

Lesson Plan Nine
**From Pi Beta Phi to Arrowmont: Bringing education and Economic
Development to the Great Smoky Mountains, 1910 – 2004**

Lesson Plan for Social Studies – Grades 7/8

Title: Another World: Yesterday and Today

Objectives:

1. Students will identify ways families, groups, and community influence daily life and personal choices, one hundred years ago and today.

2. Students will recognize how topographic features influence settlement and daily life.

Materials Needed: Access to computers or reference materials for research / Blank Venn diagram / Photos, essays, and timeline from Arrowmont website (also, any websites related to the history of your hometown or region).

Strategies:

1. Give the class the pre-lesson questions.

2. Begin instruction with a class discussion: “What kinds of influences is a person subjected to when he or she makes an important decision?” List answers on the board. After discussing the responses, ask: “Were people influenced any differently a hundred years ago? Why?” Again, list responses on the board and discuss (a Venn diagram could be drawn on the board to compare the two sets of answers).

3. Ask students if they think where a person lives has an influence on their lifestyle.
Ask: “Why is this?”

4. Have students go to the Arrowmont website (Use the Southern Appalachian Culture link) and begin creating a list of aspects of life that would influence the decisions a person would make a hundred years ago in the southern Appalachians. Have students be thinking about how where these people lived had an influence as well.

5. As a class, create a master list on the board. Responses will probably include: hard work needed to grow crops; lack of money; little education; the slow speed at which news traveled, etc.

Assignment: Have students create a list of ten influences they face in their daily lives.

Evaluation: Administer the post-lesson questions.

Another World: Yesterday and Today

Pre-lesson questions:

1. What are some of the sources of information a person could use to make an important decision?
2. Would these sources have been the same one hundred years ago? Why or why not?
3. Does the importance of kinds of information change over time?
4. Is the way a person lives affected by where they live? How?

Post-lesson questions:

1. How was the lifestyle of the inhabitants of the southern Appalachians one hundred years ago influenced by the mountains?
2. What were the most important influences on a person back then?
3. What are the most important influences today?
4. Why do some of these change and some stay the same?