

Lesson Plan

Title: Prairie Farm: Before and After Electrification

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Magazine Issue: This lesson is inspired by the article “Manitoba Trans’FARM’ation: Power comes to rural people” in the February 2024 issue of *Kayak: Canada’s History Magazine for Kids*.

Grade Level: 3/4, 5/6

Themes:

- Industry, Invention & Technology
- Settlement & Immigration
- Women

Subject Area: Social Studies, English Language Arts

Lesson Overview: The lesson begins with the teacher activating students’ prior knowledge by introducing them to Venn diagrams and their use in comparing and contrasting ideas. The lesson then moves onto acquiring new knowledge, where students work in pairs to read an article about rural prairie farms and complete a Venn diagram with activities done before and after electricity. Finally, students apply their understanding by creating a brochure on farm life before and after electrification using the Venn diagram as a guide. This lesson is an effective way to engage students in critical thinking and build their understanding of comparing and contrasting ideas.

Time Required: 2-3 hour lesson

Historical Thinking Concepts:

- Identify *continuity and change*
- Analyze *cause and consequence*

Learning Outcomes

- Identify
- Recognize
- Compare
- Contrast
- Write
- Develop

Students will:

1. Students will read the comic "Manitoba Trans'FARM'ation: Power comes to rural people."
2. Using a Venn diagram graphic organizer, the students will gather information from the comic about farm life before electrification and after.
3. Students will create a brochure that compares and contrasts the changes to the rural farms of the Canadian Prairies before and after electrification.
4. Complete the final page of the brochure by using provided informational cards about different provincial government approaches to electrification on the Prairies.

Background Information:

- Information about Venn diagrams and how to introduce them to your students: [Compare-and-Contrast-Poster-and-Venn-Diagram](#)
- Manitoba rural electrification 1945: [History \(hydro.mb.ca\)](#)
- Saskatchewan rural electrification 1949: [The Encyclopedia of Saskatchewan | Details \(uregina.ca\)](#)
- Alberta 1940s: [The Early History of Electricity in Alberta - Electricity & Alternative Energy - Alberta's Energy Heritage](#)

The Lesson Activity:

Activating: How will students be prepared for learning?

- If your students are unfamiliar with Venn diagrams, introduce and discuss the use of the diagram for comparing and contrasting ideas.
- Draw two overlapping large circles on a white board or chart paper. Ask students to tell you 5 things they did in the morning before they left for school. For example, students might say they brushed their teeth, ate breakfast, or played on their iPad. Make a list of students' responses in one of the circles on the whiteboard or chart paper.
- Then ask students to imagine what would be different if there was no electricity in their home. Make a second list of their responses in the other circle. If any responses are unaffected by the use of electricity, put the item in the middle overlapping circle.
- Discuss the diagram and what it tells us about our dependence on electricity.

Acquiring: What strategies facilitate learning for groups and individuals?

- Put the students into pairs. Give each group a Venn diagram template and a copy of the February 2024 issue of *Kayak* magazine.
- Explain to students that they will be reading an article and organizing information in a Venn diagram. Have them write down activities that were done on a rural prairie farm before electricity on one side of the diagram. On the other side, they will be writing about the activities done after electricity was introduced. If any activities remain unchanged from electricity, they should be put in the middle of the diagram.
- Have the pairs read the article “Manitoba Trans’FARM’ation: Power comes to rural people” on page 20 and fill out their Venn diagram.

Applying: How will students demonstrate their understanding?

- Once the Venn diagrams are complete, students will use their diagrams to guide them in creating a brochure that compares and contrasts farm life before and after electrification with the provided template.
- Students can use the province-specific information cards to help them fill out the final page in their brochure.

Materials/Resources:

- February 2024 *Kayak* issue
- Venn diagram template
- Compare and Contrast brochure template
- Whiteboard or chart paper and whiteboard markers
- Rubric for assessment

Assessment:

Assessment Rubric attached

A Prairie Farm: Before and After Electrification Assessment Rubric

Name: _____

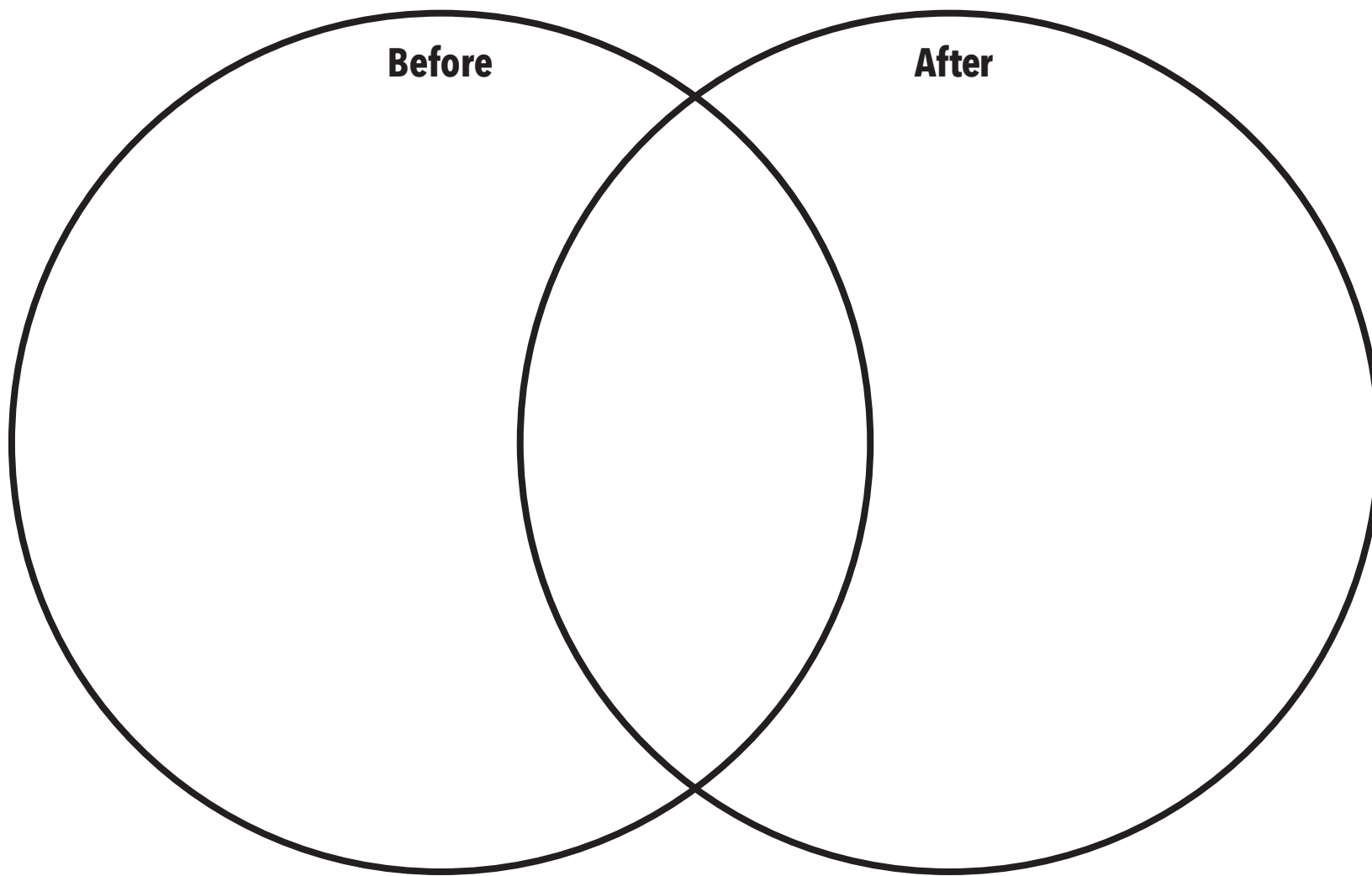
Date: _____

Curricular area	Not yet meeting	Beginning to meet	Meeting	Excelling
ELA Read for purposes and demonstrate comprehension.	With support, student is unable to read and/or comprehend text provided.	With support, student is able to read and comprehend text provided.	Student shows ability to read and comprehend text provided.	Student can efficiently and accurately read and comprehend text provided.
ELA Create a clear representation that communicates information relevant to the topic in the form of an illustrated report.	With support, student is unable to communicate information in the form of an illustrated report.	With support student is able to communicate information in the form of an illustrated report.	Student shows ability to communicate information in the form of an illustrated report.	Student can efficiently and accurately communicate information in the form of an illustrated report.
Social Studies Understand the relationship between governance institutions and the quality of life of people as it relates to rural electrification.	With support, student is unable to demonstrate understanding of the changes that occurred because of governance institutions support of rural electrification.	With support, student understands the changes that occurred because of governance institutions support of rural electrification.	Student shows an understanding of the changes that occurred because of governance institutions support of rural electrification.	Student shows a comprehensive understanding of the changes that occurred because of governance institutions support of rural electrification and seeks out further information.
Social Studies Assess the impact of Saskatchewan technological innovations on local, provincial and national communities.	With support, student is unable to demonstrate an understanding of electrification of rural farms impacted local, provincial and national communities.	With support, student is able to demonstrate an understanding of electrification of rural farms impacted local, provincial and national communities.	Student demonstrates an understanding of how electrification of rural farms impacted local, provincial and national communities.	Student demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of how electrification of rural farms impacted local, provincial and national communities and seeks out further information.



A Prairie Farm: Before and After Electrification

Names: _____



MANITOBA

Prairie Electrification

In 1945, the Manitoba government started the Farm Electrification program.



SASKATCHEWAN

Prairie Electrification

In 1949, the Saskatchewan government passed the Rural Electrification Act.



ALBERTA

Prairie Electrification

In 1948, Alberta voted to **not** have government involved in rural electrification and Electrical Co-operatives were formed.



INSTRUCTIONS

Prairie Electrification

Use these information cards to complete the back page of your brochure.



Rural electrification changed farming and food production on the Canadian prairies. Give an example of changes in food production and explain how it may have benefited all Canadians.

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Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are Canada's three prairie provinces. Each province handled rural electrification differently.



MANITOBA	
SASKATCHEWAN	
ALBERTA	

A Prairie Farm:
Before and After
Electrification

Name: _____



What was life like on a prairie farm before electrification?



Lined writing area for 'Before' response

Before

After



What was life like on a prairie farm after electrification?



Lined writing area for 'After' response