

SSCD Signature Lesson – 2005

Geography – Standard 3

Grade Level: 4–5

Lesson Title: “A Fair? Where?”

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Lesson Description: This lesson will allow students an opportunity to evaluate the placement of a human activity in a given physical area. The students will apply the idea of accessibility to an event which will be readily familiar to most Delaware students – the annual Delaware State Fair. This lesson will cause students to analyze historical, transportation, and geographical information in order to formulate a conclusion as to why the Delaware State Fair was begun and is still held in Harrington, Delaware. Further, students will determine whether or not the present-day Delaware State Fair adheres to the original intent of its founders.

Grade Level: 4–5

Standard: Geography Standard Three – Students will develop an understanding of the diversity of human culture and the unique nature of places.

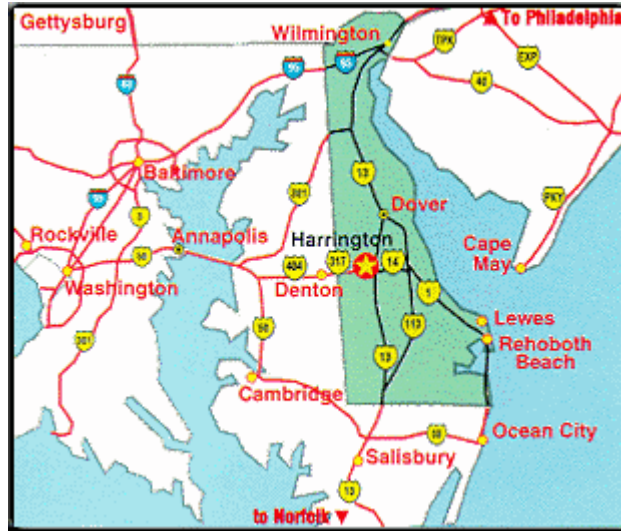
End of Cluster Expectations (Benchmark): Students will understand the reasons for the location of human activities and settlements and the routes connecting them in Delaware and the United States.

Essential Questions:

- How do site characteristics influence the location of places?
- How can a place’s size and complexity depend on the connections between that place and all others?
- How were places founded because of their situations? How does a place’s situation change with changes in transportation technology?

Assessment: *Constructed Response*

Benchmark Statement: This assessment should give evidence of the student’s ability to understand the reasons for the locations of human activities and settlements and the routes connecting them in Delaware and the United States.



(<http://www.harringtonraceway.com/images/mappage.gif>)

Prompt: Why might Harrington have been chosen as a location for the annual Delaware State Fair? Explain your answer.

Sample Response: The fair is a place for farmers to exhibit their animals, learn about new farming methods and have fun in summer. Harrington is accessible to farmers and farm families since it is in an agricultural area. The fair is also a place where urban people can come to learn and have a good time. Harrington is centrally located between several large population areas. Routes of transportation including highway and railroad are found nearby.

Rubric:

- 2 – This response gives a valid analysis with an accurate and relevant example.
- 1 – This response gives a valid analysis with an inaccurate, irrelevant, or no example.
- 0 – Inaccurate response.

Assessment: *Multiple Choice*

Benchmark Statement: This assessment should give evidence of the student’s ability to understand the reasons for the locations of human activities and settlements and the routes connecting them in Delaware and the United States.

Transfer Task: This item is intended to assess the student’s ability to transfer what they have learned about the location of the Delaware State Fair to a different context.

Prompt: During the Revolutionary War Delaware lawmakers moved the state capital from New Castle in northern Delaware to Dover in Kent Co. The capital has remained there ever since. Why might Dover remain the capital city of our state?

- A) Dover is in the center of the state and has good connections.
- B) Dover is the largest city in Delaware.
- C) Dover has many historical buildings.
- D) Dover has the most business and industry.

Answer: A

Objective(s): Students will be able to:

- Identify major routes and methods of transportation found in and around Harrington, Delaware.
- Determine why Harrington was chosen to be the location for the Delaware State Fair.
- Evaluate the purpose for establishing the Delaware State Fair and whether or not Harrington was the best and/or most logical choice for the fair's location.

Prior Knowledge and Skills: Prior to implementing this lesson, students should have a fairly firm grasp of map-reading skills. They should also be familiar with the Delaware State Fair and its location in Harrington. Review of various major methods of transportation will be helpful so that students will be able to best evaluate the location of the Delaware State Fair.

Time to Complete: Two to three 45-minute class periods

Materials and/or Resources Needed: In order to implement this lesson, the following materials and/or resources will be needed:

- Mid-Atlantic regional maps showing Delaware's location in relation to major nearby cities and major routes of transportation
- Delaware State Fair site maps (at least 1 per student pair)
- Historical photographic images of the Delaware State Fair representing the course of its history (in transparency format)
- Access to the internet, preferably projected onto a screen for all students to view at once
- Student copies of Assessments 1 and 2 (also in transparency format to facilitate the administration of the assessment)

Procedural Steps:

1. Establish a mindset for this lesson by asking the following questions:
 - What do you know about the history of the Delaware State Fair?
 - Why do you suppose Harrington was chosen as the location for the fair?
 - Is it easy or difficult to travel to the Delaware State Fair? Why?
 - What modes of transportation are available for traveling to the fair?
2. Pass out Mid-Atlantic region maps to review Delaware's location in relation to neighboring cities and states. Use the internet to visit two websites which chronicle the history of Harrington and the Delaware State Fair. Projecting the websites onto a screen would best facilitate this step of the lesson. These are the websites:
 - <http://www.cityofharrington.us/history.htm>
 - <http://www.delawarestatefair.com/index.cfm?method=fairinfo.history>
3. Discuss the history of both Harrington and the Delaware State Fair using the websites listed above. Draw students' attention to information which identifies transportation routes, e.g. highway and railroad. It is also important to highlight information which identifies agriculture as being an important part of Harrington's history.
4. While visiting the website for the Delaware State Fair, and after generally reviewing its history, be sure to discuss the original purpose for establishing the Kent and Sussex Fair Corporation. Initiate the students in a discussion of the contrasting photography found on the page. The banner at the top of the page is a photographic representation of the sorts of activities available at the fair today. The three photos which accompany the text of the page represent earlier periods in the fair's history. This discussion will segue into the next phase of this lesson.
5. Using photographic resources from the Delaware Public Archives website, expand the comparison and contrast discussion regarding the fair of yesteryear and the fair of today. Revisiting the original purpose of the fair corporation is vital in this discussion because it will bring attention to the fact that the fair has changed with the passage of time in order to remain current, but it has also held firmly to its agricultural roots. These photos are particularly helpful, but many others are also available at the Delaware Public Archives website:
 - http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/exhibits/photograph/agriculture/misc09/agmisc9-89.shtml#P1080_23938
 - http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/exhibits/photograph/agriculture/misc09/agmisc9-88.shtml#P1069_23689

- http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/exhibits/photograph/agriculture/misc07/agmisc7-05.shtml#P53_1417
 - http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/exhibits/photograph/agriculture/misc05/agmisc5-48.shtml#P582_12582
 - http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/exhibits/photograph/agriculture/misc07/agmisc7-77.shtml#P799_20765
 - http://www.state.de.us/sos/dpa/exhibits/photograph/agriculture/misc07/agmisc7-72.shtml#P746_19388
6. After viewing and discussing the photos from the Delaware Public Archives, revisit the Delaware State Fair website. Two items in the press room section of the site are of particular importance. They detail forthcoming expectations of the 2005 Delaware State Fair and statistical data regarding the fair after its completion. These press releases are helpful in that they expand the idea of centrality of location for the Delaware State Fair. They also support the idea that the Delaware State Fair has had to expand and change in order to attract fairgoers to Harrington, which still remains a rural and agricultural community. The web addresses for these articles are:
- <http://delawarestatefair.com/index.cfm?method=pressroom.view&newsReleaseID=28>
 - <http://delawarestatefair.com/index.cfm?method=pressroom.view&newsReleaseID=32>
7. Read and discuss the online News Journal Article entitled, “ ‘Rail to the Fair’ a Hit with Riders.” This article lends support to the use of the railroad to bring fairgoers to Harrington. It outlines the route of travel, and it gives information regarding how many people use this mode of transportation to visit the fair. The web address for this article is:
- <http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050724/NEWS01/507240316>
8. Finally, display an overhead of the current aerial map of the Delaware State Fairgrounds. Review the entire map, most especially including the routes of travel which lead to the fairgrounds by way of train and automobile. It is also important to draw attention to the diversity of sites within the fairground. This will again support the idea that the Delaware State Fair still upholds the original purpose of the Kent and Sussex Fair Corporation to “promote and encourage agriculture while giving pleasures and diversions to the inhabitants of rural communities within the State of Delaware.” The web address for this map is:
- <http://delawarestatefair.com/index.cfm?method=maps.fairmaps>

Closure: Review and revisit the essential questions for this lesson. Ask students to evaluate the choice of Harrington as the location for the Delaware State Fair by completing a T-chart listing its advantages and disadvantages.

Formative Assessment:

This assessment is intended to assess student learning relative to the nature of the fair itself and how it has changed over time.

Prompt: The original purpose for having a fair in Harrington in 1920 was to “promote and encourage Agriculture, as well as to give pleasure and diversion to the inhabitants of rural communities in Delaware.” Does the Delaware State Fair of today uphold the original purpose? Use information from the map to explain your answer.

Sample Response: The Delaware State Fair of today does uphold the original purpose of promoting and encouraging Agriculture. This is evident due to the large number of areas on the grounds which are devoted to farm animals, horticulture, and farming implements. Likewise, pleasures and diversionary activities can be found at Midway Slots, on the Wade Shows Midway, and at the Wilmington Trust Grandstand.

Rubric:

- 2 – This response gives a valid analysis with an accurate and relevant example.
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- 0 – Inaccurate response.