

## Script

Directions: The script is keyed to the slides as they appear on the screen. Read what is written for each slide and progress to the next one. The first slide is a title slide. The text commences with the second slide.

Slide 1 #####

Slide 2 1895 -- This was a year, not so very long ago, when things were different than they are now. It was a time when...

Slide 3 ...trains were the main form of transportation instead of cars and trucks. It was a time when...

Slide 4 ...farmers used horses instead of tractors, and it was a time when...

Slide 5 ...schools looked like this.

Slide 6 Most people lived on farms in 1895, and schools had to be located in the country because town was just too far away for walking to class.

Slide 7 All eight grades met in these one-room schools and studied under just one teacher.

Slide 8 Does this look like our schoolroom? The big windows do not have curtains or shades.

Slide 9 Without electricity, the students had to do lessons by light coming through the windows.

Slide 10 Schools were heated by wood burning stoves, but this was not very efficient. Children near the stove kept warm, but those children farthest away were almost always cold.

Slide 11 This was their water fountain. A bucket of water was kept in the school. When somebody got thirsty he used the one tin dipper to scoop up a drink.

Slide 12 Because children were needed to help do farm work...

Slide 13 ...school met only for a few months each winter. This was not much time to master studies so schools did not have Christmas vacations. In fact, if Christmas fell on a school day, the scholars still had to report for class.

- Slide 14 Had you been going to school in 1895 your day would have started at four in the morning when you got up to do chores.
- Slide 15 One of the chores would be to chop a day's supply of wood for your mother's stove.
- Slide 16 Then you would walk a mile or more to school.
- Slide 17 School started with singing...
- Slide 18 ...before the scholars began a day with the 3 R's.
- Slide 19 Scholars were not divided into grades. Instead of being in the fourth or fifth grade...
- Slide 20 ...scholars were grouped depending upon which reader they were using. The beginning readers always recited first.
- Slide 21 To recite, an entire reader sat as a group on the bench in front of the teacher's desk. Scholars would stand and recite their lessons in turn.
- Slide 22 While one reader was reciting, the others would be reading their lessons...
- Slide 23 ...or ciphering on their slates.
- Slide 24 Slates are like little blackboards which were used instead of paper. When the assignment was finished the slate was erased for the next problem. This way they did not waste paper.
- Slide 25 At noon everybody quickly ate lunches of biscuits and sausage or cornbread and butter in order to...
- Slide 26 ...have more time to play.
- Slide 27 Recess was the favorite part of each day, but many games popular in 1895 are not well known today. Have you ever shot marbles? Perhaps you have played hat ball or ante-over...
- Slide 28 ...or fox and hounds...

- Slide 29      ...or dickey pen. Baseball was just becoming popular in 1895 and basketball was not very well known.
- Slide 30      But it was just as much fun to play in snow as it is now.
- Slide 31      When the noon hour ended all returned for an afternoon of study and recitation.
- Slide 32      Perhaps in the afternoon there might be a spelling bee. It was considered a great honor to spell down the school.
- Slide 33      Scholars worked very hard at their lessons, but they also had other responsibilities at school.
- Slide 34      Remember the wood burning stove we saw earlier? The older boys had to split wood for it.
- Slide 35      All the children helped carry in the firewood, and the older girls swept the school.
- Slide 36      The scholars were also expected to “make their manners.” When the boys entered the schoolhouse they had to remove their hats and bow to the teacher. The children had to stand and bow whenever a visitor came to school. In the evening before they could go home, the children lined up by the door...
- Slide 37      ...so they could bow to the master as he left school. Then the master went home with the child whose family was boarding him that week.
- Slide 38      What do you suppose happened to scholars that misbehaved?
- Slide 39      If they had a female teacher, she might thump their heads with her thimble or box their ears.
- Slide 40      They might have to stay after school or stand in the corner.
- Slide 41      If a girl misbehaved, she was punished by having to sit on the boy’s side of the room.
- Slide 42      But the most common punishment was a switching. Parents and teachers alike believed “to spare the rod was to spoil the child,” and some teachers were even dismissed because they did not switch the children often enough.

- Slide 43      Schools were very strict in 1895, but teachers would reward scholars if they worked hard and did their lessons well.
- Slide 44      One teacher read to his classes as a reward. He said the scholars preferred Ben-Hur and Shakespeare's plays to other works.
- Slide 45      Each spring there was a closing exercise at which the scholars were publicly tested. Those scholars who had finished what we call the eighth grade were given a certificate. The certificate meant they were finished with school and were ready to look for a job.
- Slide 46      We have learned a lot about old schools; so why don't you take some paper, and write down those things you remember as being different.
- Slide 47      #####

## Appendice

When the students have completed their lists you may wish to engage in a general discussion of what they discovered. There are certain points that should specifically be brought to their attention. Schools have physically changed since 1895. They are now located in urban settings, and the children ride to school instead of walking. The buildings are larger to accommodate more faculty members and increased student bodies.

The terminology has also changed. Scholars have become students, and readers have become grades. Ciphering is now solving arithmetic or mathmatic problems. Teachers no longer board around with the families of their students. (This practice was on the wane by 1895; however, it was still used. as circumstances dictated.)

Another point that must be made is the change in lifestyles. Children do not have the work responsibilities today that they did in 1895. This may be something your students will have difficulty in grasping, and a lesson about family life might be helpful. To live comfortably on an 1895 farm required the joint efforts of all family members. Without our labor saving devices, the tasks were too numerous to fall solely on the parents. A possible assignment would be to have your students interview their grandparents. Most of the grandparents will have been born after 1895, but farm life in Coles County did not begin true modernization until the 1930's. Much of what they recall will be valid.

Something else you might wish to try would be playing period games during recess. Drop the handkerchief is a good example of a period game. It is a very old game, but it was considered primarily girl's play. A boy's game would be hat ball. The boys form a line with their hats on the ground about three feet in front of them. (Note: you may have to substitute something for hats since very few boys wear them anymore.) Someone with a ball passes the hat line, and when he drops the ball into a hat the game begins. All players must run away except the boy whose hat has the ball, He must retrieve the ball and throw it at another player. The player hit may in turn throw the ball at someone else. The play continues

in this manner until a mark is missed. The thrower who missed is out and must remove his hat from the line. This procedure is repeated until there is only one player left.

Ante-Over: This game will require modification and may not even be usable under some conditions. In 1859, this outside game was played by dividing the school into two teams with a team on either side of the building. The player with the ball would yell, "Ante," and when the other team was set they would yell, "Over." Then it was up to the player with the ball to determine when and where he would throw the ball over the building. If the ball was caught, both teams ran around the school to switch sides. The player that caught the ball tried to hit an opposing player before the switch was completed. The child hit with the ball was "captured." and had to change teams. If the ball was not caught on the throw over, there was no switch. This game required the teacher to be a fast and impartial referee

Fox and Hounds: a very popular game during the noon recess when there was ample time to play. It was originally a game for boys, but there is no reason why girls cannot play also. A base or "den" is established, and then a "fox" is selected from the players. The remaining players become the "hounds." After the fox has gained an ample headstart, the hounds are turned loose. There are two objectives to this game. The hounds want to catch the fox, but the fox must elude them and get back to the safety of his den. This game was ideally suited to the country school with the nearby woods and open fields, but modification should make it possible to play on today's schoolgrounds.

Dickey-Pen: another popular game for both boys and girls. Originally planks or poles were laid on the ground to build a pen, but stakes and string about six inches high should work as well. The players gather inside the pen except for one who is the catcher. Someone must challenge the catcher by running away from the pen. When the catcher goes after the runner the other players make their break. The catcher is not obligated to tag the first runner. He may go after anyone outside the pen; however, the runners may elude the catcher by getting back in the pen. The first person tagged becomes the new catcher and the game starts over.

These are just a few suggestions of ways to reinforce the slide presentation. You may wish to design your own program; but whichever you go please keep in mind that we are trying to increase the students' historical awareness.