

Lead, Soil, and Sawdust, 1820–1914

Activity 8.1: The Luetscher Farm: Figuring Out a Farm Type

Teacher Materials

Preparation/Organization This activity involves having students interpret a full-color painting of a small family farm. In order to make sure students see the full detail of the picture, you should make at least one color copy of Student Page 1 to use as a transparency. Copies for each student or group may be in black and white if you do not have access to enough color copies, as long as you leave the transparency visible while students are working.

Procedure

1. Remind students that there were several types of farms during the period covered by Chapter 8—including wheat farms, dairy farms, and diversified farms. Have volunteers explain these terms and then have other volunteers provide examples of what was done on each type of farm, what equipment might have been needed, and how each type of farm might have been laid out.
2. Display a transparency of Student Page 1 and hand out copies of Student Pages 1 and 2. Give students time to look at the transparency.
3. Discuss the directions at the top of Student Page 2. When students understand what to do, follow your chosen classroom organization and have them complete the activity. Using their answers as a guide, then have students complete the sentence on the bottom of Student Page 1.
4. After students have completed the work, meet once again as a whole group and discuss student responses. Encourage them to share their ideas about how the farm might have looked if it were only a wheat farm or if it were only a dairy farm.

Answers

Part 1

The Luetscher farm is a diversified farm since you can see livestock (cattle to the rear of the picture), trees (in the middle), and a hay wagon (in the foreground).

Part 2

Details seen in the picture may include the following:

Crops: hay being harvested; orchard or pine tree plantation; wheat or oat fields and stacks of straw in field; corn in a corncrib.

Animals: horses that are being ridden, pulling a hay wagon, raking, and cutting hay; cattle in field near barn; pigs (or more cattle) in back field.

Buildings: Large houses, possibly of brick or stone; outhouse to the left of the main house; 3 barns; corncrib; another building, possibly a schoolhouse, with an outhouse; lots of fences.

Name _____ Date _____

Activity 8.1 The Luetscher Farm: Figuring Out a Farm Type



You have learned about several types of farms, including pioneer farms, wheat farms, dairy farms, and diversified farms. Look carefully at the picture of this farm from the 1800s. Use your observation skills to decide what kind of farm the Luetscher family had in Sauk County, Wisconsin. Write your answer on the lines below.

Part 1

The Luetscher farm is _____

Name _____ Date _____

Part 2

On the lines below, describe what you see in the picture. Use three paragraphs. In the first paragraph, tell what crops you see. In the second paragraph, tell about the animals. In the third paragraph, describe the buildings. If you need more space, continue your writing on another sheet of paper.

Crops

Animals

Buildings
