

McHenry County Farm Bureau **AGRICULTURE** *in the Classroom*SM

Ag in the Classroom: In the Good Old Days

Ask the students if daily life chores have changed since their parents or guardians were children. Ask your students if they can share their parents' /guardians' or grandparents' childhood stories about things they did around the house that are no longer done today. Are there activities that the students do today that might someday seem dated to their children or grandchildren?

Explain to the students that you have prepared an inventory activity sheet to determine the types of agricultural and everyday activities they have done. Tell the students that some of the activities on the list may seem like novelties, but they may have been a way of life for their parents or grandparents. Pass out the In the Good Old Days Inventory Activity Sheet, and give them time to read it over. Give students the option of adding a few items to the list.

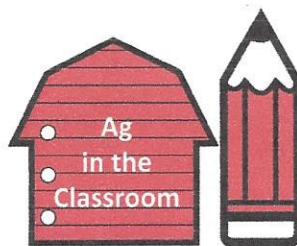
Ask the students to complete the activity sheet by putting a check in the box if they have done the activity.

Ask them to find someone in the class that has done the activity, and then write his or her name in the space. Have all the items been done by the students in class?

Tell the students that they will now get a chance to survey their parents/guardians and their grandparents. Assign students to complete the activity sheet at home by filling in the names of their parent or guardian and, if necessary, a grandparent or neighbor over 65 to fully complete the activity sheet.

When the homework is returned, graph the differences between the generations. As a class, count the number of activities the students did compared to those their parents/guardians and grandparents did. What kind of differences do the students notice? How many students have grown their own food? How many have made their own clothes? Where do these necessities come from today?

Explain to the students that these differences indicate the changes that have taken place over time regarding our relationship to agriculture and our connection to food and fiber production.



In the Good Old Days Inventory Activity Sheet

Name _____

Find someone who has:	Myself (Checkmark)	Classmate (Name)	Parent or Guardian (Name/title)	Grandparent (or adult over 65)
1. Carded and/or spun wool				
2. Made a pie				
3. Fed a pig, chicken or cow				
4. Gathered eggs				
5. Gone barefoot for a week				
6. Been hunting or fishing				
7. Ridden a horse				
8. Sewn an article of clothing or quilt				
9. Picked fruit				
10. Made jelly or jam				
11. Made bread without a machine				
12. Canned food				
13. Milked a cow				
14. Planted and weeded a garden				
15. Shucked corn				
16. Split firewood				
17. Watched a black and white TV				
18. Ate only food prepared at home for an entire week				
19. Shined shoes				
20. Played a vinyl record album				
21. Used exercise equipment				
22. Recycled paper or cans				
23. Programmed a VCR				
24. Kept a 100-day streak on Snapchat				
25. Downloaded music from Internet				