

Bring History to Life With Then & Now!

2ND – 3RD GRADES

LONG AGO AND NOW BUNDLE

SOCIAL STUDIES UNIT

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT YOU'LL GET

📖 **Reading Passage & Activities –** Long Ago & Now text, fact sort, comprehension, QR codes

📚 **Mini-Book –** Compare artifacts long ago & today

🏡 **Family Connections –** Family Tree + Grandparent Interview (letters in English/Spanish)

⏳ **Timeline –** Create a student life events timeline

📝 **Scaffolded Compare & Contrast Writing –** Sentence frames, short lines, and paragraph options

📂 **Sorts & Interactive Notebook –** Cut-and-paste cards + compare/contrast activities







ARTICLE, FACT SORT, & COMPREHENSION

Then & Now

How we live has changed drastically over the past 200 years. Children's lives, schools, houses, and transportation have all changed. Long ago, families were often larger, with four, six, or more children in the family. People had larger families because children were required to work to help the family survive.

Children's Life

Long ago, children helped take care of their family. They were responsible for feeding the animals, getting water, cooking meals, and looking after younger siblings. Children had to work on their farm or, if they lived in a city, help provide food for their families by working in mines, factories, or selling newspapers.

Today, children may have to do a few chores, like the dishes or take out the trash, but today's children also get much more free time than children did long ago. Today children have free time to read books, play video games, or play outside with their friends. Most children in the United States today don't have to worry about earning money to help their family and many are not responsible for cooking dinner each night.

School

School long ago was vastly different than it is today. Early on, there were no buildings where students went to school. Children learned to read and do math at home from their parents.

Eventually, one-room school houses were built in small towns. Each town had only one school and all grades were in the same room. Often the older children helped the younger children learn. Students also didn't go to school as long as we do today. Most children only went to school until they were 12 or 14. Farm children went to school from December to March and then [illegible] from mid-May to August. When [illegible] helped plant [illegible] vegetables.

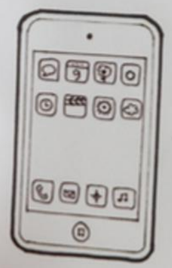
In large [illegible] 11-month sch[illegible] school yea[illegible] Larger cit[illegible] multiple cl[illegible] we have [illegible]

© Jessica Bosch

Inventions

Today, we have smart phones, iPads, computers, cars, microwaves, electricity, and many other inventions that make our lives more efficient. Your parents probably have a dishwasher and washing machine. Think about how much time it would take to wash all your clothes IF you had to do it by hand. Instead, we put our clothes in a washing machine, add detergent, and press a button. That is so much faster than it was 200 years ago! As a result, we not only have more clothes that we can wear, but we also have more time to do other things, like go to school and play.

Do the new inventions make our lives easier? Are you thankful that you don't have to gather wood for your family or go down to the river to get water?





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Then & Now

Read the passage and underline all the phrases that compare or contrast something.

#2

Then & Now

Find and list three similarities between the past and the present.

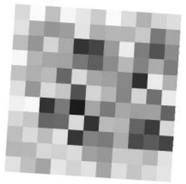
#3

Then & Now

Find and list three differences between the past and the present.

#4

Long Ago & Now Audio



READING PASSAGE WITH OR WITHOUT AUDIO READ ALOUD QR AND IN BOOKLET FORM

COMPARE & CONTRAST

CUT & PASTE WORKSHEET

Sort
Long Ago

Sort
Today

Telephone

Pocket Watch

Telephone

Cook on a Stove

Candlelight

Feather Pen

Car

Use a Microwave

Digital Watch

Lightbulb

Pen

Use a Music Player

Telephone

Cell Phone

Some Ride the Bus

COLOR SORT CARDS

Things Change Sort

Name Kendall P.

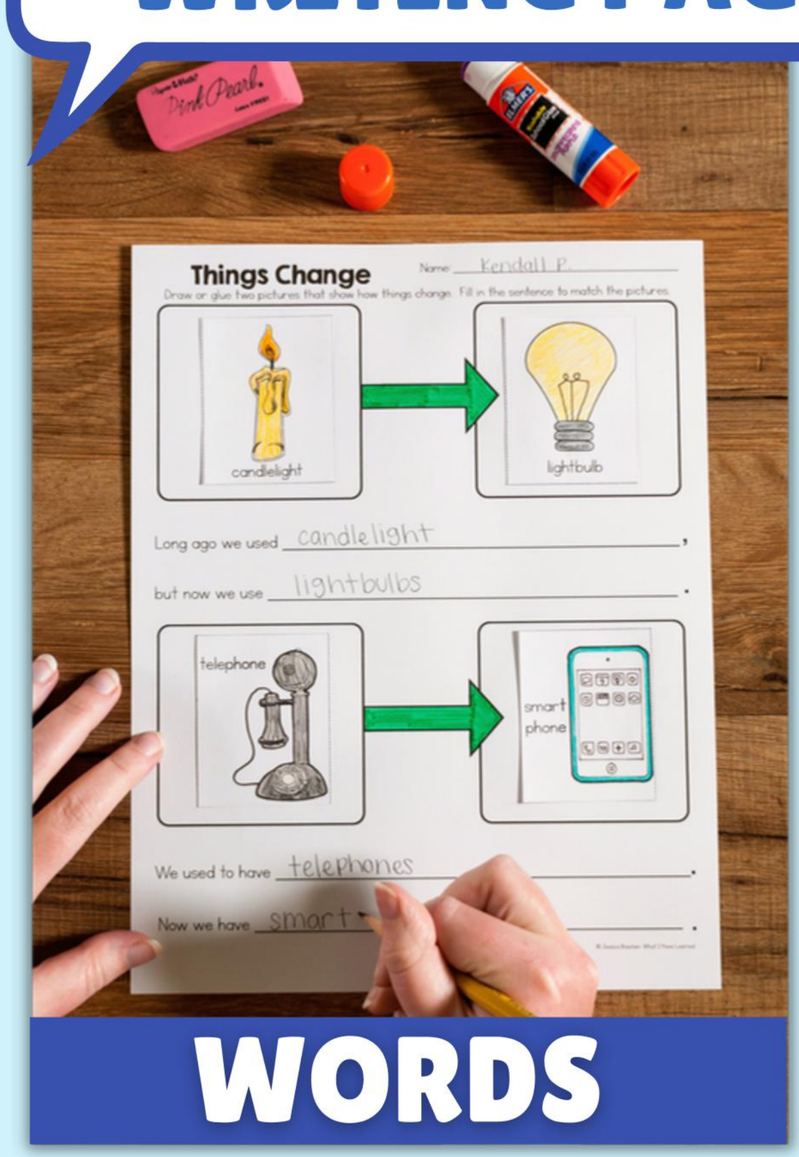
Sort the pictures and tell how things have changed over time.

Long ago	Now

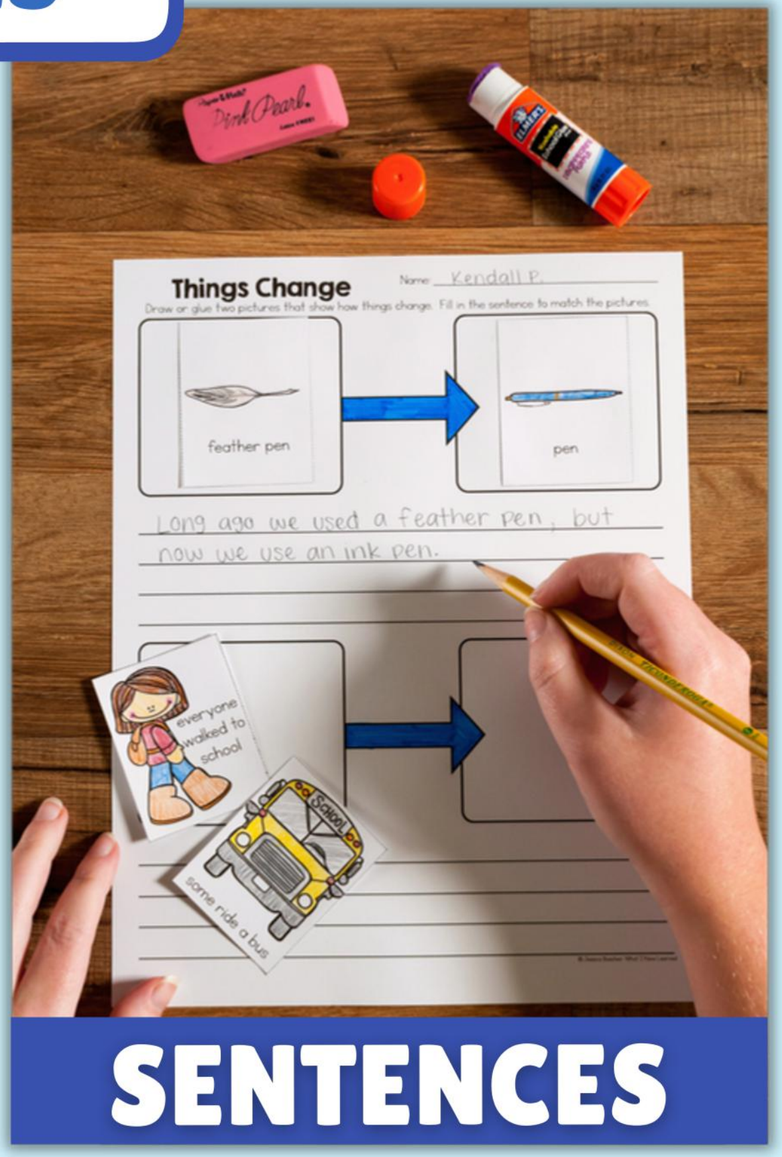
feather pen | horse and buggy | telephone | cell phone | wood stove

wave | digital watch | car

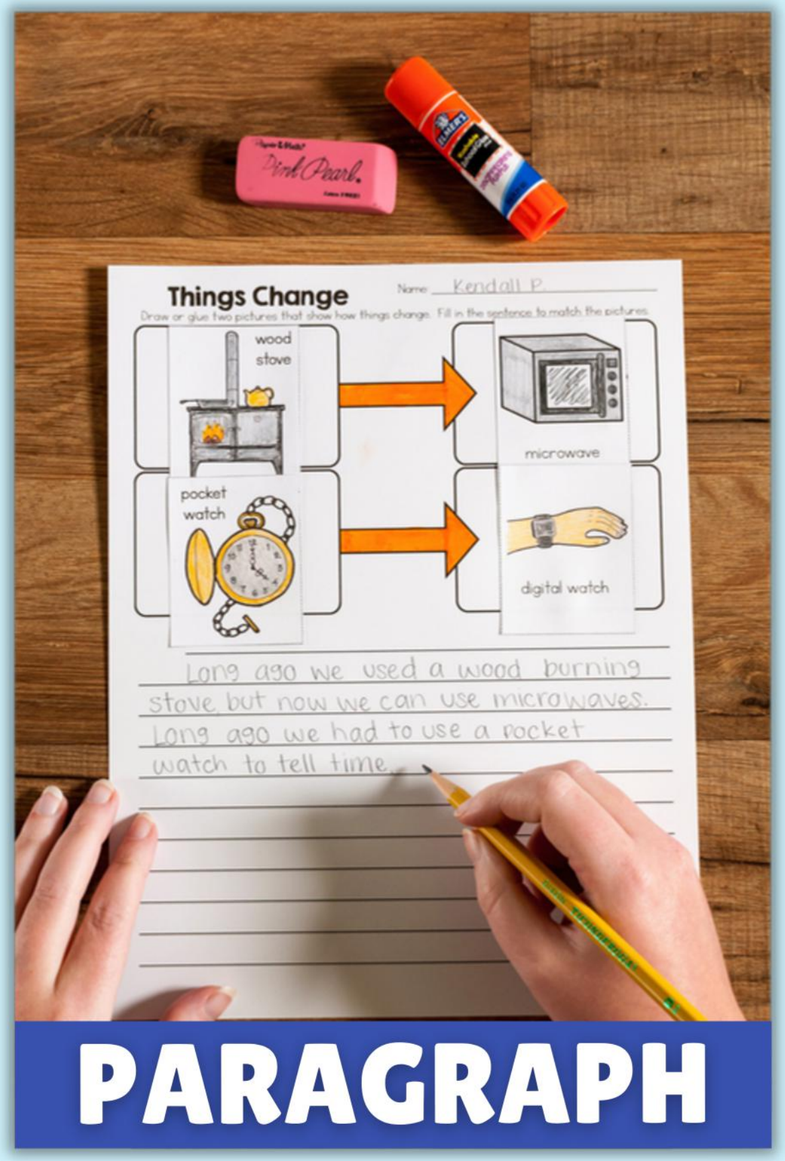
SCAFFOLDED WRITING PAGES



WORDS

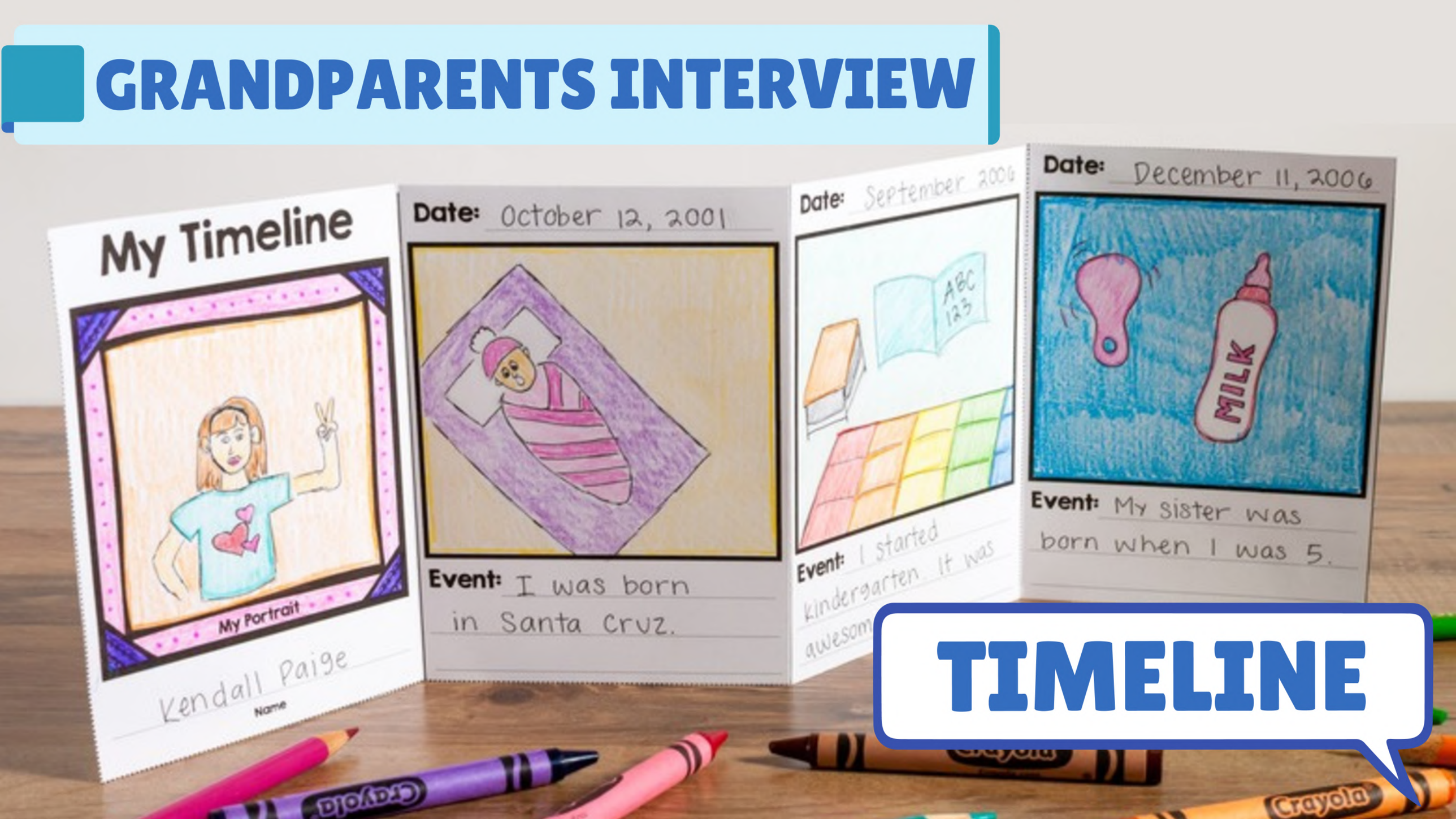


SENTENCES



PARAGRAPH

GRANDPARENTS INTERVIEW



HOW TO USE IT IN THE CLASSROOM

- **Whole Group –** Read the article or sort artifacts together
- **Small Group –** Guide writing with sentence frames
- **Independent –** Students complete timelines, sorts, or interviews
- **Home Connection –** Family tree + grandparent interview activity



WHY IT'S VALUABLE FOR TEACHERS



Makes History Personal and Relatable

Students compare their lives to grandparents' lives, exploring school, homes, and transportation long ago versus today.



Easy to Use and Standards–Aligned

Ready-to-go passages, activities, and teacher notes align with 2nd grade social studies standards, making planning simple and effective.



Engages With Multiple Learning Styles

Includes reading passages, sorts, timelines, family interviews, and scaffolded writing—supporting visual, kinesthetic, and auditory learners effectively.

TEACHERS LOVE IT!

★★★★★

"My students enjoyed this work. It inspired many humerous conversations about the old days and the things we had. Even if they were before my time. Lol."

Sonja F.



★★★★★

"Long ago and today is an important concept in our ELA curriculum & in social studies. These visuals really helped build vocabulary & writing content. Thank you. "

Rachel H.



My passion is making learning accessible to all students.
I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections.
I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.



teach MATH | teach SCIENCE | teach READING | teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED