

TOPIC 3 – GHOST TOWNS and RAILROADS

Topic Overview

Topic 3 highlights the role of railroads and the farm economy in influencing population trends in North Dakota. It includes primary sources that will help you understand how and why the population of North Dakota communities changed through the years.

Topic Objectives

- As a result of the study of Topic 3, you will be able to
 - Analyze and interpret primary documents.
 - Explain population changes and reasons for these changes in North Dakota communities.

ND Content Standards

- 8.1.2
- 8.2.11
- 8.3.2
- 8.5.3

Common Core Standards

- RH 2
- RH 3
- RH 7
- WHST 2
- WHST 9

Topic Activities

- Reading a Map
- Debate/Discussion

Reading a Map

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignment or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

Topic 3 shows data for North Dakota railroad mileage, population growth and decline, and the number of farms throughout its history. Answer the questions below.

1. Study **Document 1**. What trend do you see in the population of North Dakota from 1900 to 2010 compared with the number of farms and acres farmed during that time frame?
2. What do you notice about the railroad mileage during this same time frame?
3. Compare and contrast **Map 1. Railroad 1935** with **Map 2. Railroad 1994**. How are they similar? Different?

Similar

Different

4. What does this information tell us about the growth or decline of railroads in North Dakota and its effect on the people?

Debate/Discussion

To access a photo/document/map, refer to the topic reading assignment or use the SEARCH feature to enter its name or number.

North Dakota has many ghost towns that were vibrant in their early years. Working with a partner or in a small group, read and view the photos (**Image 5. 2012-P-009-06, Image 6. 2012-P-009-4, Image 7. 2012-P009-02**) of Omemee, a ghost town in North Dakota. Then list and discuss the reasons many towns died off while others grew and became prosperous. Discuss with the entire class. You may know of a ghost town that could be added to this list.

Reasons Why Thriving Towns Became Ghost Towns

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Extension: Research another ghost town in North Dakota. Find out about its history from people who lived there or from other North Dakota sources.