

# Stories from the Clinch River Valley - Change

## Subjects:

Language Arts & Literature, Social Studies & Geography

## Grade Level(s):

Upper Elementary 3-5

## Related Publication:

[E-book – Change](#)

## Overview:

The following lesson plan engages young learners in ideas and concepts surrounding change with an exploration of the varied factors that influence how surrounding changes can influence how people lived and adapted to change throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the Clinch River Valley.

## Background Information:

### Materials and Activity Sheets

Map, globe, or internet-based mapping site  
Children's book, *Change*  
Worksheet 1: Storyboard template

### Objectives:

Students will:

Describe how changes with a community can affect daily life.

Locate the Clinch River Valley on a map and describing some of the changes that took place there over its history.

Compare and contrast the changes that have taken place in their own community with those that took place in the Clinch River Valley.

### Vocabulary

- Change: make (someone or something) different; alter or modify.
- Tennessee Valley Authority- a electric cooperation owned by the government. TVA's service area covers all of Tennessee, portions of Alabama, Mississippi, and Kentucky, and small areas of Georgia, North Carolina, and Virginia.
- Community – a group of people who share common interests, beliefs, and/or cultural background.
- Homestead - a house, especially a farmhouse, and outbuildings
- Segregation- the enforced separation of different racial groups in a country or community.
- Brown vs the Board of Education- a landmark decision of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that U.S. state laws establishing racial segregation in public schools are unconstitutional.
- Civil Rights Movement- a social movement and campaign from 1954 to 1968 in the United States to abolish legalized racial segregation, and discrimination in the country.

## Procedures

**Note to teacher: Prior to teaching this lesson, gather library books on communities of the Appalachian Mountains, famous dam construction projects, the Manhattan Project, and the civil rights movement.**

1. Display and locate the Clinch River Valley on a map, globe, or digital resource. Highlight geographic concepts including the concept of a river valley.
2. Read aloud the Currents of Change children's e-book, *Change*.
3. During and following the reading, engage children in sharing their reactions and learning through questions such as:
  - Why do people live in river valleys?
  - What examples of change were shown in the book?
  - What changes have you been through?
  - Why do you think changes in our life often cause people to be uncomfortable?
  - What other changes in our country's history do you know?
4. Create a concept map on change. Explain that change may be defined in many ways but that our class will create a shared definition of change.
5. Create a shared class definition of change. Have students work in small groups to write one or two sentences or simple words describing change. Afterwards, write each group's definition or list of words on the board. As a class, create an agreed-upon definition of change using the words or sentences chosen by the students.
6. Explain that the class will illustrate and write about the changes they have experience and or seen in their own community. They will be creating a storyboard with photos/pictures and descriptions of each. These can highlight your community's history, major events that have taken place and any major infrastructural projects.
7. Using the story board template provided, have the students draw individual pictures for each activity, or take digital photos showing the changes that have taken place in their community. By putting all the pictures/photos in order on the template the students will create a "How our Community has Changed Over Time" story with your class. This project can also be created using a digital storytelling tool available on the internet, many of which are low or no cost.

## Extensions

- The Tennessee Valley – a historic film highlighting the TVA's effort to bring electricity to the Tennessee Valley (1936) [Tennessee Valley - YouTube](#)
- Valley of the Tennessee (1944) – a historic film highlighting the building of the dams and the benefits associated with their construction. [Valley of the Tennessee, 1944 - YouTube](#)
- [Cameron Boyce Honors The Clinton 12 | Black History Month | Disney XD - YouTube](#) In celebration of Black History Month, Cameron Boyce discusses the heroic journey of his grandmother, Jo Ann Boyce, and her involvement in the Clinton 12
- The Oak Ridge Story - [The Oak Ridge Story \(youtube.com\)](#)

## Framework and Standards

### Enduring Understandings

- Change happens in all communities.
- Change within a community is a result of their geography, history, and societal events.

### Essential Questions

What is change?

Do communities change or stay the same?

How does change make a community more unique?

### Standards

#### National Social Studies Standards

- Thematic Strand 2: TIME, CONTINUITY, AND CHANGE
- Thematic Strand 3: PEOPLE, PLACES, AND ENVIRONMENTS
- Thematic Strand 5: INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS, AND INSTITUTIONS
- Thematic Strand 8: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND SOCIETY

#### National Geography Standards

- Essential Element 1: The World in Spatial Terms

#### Common Core State Standards for English Language Arts & Literacy

- Reading: Informational Text
  - Key Ideas and Details: Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.
- Speaking and Listening
  - Comprehension and Collaboration: Review the key ideas expressed and explain their own ideas and understanding in light of the discussion.
  - Pose and respond to specific questions to clarify or follow up on information and make comments that contribute to the discussion and link to the remarks of others.
- Language
  - Vocabulary Acquisition and Use: Determine or clarify the meaning of unknown and multiple-meaning words and phrases based on grade 4 reading and content, choosing flexibly from a range of strategies.
  - Consult reference materials (e.g., dictionaries, glossaries, thesauruses), both print and digital, to find the pronunciation and determine or clarify the precise meaning of key words and phrases.

#### Tennessee State Social Studies Standards

- Post-World War II and the Civil Rights Movement (1940s-1960s)
  - 5.24- Analyze the key people and events of the Civil Rights Movement

- Tennessee in the 20th Century (1900-present)
  - 5.48- Describe the effects of the Great Depression on Tennessee and the impact of New Deal policies in the state (i.e., Tennessee Valley Authority and Civilian Conservation Corps).
  - 5.50 - Identify Tennessee's significant contributions to the Civil Rights Movement, including The Clinton Twelve
  - 5.49- Describe Tennessee's contributions during World War I and World War II, including: the conversion of factories to wartime production, the importance of Oak Ridge, and the influence of Tennesseans (i.e., Cornelia Fort, Cordell Hull, and Alvin C. York).