

A History of the Highline Community

Grade K – 2

Introduction: Nothing is more interesting than studying the history of the places you know. This unit is designed to do just that. The children will learn how their own community of the Highline School District grew from one pioneer, Mike Kelly, to the large suburban metropolis that it is today. The boys and girls will learn how technology and two large businesses drew people to the area. To study this area, the students will learn computer skills, new reading vocabulary, and map skills. Have fun on trips around your school and Burien!

Desired Academic Results

Essential Academic Learning Requirements in Social Studies

History

EALR #1 The student examines and understands major ideas, eras, themes, developments, turning points, chronology, and cause-effect relationships in Washington State History.

Understand and analyze historical time and chronology

EALR #2 The student understands the origin and impact of ideas and technological developments on history.

Understand how the technological developments influence people, culture, and environment.

Economics

EALR #1 Students understand the impact of scarcity on their personal lives and on the household, businesses, governments and societies in which they are participants.

1.1 Know that scarcity requires choosing from alternatives

EALR #2 Students understand the essential characteristics of modern economics.

2.4 Recognize and understand that economies are constantly changing, creating both costs and benefits

Geography

EALR #1 The student uses maps, charts, and other geographic tools to understand the spatial arrangement of people, place, resources and environments on Earth's surface.

1.1 Use and construct maps, charts, and other resources

EALR #2 The student understands the complex physical and human characteristics of places and regions.

Describe the natural characteristics of places and regions

2.1 Describe the patterns humans make on places and regions

2.2 Identify the characteristics that define the Pacific Northwest

EALR # 3 The student observes and analyzes the interaction between people, environment, and culture.

3.1 Identify and examine people's interaction with and impact on the environment

3.2 Analyze how the environment and environmental changes affect people

Overarching Understandings

- People settle in an area for various reasons.
- Pioneers in the Highline area worked hard to develop a community.
- Technology brought change to Highline.
- Schools played an important part in the growth of Highline.
- Heritage is important to the Highline community.

What the Students Will Understand

- Locations of towns that make up the Highline community
- Location of Highline area in relation to Seattle, Kent, Tukwila, Federal Way and Puget Sound
- Who were the first pioneers of the area and when they came
- What was life like for early Highline pioneers
- The growth of the school system
- Technology changed Highline into a large suburban area
- Highline honors its community's past

Overarching Questions

- Who were the first settlers of the Highline area?
- Why do people continue to come to Highline?
- What was the life of the first pioneers like in Burien?

- How was life for pioneer children?
- What was the first school like?
- What technological advances made Highline change?
- How did Highline honor its past?
- Where is the Highline area on a USA/Washington/Seattle map?
- What is Highline area like today?

Unit Questions

- Where is Highline on a USA/Washington/Seattle map?
- Who was the first pioneer in the Highline area? When did he come?
- What was life like for the first pioneers?
- Where was the first school?
- What caused the growth of the Highline area? What technology helped this growth?
- What caused a decline in population in the 1970's? How was Highline area affected?
- What makes Highline an important area today?

Assessment: The Evidence That Will Demonstrate Student Understanding

Performance Tasks and Projects

- Create a mural of early life in Highline
- Role play how school was in the early days
- Write a book
- Read word wall
- Use the computer to do simple word processing jobs (type, font, print size, print, type in Web Site and initiate search)

Observations

- Research on the Internet and in books
- Answers to questions
- Questions asked in class
- Student can find Highline on several maps

Learning Experiences and Instruction

What the Students Will Need to Know

- Map skills
- Computer skills to find a Web site

- How to write a sentence on the computer and print it off
- How to read
- How to choose a font
- How to choose a size of print

What the Students Will Need to Be Able to Do

- Read a timeline
- Use a computer to write a sentence to put on their book
- Use the Internet to search for a Web site
- Write good interview questions
- Find locations on a map

Field Sites

- **Tour of Burien area**
 - Sunnydale Elementary (the first school) to see the school bell on the lawn and old classrooms and hallways
 - The Memorial to the WW I dead and American Elms (at Sunnydale Elementary)
 - Sites of first homesteads
 - Kelly Homestead (1873): South 146th and 16th Ave. So.
 - John Bissell (1882): Site of Five Corners Nursery
 - John Elsey (1884): 160th S.W. between 1st and 4th Ave.
 - An older business (you choose) and get the history
 - Burien Library (Learn its history and hear a story of pioneers from the Children's Librarian)
 - Three Tree Point (site of Mesquito Fleet stop)
- **Museum of Flight**

206-764-5720
9404 E. Marginal Way South
Seattle, WA
<http://www.museumofflight.org/>
Open 7 days a week with the exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas

Admission :	Youth (5-7)	\$ 6.50
	Youth Groups (10+ paying visitors)	\$ 5.50
	Adults	\$11.00
- **SeaTac International Airport**

206-431-4444
<http://www.portseattle.org/seatac/default.htm>

Lessons

Lesson 1 Where is Highline?

The children need to know where they live. Find a world map, USA map, Seattle map, and a map of the Highline School District. Work with the children to find the Highline area. Talk about the different parts of the Highline area: White Center, Shoreline, Seahurst, Normandy Park, Burien, Des Moines, Valley View. Where is your school? Where is Sunnydale Elementary? Where is Burien?

Look for the surrounding communities. (Kent, Federal Way, Tukwila, and Seattle) Where is Puget Sound? Check for other bodies of water...Angle Lake, Lake Burien.

Highways are important to the area too. What about I-5 and Highway 509? Military Road and Des Moines Way?

Put these new words on a Word Wall that will grow over the unit.

Lesson 2 Mike Kelly - First Highline Pioneer

Using the book *The Many Roads to Highline*, pages 1 – 3. This chapter tells the very start of the Highline area. Another interesting part of the book is the Foreward. From where did he come? What did he find? (Types of trees, animals, fish in the rivers.) What kind of home did he build for his family? Make a class mural showing life for the first pioneers in the area.

- a log cabin
- types of trees (cedar, fir, hemlock)
- types of animals (deer, bear, lynx, salmon, grouse, pheasant, coyote)
- transportation
- cutting paths
- show Mike and Jane Kelly with their children ---5 boys and two girls
- show people in clothing that is appropriate for that time in history
- Mrs. Kelly teaching school in her kitchen
- feather ticking on bed

Lesson 3 Pictures of Old Times

Obtain multiple copies of *The Many Roads to Highline* from the school and public library. There are many pictures of the area and its early pioneers, schools, and towns. Pictures are also available from the Highline Historical Society (you'll have to make copies) as well as the archives of the Highline Times. The Burien Library also has pictures in their Northwest Room that can be copied for student examination. Ask the children to look for signs that these pictures are from long ago, allow them to ask questions about unfamiliar items they see in the pictures, and to relate what they see with what it looks like today. Ask them to imagine

what was here before their school. Then show the video, *SeaTac Chronicle: Voices from a City*. Have students draw what they think their community is like now. Display their work on a bulletin board. Later, date the work and send it to the Highline Historical Society for their museum archives.

Lesson 4 The Big Trip Around Your School Community

Have students make a tour of their community. Have the students make sketch books with lined paper and copy paper for drawing. Make the covers out of cardboard and have the older children help the “youngsters” bind the books. Obtain permission slips from parents for community field trips. Take the students on a walking tour of their school community. What do they see? Have them record using words and pictures man made and natural objects that catch their attention on the walk. Be sure you as a teacher point out a few pre-selected points of interest. Decide which ones should be photographed to show how the community looks and works today. Have a parent volunteer take a few photos. These could be used on a timeline.

If possible, find pictures of the business (or the site where the business was) to show the children before they go on a driving field trip. Arrange with several businesses for the field trip since you will probably arrive by car and need to use their parking facilities. Try to arrange for a brief tour of one or two of the businesses. Again, let the students record in their books what they see. Have the pupils help you determine what photos to take and be sure to get some that correspond with any of the older photos you found. When you return to the classroom, add to the word wall. Discuss why these businesses are in your community and what kind of jobs they provide. Compare and contrast old photos with new photos and fresh memories.

Lesson 5 When Did Your Family Come to Highline?

Send a note home with your students. Ask them to interview their parents. Find out when they came to Highline? Has their family been in the area a long time? Why did they come to the area? What do they like about the area? Have the students read the answers or have the teacher read the answers. Chart the answers in the front of the room. When Came? Reasons? What like?

Lesson 6 Growth of Highline

Make a chart or timeline of the following technology advances in the Burien area.

TIMELINE OF THE TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES IN HIGHLINE 1854 - 1917

1854 Construction of country road (Military Road) from Fort Steilacoom to Seattle

- 1873 Des Moines Road branched off Military. It was used to get produce to Seattle. Called the "High Line Road".
- 1886 Steamboat Service to Three Tree Point (summer resort area)
- 1904 Telephone company comes to area. Sunnydale hooked to Georgetown Branch in south Seattle
- 1911 Large construction company formed in Burien by J.A. McEachern. Built bridges, dams, highways and buildings all over the world. (Eventually called General Construction Co.) Built Ross Dam on the Skagit River, Hungry Horse Dam in Montana, First Ave. Bridge and Sea-Tac International Airport plus more.
- 1915 Puget Sound Electric Co. brought electricity to area
- 1915 First gasoline buggy in Burien
- 1915 Toonerville Trolley (or Galloping Goose) came to Lake Burien Area. It was a railway from Riverside to Seahurst. Big factor in bringing development to Highline.
- 1916 Ambaum Blvd. built
- 1917 Boeing moved from Green Lake in Seattle to location in Duwamish area.

Lesson 7 Take the Big Trip to Burien

Take a field trip to Burien area to see Sunnydale Elementary (original part of school, the first school bell, the WW I Memorial and American Elms), downtown Burien, old sites of first homes in the area, Three Tree Point, and the Burien Library. (This is a one-day trip.) Take photos all along the way. Have the students make a photo essay book for the class and school about the history of Highline.

Lesson 8 Boeing and Sea-Tac International Mean a lot to Highline

Read Chapter 3 of *Highline School District Chronicle*. Talk with the children about the growth of Highline and the decline of the '70's. What caused the decline? What caused the growth? Boeing Company plays a large role in the growth and decline of the Highline area as does the Sea-Tac Airport. Take a field trip to the Museum of Flight or Sea-Tac International Airport. Why do Boeing and Sea-Tac impact life in Highline? (People who work at both businesses like to live nearby.) Survey several classes in the school and find out how many parents work at one of these businesses. Do these businesses make other businesses come to the area? Why? Check Boeing.com Web site for kids. Let the students find the site and print some of the activities that they would like to do. Talk about the Boeing business. What do they make? How many people work there? What does Sea-Tac International do? How many people work there?

Lesson 9 Highline Area Today

Have the Principal come into the class and talk about Highline School District today. Is it growing? Is your school growing? What are important issues in the area today? (Traffic, airport expansion, airport noise, modernizing of downtown Burien, finding a place for the Burien Historical Societies Museum...it does not have a place at the present time, building new schools)

Resources

Books

Eyler, Melba and Evelyn A. Yeager. *The Many Roads to Highline*. Highline Publishing Co., 1972.

Many copies are available throughout the district. Check with your school librarian. They also have copies at local libraries. Full of old photos and wonderful tidbits of Highline history.

Jensen, Carl. *Highline School District Chronicle*. 1981

This book has the history of the Highline School District. Great information about every school, administrators, photos and timelines.

Children's Books: (Found on Amazon.com)

Littlefield, Holly. *Children of the Trail West*.

Ages 4 – 8 \$22.60 pp. 48

Lowery, Linda. *Aunt Clara Brown: Official Pioneer (On My Own Biographies)*

Publisher: Carol Rhoda Books Age 4–8 Rated: Four Stars \$4.76 pp. 48

Tierney, Tom. *American Pioneer Family Paper Dolls*.

Publisher: Dover Age 4 – 8 \$3.96

Web Sites

Boeing Company

<http://www.boeing.com>

On opening page there is a small box on the left side called About Boeing.

Burien Early History

<http://www.ci.burien.wa.us/history/history.htm>

Burien, Washington, USA

<http://www.ci.burien.wa.us/>

This site is the official town site. See the latest news about Burien government, police, upcoming events, etc.

City of Des Moines

<http://www.ci.des-moines.wa.us/>

The history link off this site is wonderful. Very complete.

City of SeaTac

<http://www.seatac.wa.gov>