



# A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words

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**Grade Level:**

Elementary

**Subject Areas:**

Social Studies, Language Arts

**SD Standards:**

Social Studies

4.US.1.2

4.G.2.1

Language Arts

4.W.1.2

4.LVS.1.3

4.L.2.1

4.S.1.1

**Setting:**

Classroom

**Skills:**

Observation, Creative Writing, Analyzing, Applying

**Prior Preparation:**

Students can become familiar with items from the past by completing the activity *Mrs Alderson Early Lessons in Water Conservation*.

**Objective:** Students will analyze photographs taken in South Dakota in the early 1900's, draw conclusions and then write or illustrate a short story about the photos.

**Materials:**

Paper & Pencils

18 Laminated Photographs

[What's the Story Worksheet](#)

[Photo Observation Worksheet](#)

**Background:**

Photographs are treasures that most everyone likes to collect over a lifetime. A snapshot in time provides a view of places, people, and events from the past. If you look closely at a photo it can reveal many clues about the place and time it was taken. If there are people in the photo you can look at their clothing for clues about time. You may be able to tell if the picture is from a special event or of just everyday life.

**Procedure:**

- Set out the photographs and give each student a copy of the "What's the Story" worksheet.
- Have the students work in groups of 2 or 3. Have each group select a picture they would like to analyze. Each student should interpret the photo and fill in their own worksheet.
- Once their worksheets are completed, each group can collectively fill out the "Observation" sheet.
- Have each group share their findings with the entire class.

**Extension:**

- Have the students write a short story or a poem about the photo they analyzed. The story should be at least 8 sentences long. Have them consider:
  - Setting (where will the story take place)
  - When (present, past, future)
  - Point of View (who is telling the story - a person in the photo? An animal in the photo? An object in the photo?)
  - What's going on (playing, working, relaxing, etc)
  - Feelings (are characters happy, confused, upset, etc)
- Have the students draw and color a picture to illustrate a story about one of the photographs
- Have each student randomly choose a picture and give an impromptu story about the picture to the class