
43. CHARACTER SKETCHES

Overview: Students will be given an opportunity to become acquainted with the collection of old farm machinery at the Garden

Objective: Students will write how they perceive the person who owned or operated the many pieces of machinery at the Garden.

Time needed: 45 minutes to 1 hour

Group Size: any size

Age appropriateness: any

Site: Either area containing old equipment.

Background: Yuma has a rich heritage in both agriculture and mining and the students need to know how technology has progressed through the years and this activity should help strengthen their ties to the past.

Materials:

Provided at the Garden

Clipboards

Provided by the classroom teacher

Paper and pencils

Drawing paper and colored pencils or crayons to illustrate their story

Preparation:

Pre Activity: A study of the historical perspectives of the region prior to visiting the Garden would be useful.

Procedure:

1. Groups of students will look over the machinery and choose one to target for their project.
2. Working around their machine, they will write a story about the type of person who operated this machine in the past. This could include information about an entire family who lived and worked in our area; their life-style, culture, dreams, etc.

Modifications: Younger students could be paired with older students who could assist in the writing of the story.

Extensions: Students could create a peice of art to dgo along with their story. They could create and illustrate a book with their story. Stories could be written in poetry form.

Reference List:

A History of Arizona by Robert Woznicki.

The History of Yuma & the Territorial Prison by Robert Woznicki.

Hell's Outpost: A History of Old Fort Yuma by Frank Love.

Yuma by James M. Barney.

Time of Year: any time

****This activity was created and tested at the Yuma Conservation Garden by Paul Myers.**