

Introduction

Transforming the West: Did the Reality Match the Expectations for Kansas Homesteaders?

Author: Abbie Stiffler, Baltimore County Public Schools

Grade Level: High

Duration of the History Lab: One 90-minute period

Overview:

Why did people migrate to Kansas from the 1850s to the 1880s? What sort of life were they expecting to find there? Why did they move hundreds or thousands of miles to a frontier? And once they arrived, what was life like for the new settlers? These questions form the basis for this History Lab, which compares the expectations of Kansas settlers with the reality of life on the frontier.

Using posters, letters, and newspaper articles, students will determine what efforts were made to entice settlers to move to Kansas, what those migrants expected to find as they worked to build a new life, and how these expectations differed from the harsh reality of Kansas farm life. By comparing expectations with reality, students will gain a greater appreciation for both the motives and challenges faced by settlers during westward migration, as well as the way the experience changed the lives of those who expanded the frontier of the American nation.

History Standards

Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

- Standard 1: United States territorial expansion between 1801 and 1861, and how it affected relations with external powers and Native Americans.
- Standard 2: How the industrial revolution, increasing immigration, the rapid expansion of slavery, and the westward movement changed the lives of Americans.

Historical Thinking Standards

- **Historical Comprehension**

A. Identify the author or source of the historical document or narrative and assess its credibility.

B. Reconstruct the literal meaning of a historical passage.

E. Read historical narratives imaginatively.

F. Appreciate historical perspectives.

- **Historical Analysis and Interpretation**

A. Compare and contrast differing sets of ideas.

B. Consider multiple perspectives.

E. Distinguish between unsupported expressions of opinion and informed hypotheses grounded in historical evidence.

Maryland State Curriculum Standards for United States History

History Objective- Analyze the causes and consequences of westward expansion.

Purpose

In this History Lab, students will analyze documents addressing the westward movement of farmers to Kansas from the 1850s to the 1880s. They will compare the expectations of migrants with the realities they discovered once arriving in Kansas. In doing so, students will:

- Examine the reasons farmers relocated to Kansas.
- Explore the techniques used to encourage their relocation through advertising.
- Contrast these expectations with the experiences of the farmers once they arrived in Kansas.

By examining the firsthand accounts of farmers, as well as newspaper articles and other primary source materials, students will gain a deeper understanding of how westward migration changed the lives of settlers who responded to advertisements and sought a better life in Kansas.

Lab Objectives

- Students will analyze problems faced by farmers in order to make generalizations about western farmers.
- Students will analyze historical documents in order to determine accuracy of an advertisement.

Topic Background

Western expansion of the United States by settlers is as old as the nation itself. Manifest Destiny, the idea that God wanted Americans to move westward and expand across the entire continent, was coined by magazine editor John L. O'Sullivan in 1845 and inspired settlers of all backgrounds. There were major drawbacks to settling the West for the white settlers – mainly the presence of Native Americans. However, this did not stop homesteaders from pressing forward as the promise of gold, wealth, fertile soil, wide open prairies, a better life, and fulfilling God's destiny was more than enough. Kansas played an incredibly important role in westward expansion prior to and after the American Civil War.

Government and business action during the 19th century encouraged the settlement of Kansas. Under the controversial Kansas-Nebraska Act, designed by Senator Stephen Douglas, Kansas was admitted as a U.S. territory by Congress in 1854. At this point white settlers began to flock to the area, a trend which continued until a severe drought in 1860 caused many to leave the territory. The Act had specified that popular sovereignty would determine whether the territories would be admitted as free or slave states, causing anti-slavery "free soilers" and pro-slavery "border ruffians"

to pour into the territory. This resulted in years of strife and turmoil between abolitionists and pro-slavery supporters, including John Brown's infamous Pottawatomie Massacre, which led to the phrase "Bleeding Kansas." However, abolitionist forces prevailed and Kansas was admitted into the Union as a free state in 1861.

In 1862 Congress passed the Pacific Railway Act and the Homestead Act, which vastly accelerated westward expansion and encouraged many settlers to move to Kansas. The Pacific Railway Act authorized the Central Pacific and the Union Pacific railroad companies to construct a transcontinental railroad. The Act would result in the construction of four transcontinental railroads and 174 million acres of public land given to the companies in order to encourage the growth of a national railroad system. The Homestead Act allowed settlers, citizens or immigrants to claim 160 acres of public land. Claimants who resided on and improved the land for five years would then receive title to the land. Homesteaders also had the option to buy the land for \$1.25 an acre, after living on and improving it for six months. In fact, most acreage under the Homestead Act was given to land speculators, ranchers, miners, lumbermen and railroad companies. While the Pacific Railway Act and the Homestead Act contributed to the settlement of Kansas, settlement was mostly the result of the railroad companies selling smaller pieces of land to homesteaders.

Three groups of settlers, white Americans, African-American "exodusters," and European immigrants, moved to Kansas from the 1850s through 1880s following these and other government actions. They were preceded by Native Americans relocated by the federal government.

Native Americans were forced onto reservations in Kansas beginning in the 1830s. Under President Andrew Jackson, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 brought more than 10,000 Native Americans to the territory that is now Kansas. The Kickapoo were removed from Missouri to Kansas in 1832; the Iowas were moved from the Great Lakes region to Kansas in 1836; and the Potawatomis were removed from Indiana to Kansas in 1838. Some Native Americans were placed on reservations, while others were forced to migrate on their own. Native Americans left their mark on the culture of Kansas in the names of many counties, water bodies, towns and the state itself.

Substantial numbers of white Americans began arriving in Kansas in 1854. The railroad companies developing in Kansas were a large factor in the settlement of Kansas by white settlers. The Atchinson, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad was the largest railroad in Kansas, connecting the territory with the west and Chicago. The railroad companies figured that the increase in population would result in more business and increased profits. Companies printed advertisements, pamphlets, and guides.

Many other settlers were encouraged by the Homestead Act of 1862. More than a million people came to Kansas between 1865 and 1890 to claim free land on the Kansas frontier. The Children's Aid Society of New York operated orphan trains between 1854 and 1929, in which approximately 5,000 orphaned children arrived from New York City to be adopted by Kansas residents. The Homestead Act, railroad company encouragement and efforts of aid societies all significantly contributed to the Anglo-American settlement of Kansas.

African Americans settled in Kansas in the late 1870s, following the collapse of Reconstruction. Benjamin "Pap" Singleton advocated for a "Great Exodus" of former slaves from the South to Kansas. The Exodusters, as the former slaves who came to

Kansas were called, settled there to escape oppressive Redeemer governments. Singleton helped hundreds of exodusters move to Kansas between 1877 and 1879, as federal troops were removed following the Compromise of 1877. Due to the exodusters, Kansas developed many distinct and self-sufficient African-American communities.

European immigrants began arriving in Kansas in the mid-1800s through the 1880s. The largest immigrant group in Kansas was German speakers. Many came directly from Germany, while others came by way of Russia. Again, the railroad companies targeted the German-speaking immigrants, due to their middle-class status, issuing pro-Kansas settlement pamphlets and guides in German. These immigrants settled as farmers, many learning the language and culture from their American-born children. A smaller group of immigrants came from Sweden, who left that country due to famine and starvation. Swedish immigrants encouraged their friends and family members to follow them to Kansas. As a result, Kansas was settled by a large German-speaking immigrant population and a smaller Swedish population.

Kansas settlement from the mid- to late-1800s brought many different peoples to the state. Originally home to Native American tribes, Kansas became settled by white American settlers, exodusters, and European immigrants. The settlers wanted to establish a new life, build successful homesteads, and plant roots for their families.

"American Indian Place Names." *Kansas Historical Society*. Kansas Historical Society, 2010. Web. 1 Jul 2010. <www.kshs.org/portraits/american_indian_place_names.htm>.

"From Far Away Russia: Russian Germans in Kansas." *Kansas Historical Society*. Kansas Historical Society, 2010. Web. 1 Jul 2010. <www.kshs.org/exhibits/traveling/kites11.htm>.

"Homestead Act (1862)". *Our Documents*. National Archives and Records Administration. Web. 1 Jul 2010.

"Pacific Railway Act (1862)." *Our Documents*. National Archives and Records Administration. Web. 1 Jul 2010.

"Topics in Kansas History: Cultural & Ethnic Groups." *Kansas Historical Society*. Kansas Historical Society, 2010. Web. 1 Jul 2010. <www.kshs.org/research/topics/cultural/indians.htm>.

"Topics in Kansas History: Settlement (1830-1890)." *Kansas Historical Society*. Kansas Historical Society, 2010. Web. 1 Jul 2010. <www.kshs.org/research/topics/settlement/essay.htm>.

"Western Trails Project." *Kansas Historical Society*. Kansas Historical Society, 2010. Web. 1 Jul 2010. <http://www.kshs.org/p/western-trails-project/13883>

Vocabulary

Prairie - geographic region in the central United States that was fertile grassland

Buffalo chips - manure from a buffalo that would dry in the sun and be gathered to burn due to a lack of wood on the prairie

Homestead - a piece of land gained under the Homestead Act; a piece of land with a home and buildings usually used to farm

Dugout - a type of semi-permanent shelter that has been dug out of a hill; built on the prairie due to lack of resources

Sod - a section of grassland that has been cut from the ground

Plague - a widespread disaster for a region

Redeemers - southern politicians who drove freed slaves from government following Reconstruction and adopted Jim Crow laws to disenfranchise African-Americans.

Conducting the History Lab

Overarching Question:

Did the reality match the expectations for Kansas Homesteaders?

To answer this question, students will examine the experiences of Kansas farmers to discover how westward migration changed the lives of those who relocated to Kansas.

Materials:

- Advertisement Analysis Worksheet (RS#07)
- Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Poster for Lands in Southwest Kansas (RS#08)
- Kansas Farmers: Document Analysis Worksheet (RS#09)
- Kansas Farmers: Evidence for Group 1 (RS#01)
- Kansas Farmers: Evidence for Group 2 (RS#02)
- Kansas Farmers: Evidence for Group 3 (RS#03)
- Kansas Farmers: Evidence for Group 4 (RS#04)
- Kansas Farmers: Evidence for Group 5 (RS#05)
- Kansas Farmers: Evidence for Group 6 (RS#06)
- Kansas Farmers: Assessment (RS#10)

Step 1: Initiate the History Lab

- Have students bring in an advertisement from a magazine.
- Analyze the modern advertisement using the Advertisement Analysis Worksheet (RS#07).

- Identify what the advertisement is trying to sell, and how willing the students are to purchase the product. The teacher will lead a discussion about why people allow advertisements to persuade them to purchase goods and services. Divide students into 6 groups and have each group analyze an advertisement. Choose one advertisement for the entire class to analyze, or allow students to pick one from each of their groups.

Step 2: Frame the History Lab

- Project or distribute a copy of the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Poster for Lands in Southwest Kansas (RS#08).
- Ask students:
 - Write down any prior history knowledge you think of when you see this poster.
 - Record at least 3 questions you have about this historical document and/or its place in history.
 - What might be going on during the time period (context) that would influence the creation of this source and its message?
 - What do we know about the author/creator of the source (subtext) and how might this influence the information we get from the advertisement?
- While debriefing student responses to the above questions, project the following information and review the definitions of text, context, and subtext:

Text: What is visible/readable—what information is provided by the source?
Context: What was going on during the time period? What background information do you have that helps explain the information found in the source?
Subtext: What information is found between the lines? Use the questions to guide your analysis.

- **Author** - Who created the source and what do you know about the person?
- **Audience** - For whom was the source created?
- **Reason** - Why was this source produced at the time that it was produced?
- **Style** - How does the author use language and rhetorical devices to convey meaning?

- Pose the question: Did the reality match the expectations for Kansas homesteaders?
- Facilitate a discussion to allow students to break down the question and determine what they are being asked to do.
- Ask students what historical sources could help to answer the question?

- Journals
- Photographs
- Political cartoons
- Newspaper articles
- Letters
- Diaries
- Government documents
- Posters

Step 3: Facilitate the History Lab

- Divide students into 6 groups.
- Provide each group of students with a Kansas Farmers: Evidence packet (RS#01-06), as well as Kansas Farmers: Document Analysis Worksheet (RS#09), one copy per student. The resource sheets are designed to allow teachers to group students in a way that is most appropriate for their learning style and/or reading levels.
- Instruct students to work with their group members to interpret the historical documents to answer the overarching question by completing the Kansas Farmers: Document Analysis Worksheet (RS#09).
- Assess comprehension by asking the following questions while visiting each group:
 - What does the text of the document mean to you?
 - How can the citation help you interpret the document?
 - How does knowing the audience help you interpret the document?
 - Why was this document created?
 - What is the tone of the document?
 - What background information do you have that helps explain the information in the document?

- What other information do you want to know regarding this document?
Where could you find the information you are looking for?
- Why do you believe your interpretation is best?
- Students will respond to the questions in various ways. Most questions do not have one correct answer. Students can respond in many variations, so long as their answers are justified using evidence from the historical documents.
- Refer to References for possible answers to the questions.

Step 4: Present information and interpretations

- Facilitate group presentations to the class to explain their historical document(s). Students will discuss the text, context and subtext and answer any questions their classmates may have.
- Assess comprehension and help the students find the relationships between their documents by asking questions such as:
 - How are the documents similar?
 - How are the documents different?
 - What are common problems you saw for the Kansas settlers?
 - What are common solutions you saw from the Kansas settlers?
 - What are common successes you saw for the Kansas settlers?
 - Why can teachers and students interpret documents differently?
 - Why can multiple historians interpret documents differently?
- Possible student responses to the questions include:
 - The documents are similar because they all study Kansas settlers. The documents are similar because the settlers are suffering problems. The documents are similar because the settlers have common problems of lack of resources, trouble with insects and other animals, extreme weather conditions, poverty and illness.
 - The documents provide different views because they cover different dates. The documents provide different views because they are different kinds of documents including letters, journal, cartoons, photographs, newspaper articles.

- Some common problems Kansas settlers had been lack of resources including water and wood, trouble with grasshoppers, droughts and blizzards, poverty due to hardships, and illness due to harsh conditions.
- Solutions to the problems were to dig wells and use windmills to pump water out of the ground, build houses out of prairie sod, burn grasshoppers, creatively plan meals for families, help one another survive the harsh weather by sharing food and supplies, and use alternative fuel sources.
- Settlers were able to build shelter from sod, build support groups, and have positive outlooks on the problems they faced. Settlers were able to work together to survive very harsh conditions.

Step 5: Connect to the overarching question

- Distribute Kansas Farmers: Assessment (RS#10)
- Synthesize the group presentations and class discussion by pre-writing for a short essay to assess student learning.
- Respond to the overarching question: Did the reality match the expectations for Kansas Homesteaders? Students can refer back to the railroad advertising poster as a basis for comparison.

Step 6: Assessment

- Direct students to respond to the overarching question in a short essay that includes a thesis statement and justification from a variety of the historical documents, using Kansas Farmers: Assessment (RS#10) as the basis for their answer.

References

RS#01: Evidence (Group 1)

- **Robert Burgin homestead, Barber County, Kansas**
 - *Robert Burgin homestead, Barber County, Kansas.* Between 1880-1890. Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS. *Kansas Memory.* Web. 28 June 2010.
 - **Text:** 13 people in the photograph, 5 are young children, small wood house with buffalo chips piled outside the house, houses and a mule team hooked to the wagon is present in the photograph.

- **Context:** Settlement of the Great Plains is an ongoing process from 1880-1890 when the photograph was estimated to be taken. These people could have settled by purchasing railroad lands or by the Homestead Act.
 - **Subtext:** There is no known photographer of this photograph. The photograph could have been created for the family for personal use, or the photograph could have been created for a government agency, or other business use. The reason this photograph was taken was to document life on the Burgin homestead. The style of this photograph is a positive. The people in the photograph seem to be displaying their home, horse, children, mule team, farm equipment, buffalo chips, and clothing proudly.
 - The source can be used by students to show that reality matched expectations for settlers. Students could use this photograph to show a homestead in its beginnings. However, students could also interpret this photograph negatively because there are no crops to be seen, therefore the soil and/or weather could possibly be a hardship for the settlers.
- **Ada McColl gathering buffalo chips**
 - McColl, Ada. *Ada McColl gathering buffalo chips*. 1893. Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
 - **Text:** “Independence on the Plains, Gathering Chips” is the caption that is hand written on the photograph. In the photograph is a young woman dressed in work clothes posing with a wheel barrel of chips.
 - **Context:** Settlers had a lack of wood on many places on the prairie. Settlers had to get creative in order to have fuel to burn for warmth and cooking. The photograph was taken in 1893 and it appears the way the woman is dressed to be during the fall season.
 - **Subtext:** The photograph is a self-portrait. The photographer most likely used photography as a hobby while living on a homestead. The source was created for the photographer, Ada McColl. The source was produced to document her life in Kansas. It appears the photograph was taken to document the lifestyle of settlers in Kansas. The style of the photography is neutral; however the handwritten caption leads the viewer to have a positive outlook on the chore. By using the word, independence, the photographer leads the audience to have a positive feeling about the chore she is performing.
 - The source could be used to determine that reality did or did not match expectations for settlers to Kansas. The photograph shows life was difficult on the plains with lack of wood; however the tone of the photograph is positive due to the caption.
 - **Prairie Fire**
 - Burrton Telephone. *Prairie Fire*. March 22, 1879. Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
 - **Text:** The information provided by the source is that a fire took place in March 1879 on a Kansas prairie town. Farmers lost their machinery,

- livestock, barns, feed, and children. The article also comments that the farmers are now left without “the machinery, grain, or hedges” that took 6 or 7 years to build. The article comments that adversity makes the man.
- **Context:** By 1879 when this fire took place many settlers had been in Kansas for 10-15 years. Many farmers had been able to establish a nice homestead.
 - **Subtext:** The author of the article is unknown but the article was published in “Burrton Telephone” and the editor was A.C. Bowman. The article was created for the subscribers of Burrton Telephone. The reason the article was written was to inform members of the community of the impact of the fire. The article has a sympathetic tone to the members of the community that suffered losses from the fire. The author implies the settlers will be able to rise from the ashes of the fire and rebuild.
 - The source shows that life on the Kansas plains was not as positive as settlers might have been led to believe. (In fact, it contradicts the “abundant water” advertisement on the railroad poster.) However, students can interpret the tone as very positive and the newspaper article ends on a positive note.

RS#02: Evidence (Group 2)

- **A.W. Johnson and Isabella Johnson to Robert S. Wickizer**
 - Johnson, A.W. *A.W. Johnson and Isabella Johnson to Robert S. Wickizer*. March 24, 1875. Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
 - **Text:** The information provided by the letter is that this homestead has had its problems, but it was successful. One problem faced by the homestead was the grasshoppers. The settlers on this farm had to cut their wheat crop early so that they were able to save some of the crop. The settlers are living on their third farm in Kansas. They were able to sell the first two. The letter mentioned that many of their neighbors had received aid from the East but they did not receive any because they are doing better than other farmers. The letter encourages the reader to move to Kansas because land is still cheap and it should be a good time to buy because people are still afraid of the grasshoppers.
 - **Context:** In 1874 grasshoppers invaded the Great Plains destroying crops, shrubbery, grasses, trees and other plants.
 - **Subtext:** The authors of the source are A.W. and Isabella Johnson. They were a family of settlers that made a successful settlement in Kansas. They were able to sell two farms and re-settle in what they believed was a great area.
 - The source describes the problems this family had with grasshoppers, but it encourages the reader to move to Kansas.

RS#03: Evidence (Group 3)

▪ Home Life in Early Days

- Valentine, Martha. *Home Life in Early Days*. February 23, 1908. Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** The article reminisces the experiences the author had when settling in Kansas in 1860. She describes how her family kept alive eating corn, small game, and wild vegetables. She describes the suffering in her neighborhood and the aid they sometimes received from Easterners. The author discusses grasshoppers and snakes involvement in her household.
- **Context:** The article is written in 1908 when Kansas was an established place. The nation was facing a large amount of immigrants entering the country and moving west.
- **Subtext:** The author is Martha Valentine, a club member; however the source does not state what club of which she was a member. Mrs. Valentine appears to have been an important community member. The source was written for subscribers of the Topeka Capital and reminisces about what life was like in the early settlement time period of Kansas. The author was proud of everything her family accomplished while settling in Kansas, but she was horrified by some of her experiences.
- The source can be used to compare the early settlement of Kansas with the expectations raised once the railroad companies became involved. Students can conclude that there was a difference in settlement before the railroad companies were involved in selling land.

RS#04: Evidence (Group 4)

▪ Mead family dugout, Ford County, Kansas

- *Mead family dugout, Ford County, Kansas*. Between 1875-1889. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** The photograph shows the Mead family in front of their dugout home. The home has glass windows, a stovepipe, and the family is dressed in nice clean clothes. The baby in the picture is dressed a beautiful white dress with bonnet.
- **Context:** The photograph was taken during the settlement period of Kansas. The family is living in a dugout house made with a sod roof. While this type of housing was common, the house depicted was not typical, because it had luxuries like wood siding, a stovepipe and glass windows.
- **Subtext:** The author of the photograph is unknown. The photograph was most likely taken to document the life of this family. It was probably a family photograph due to the lack of known photographer. The people in the photograph are proudly displaying their best clothes and luxuries.
- The photograph can be used to show discrepancies between what life was really like for the settlers and what they may have expected because of

advertisements. Even though the family had many luxuries, they still lacked the sort of life that the settlers might have hoped for.

▪ **Interior view of dugout near Bloom, Ford County, Kansas**

- *Interior view of dugout near Bloom, Ford County, Kansas.* .Between 1870-1890. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory.* Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** This photograph shows the interior of the Mead family home. The photograph depicts crowded living conditions, very little storage, but the furniture and other belongings inside appear to be fairly expensive items.
- **Context:** The photograph was taken during the settlement time period of Kansas. The family is living in a typical type of housing as many other settlers; however, the possessions of the family appear to be quite luxurious for a prairie family.
- **Subtext:** The author of the photography is unknown. The photograph was most likely taken to document the life of the family. There are no people in the photograph, leading the style of the photograph to be proud of the belongings the family has acquired. It is possible that many of the belongings were shipped to them once they established their homestead from their former home.
- The photograph shows the “luxuries” that some families were able to acquire. By looking at the series of documents the students should be able to interpret the document to show a family that was well off on the Kansas prairie.

▪ **Anderson Sod House, Logan County, Kansas**

- *Anderson Sod House, Logan County, Kansas.* Between 1885-1890. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory.* Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** The photograph shows four men sitting on the roof of a sod house and two women and one man in front of the sod house. Three of the four men have musical instruments and the fourth has a gun. The people appear to be immigrants of southeastern European origin. The sod house has one glass window and one wooden door. The rest of the house is made from all sod.
- **Context:** Many settlers coming to Kansas were not Americans, but European immigrants looking to make a new life. The immigrants would have been middle class or upper middle class in their former homeland in order to have enough money to settle in the Midwest.
- **Subtext:** The author of the photograph is unknown. The audience of the photograph was most likely family members. The reason the photograph was taken was to document family life. The photograph has a humorous approach. The four men sitting on top of the house have musical instruments and a gun.
- The photograph can be used to show that immigrants did come to Kansas and that their expectations might have been higher than the reality of life

on the plains. The photograph shows the lack of natural resources in Kansas, since there is no wood, water, crops, or livestock in the photograph.

▪ **Abraham Eitzen farm, Marion County, Kansas**

- *Abraham Eitzen farm, Marion County, Kansas*. 1904. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** The photograph shows a picture of a farmhouse, windmill, barn, several outbuildings, livestock, team of horses pulling a sled, and several people. There is snow on the ground. The farm appears to be well established by 1904.
- **Context:** By 1904, most of the Homesteaders and railroad lands had been purchased and settled on. There was still a large amount of public land available, but settlement had slowed down. At this time in Kansas you have families that have been in Kansas for 50 years and families are still slowly arriving.
- **Subtext:** The author of the photograph is unknown. The audience of the photograph may be the family, readers in a newspaper back east, or it could have been possibly used in advertising. The photograph was taken to document the life on Eitzen farm; however, the photograph makes life too good. The tone of the photograph is very positive. There is pretty snow on the ground, there are people dressed in nice clothes getting ready for a ride in a horse drawn sleigh.
- The photograph can be used to argue that reality matched expectations for the settlers. Advertisements were used to create expectations in the 1870's and this photography was 35 years later, but a student could argue that the dreams of the settlers came true for some people. Students could also argue that settlers expected to have farms like this in six or seven years, not 35 years.

RS#05: Evidence (Group 5)

▪ **Susan Dimond Journal**

- Dimond, Susan B. *Susan Dimond journal*. January 3, 1875 and January 12, 1875. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** The two journal entries describe the harsh winter temperatures and snow. She includes details about how the harsh weather impacts her ability to teach her students at the school. She discusses a good dinner she and her husband had to celebrate their anniversary but notes the dinner is not much for eastern standards. The journal mentions a lack of fuel and that her family is surviving but must find a way to grow crops in the spring. If the family does not grow good crops in the spring she says they will move farther west. She also advises others to no settle in Kansas.

- **Context:** The spring and summer of 1874 in Kansas brought an invasion of grasshoppers to the area. The family is suffering for lack of supplies for the cattle and food sources for themselves due to the attack. The winter of 1875 was harsh for settlers as well. Many settlers are leaving Kansas due to the hardships and moving west to California or back east to their original home.
- **Subtext:** The author of the journal is Susan Dimond, a school teacher and settler in Kansas. The journal is written to an unidentified friend and one entry mentions mailing the book to the friend so she can read it once the book is filled. The reason for writing the journal is to document the life she has in Kansas, inform her friend about life in Kansas and persuade her friend to stay where she is living. The author is upset with the hardships of living in Kansas and uses her journal as a forum to vent her frustrations. In one entry the author makes it clear that if the spring is not better she and her family are going to go west to make a successful life.
- The source can be used to argue that reality was much harsher than settlers would expect. The family is suffering from the grasshoppers and from the harsh winter weather. This journal represents the many families that abandoned their homesteads in search of a life out west or a life back east.

RS#06: Evidence (Group 6)

- **Grasshopper Relief proclamation**

- Osborn, Thomas Andrew. *Grasshopper Proclamation*. 1874. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** Osborn discusses the destruction by the grasshopper plague of 1874 and he calls a special session of the state legislature to meet on September 15, 1874 to create a plan of action to help the citizens of Kansas.
- **Context:** The spring and summer of 1874 in Kansas brought a grasshopper plague. The government of Kansas was still fairly new due to gaining statehood in 1861. Indian raids are also taking place during the same time period leading up to the proclamation. The governor called the state legislative body to create a plan of action to help the people deal with the destruction in his state.
- **Subtext:** The author of the proclamation is Governor Thomas Osborn. Osborn was governor of Kansas from 1873-1877. He was well liked by the citizens of Kansas because he was young, well-spoken and exuded confidence. The audience is the Kansas Legislature and the readers of the newspaper. The reason for the proclamation to be printed in the newspaper is to allow the constituents to see that the governor is trying to help them. The style of the proclamation is demanding to the legislators and sympathetic to the constituents.
- The source can be used to show that politicians in Kansas were trying to help the citizens. The source also shows a discrepancy between the

ideals of living in Kansas held by settlers before they relocated and the realities of the grasshopper plague of 1874.

▪ **Mr. G. Hopper, Kansas**

- Vance, F.T. *Mr. G. Hopper, Kansas*. 1875. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** the cartoon has a caption naming the grasshopper in the cartoon Mr. G. Hopper and it has a statement declaring the cartoon has been given to the Library of Congress in 1875. The cartoon shows the landscape devoid of any vegetation. The grasshopper is hurt and bandaged and he is carrying a suitcase.
- **Context:** The grasshopper plague of 1874 left the landscape of many Kansas areas devoid of vegetation and prompted some settlers to move west or move back home.
- **Subtext:** The author of the cartoon is F.T. Vance who is a part of Vance, Parsloe and Company. The cartoon was drawn for the citizens of Kansas to entertain and bring humor to the harsh realities of their lives during the mid-1870s. The style of the cartoon is humorous.
- The source highlights the challenges settlers faced which they probably did not expect and can be used to show that humor was used to cope with the difficult conditions.

▪ **Grangers versus hoppers**

- Worall, Henry. *Grangers versus Hoppers—Kansas 1874 '75*. Kansas Historical Society Topeka, Kansas. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 29 June 2010.
- **Text:** The caption “Grangers versus Hoppers—Kansas 1874 '75”. The term Grangers represents the farmers. The cartoon presents the hoppers as taking over the farms, killing people, taking photographs, eating produce, and scaring women and children. The people’s faces are fearful, while the hoppers faces are serious, demanding and excited.
- **Context:** The grasshopper plague of 1874 left the farmers fearful of grasshoppers and what other natural forces could do to their livelihood.
- **Subtext:** The author of the cartoon is Henry Worrall. Worrall was an artist, and musician who emigrated from England, lived in Ohio as a child and took up residence with his family in Topeka, Kansas in 1868. He drew this cartoon for citizens of Kansas, and possibly other Midwestern citizens. The cartoon was produced to illustrate the devastation of the grasshoppers and the fear farmers have of the grasshoppers. The style of the cartoon is serious and fearful. The cartoon portrays the feelings of many Kansas people towards the grasshopper.
- The source is a contrast to the previous political cartoon, but can still be used to highlight the contrast between the expectations of settlers and the reality of life in Kansas. The students can use this cartoon to show that most Kansas people were very worried about the grasshopper and its impact of their life.

RS#08: Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Poster for Lands in Southwest Kansas

▪ Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad poster for Lands in Southwest Kansas

- Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company. *Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad poster for lands in southwest Kansas*. 1870s. Kansas Historical Society, Topeka, KS. *Kansas Memory*. Web. 28 June 2010.
- **Text:** The text describes the land for sale in southwest Kansas as good soil for wheat, corn and fruit. It also uses some German text, hinting that the land is being sold to immigrants of German descent as well as White Americans.
- **Context:** The date of the poster is 1870's – after the Pacific Railroad Acts. The railroad is trying to sell lands that it acquired from. Also, the Homestead Act began to provide free or cheap land to settlers.
- **Subtext:** The author of the poster is the Atchinson, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad Company. The audience for this poster is settlers in the eastern region of the United States as well as newly immigrated Germans. The reason the poster was created was to sell plots of land to Kansas settlers. The style of this poster is very positive. The poster uses the phrase “The Best Stock Country in the World” to describe the land in Kansas. This phrase is an example of the style of the poster.
- This is the motivational source for the History Lab. Students will use this source as an example of the expectations settlers to Kansas had about what life would be like if they relocated. They can then use the other documents provided in the lab to decide whether these expectations matched the reality that they found in Kansas.