



Social Studies Unit | Grades 8-12 | Lesson 9: Blacksmith Shop

Lesson Description

A blacksmith in the 1880's was a very busy person. The "smithy" made everything from wagon wheels, guns and horseshoes to tools such as saws, axes, shovels and his most popular item, nails. Heating wrought iron in a forge makes the metal pliable enough to be shaped. The blacksmith then hammers the glowing hot piece into shape. Using techniques such as drawing, bending, upsetting and punching, the blacksmith creates functional and decorative pieces. He then finishes the piece to reduce oxidation or enhance its appearance. Today students can watch regular casting, forging and foundry demonstrations while asking questions about the unique and once crucial trade.

Concepts

Local Ozarks History
Primary & Secondary Sources

Pioneer Living
Blacksmithing Terminology

Objectives

Students will:

- Tour Silver Dollar City's Blacksmith shop.
- Learn about pioneer life based on items and structures within the shop.
- Analyze primary and secondary resources.

Content Standards

Knowledge: SS2, SS5, SS6

Performance: 1.2; 1.9; 3.2; 3.5; 4.3

CLE's: 3.A, 3.T, 3.Y, 3.Z, 7.A

Social Studies CLE:

- **3.A:** Migrations of people from many different regions of the world, including motivations for immigration and challenges to immigrants.
- **3.T:** Physical/human characteristics that make places unique.
- **3.Y:** Changing character of American society and culture.
- **3.Z:** Analysis of Missouri history as it relates to major developments of United States history including exploration/settlement and conflict in the mid 1800s.
- **7.A:** Analysis of primary and secondary resources.



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Time Required

Approximately 45 minutes

Materials

- Student activity sheet from the Kids-U-Cation website
 - Silver Dollar City Park Map
 - Writing utensil
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Procedures

1. Print off the student activity sheet from the Kids-U-Cation website and hand out to students.
 2. Read background information worksheet prior to visiting Silver Dollar City.
 3. Pick up a park map upon entering Silver Dollar City to get to the Blacksmith Shop.
 4. Turn into teacher for a completion or accuracy grade.
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Closure

Review the key points of this lesson by discussing the following:

- Name some of the items/structures that you saw inside and on the exterior of the Blacksmith shop.
 - What were these items/structures used for during a typical day?
 - If you were the same age you are now but living in the 1880s, describe what the ordering experience might be like for you (and your family).
 - After touring the Blacksmith shop, what modern luxuries are you thankful for (air conditioning, factory assembly, machines/computers, etc.)?
 - If you worked in this shop back in the 1880s, what do you think your job responsibilities would include?
 - What was the most interesting fact you learned?
 - Review or research any confusing or unanswered questions.
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Assessment/Independent Practice

Complete the Primary Source Material worksheet and Enrichment exercise.

Name: _____

Blacksmith Shop



A few of the homesteads in the Ozarks had their own blacksmith shop to repair or make household items. With the slaveholding families, such as the Casey family, it was often one of the slaves who was the blacksmith. But, in most cases, the blacksmith shop was in town and the pioneers would take items to be repaired or purchase items needed for their daily lives.

1. Notice the forge and anvil. What is the fuel used in the forge?
2. What is a specialized blacksmith that shoes horses and/or mules called?
3. Where did the blacksmiths get the steel they used in their shops?
4. What types of household items could the pioneer purchase at the blacksmith shop?

Primary Source Materials

Directions: Analyze the following primary source documents according to your teacher's instructions.

- (1) Look at the picture of the Blacksmith Shop which was located in Forsyth, Missouri near the Casey/McHaffie Homestead. Analyze the picture using the photo analysis worksheet.

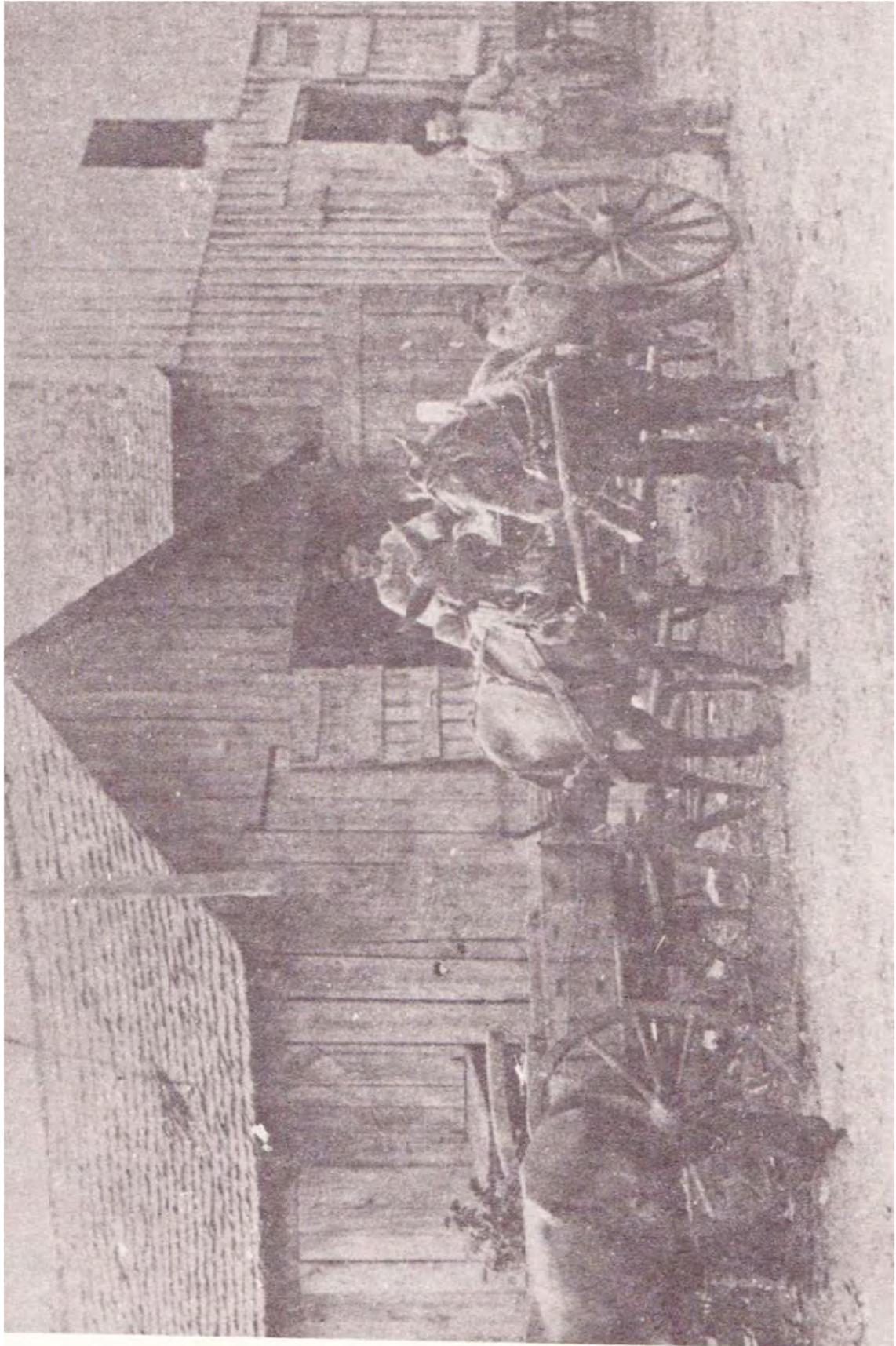


Photo Analysis Worksheet

Step 1. Observation

A. Study the photograph for 2 minutes. Form an overall impression of the photograph and then examine individual items. Next, divide the photo into quadrants and study each section to see what new details become visible.

B. Use the chart below to list people, objects, and activities in the photograph.

People	Objects	Activities

Step 2. Interference

Based on what you have observed above, list three things you might infer from this photograph.

Step 3. Questions

A. What questions does this photograph raise in your mind?

B. Where could you find answers to them?