by circling the appropriate number. 
4=excellent, 3=good, 2=average, 1=inadequate

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Activity Two: School Transportation Differences 4 3 2 1
Activity Three: School Physical Education Differences 4 3 2 1
Activity Four: Essay and Discussion 4 3 2 1
Extension Activities 4 3 2 1
Overall Lesson 4 3 2 1

We would appreciate any additional comments on this teaching unit and any suggestions for improvement. Comments may be entered in the space below.