

A LIBRARY OF CONGRESS PRIMARY SOURCE STARTER

CLASSROOM COMPARISON: THEN AND NOW

Quick and easy activity ideas to start using Library of Congress primary sources in the classroom

Teacher Instructions

Goal

Students will explore a primary source photograph of a classroom in 1909 and begin to think critically about how the classroom has changed and stayed the same throughout the years.

Background

The classroom today has certainly evolved from what it looked like in the early 1900s. This primary source is a photograph of a classroom at the Hancock school in Boston in the year 1909.

Activities

Teachers can have students:

- Compare their classroom to the classroom in the photo
- Speculate and share thoughts about why there are differences and similarities in the classrooms of the past and present
- Brainstorm ways their learning and classroom setting would be different if these changes were not made or if other changes had been made

You can use [primary source teacher guides and analysis tools](#) from the Library of Congress to help students to complete an in depth analysis of the Hancock School classroom photograph.

Primary Source

Title: “Steamer Glass” in Hancock School, Boston. Immigrant Children. Location: Boston, Massachusetts.

Creator: Lewis Wickes Hine, photographer

Date Created/Published: October 1909

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/ncl2004000723/PP/>





WAYNESBURG UNIVERSITY



TEACHING with PRIMARY SOURCES

Student Worksheet 1

1. Examine the photograph carefully and answer the questions below.

a. Who is in the photo?

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

b. What is in the photo?

i. _____

ii. _____

iii. _____

c. Approximately when was the photo taken and what makes you think that?

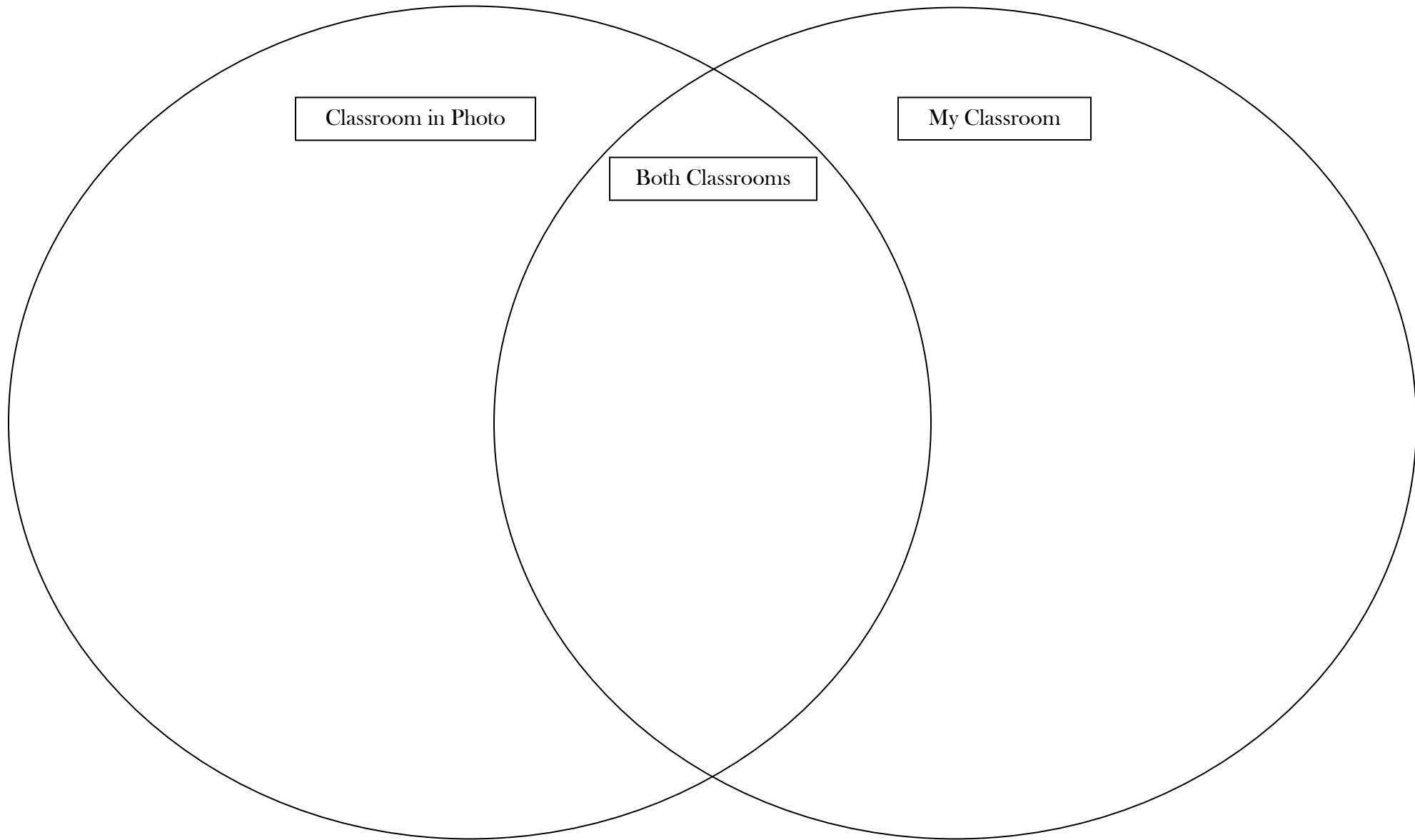
d. Where do you think the photo was taken and what makes you think that?

e. If this photo appeared in the newspaper, what do you think the caption would say?



Student Worksheet 2

Directions: Examine the photo carefully and compare what you see to your own classroom. Complete the Venn diagram below to show the differences and similarities.



Teacher Information

Title: "Steamer Glass" in Hancock School, Boston. Immigrant children.

Location: Boston, Massachusetts.

Creator(s): [Hine, Lewis Wickes, 1874-1940](#), photographer

Date Created/Published: 1909 October.

Medium: 1 photographic print.

Part of: Photographs from the records of the [National Child Labor Committee](#) (U.S.)

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