

What happened to Ezra Meeker's hops?

Grade Level: 4	Subject: Social Studies
Title and number of lesson: 1 of 1	Class Period: Social Studies Estimated Duration: 45min
Grouping Whole class	Prior knowledge, skills and/or experiences needed: Ezra Meeker, Why were hops important to Ezra Meeker

Central Focus of lesson segment: Understands main idea from artifact

Standards: Social Studies 5.2.2: Understands the main ideas from an artifact, primary source, or secondary source describing an issue or event.

CCSS RI.4.4: Determine the meaning of general academic and domain specific words or phrases in text relevant to a grade 4 topic or subject area

Objective: Student will be able to understand the main idea from an artifact.

Targets for Students: I will understand the main idea from an artifact.

Assessment Strategies:

Formative: Exit slip- students will be graded on exit slip with rubric

Instructional Strategies: Group Discussion

Feedback Strategies: Written feedback on exit slip.

Academic Language Demands:

Function: What are hops, how are they cultivated, where do they best grow, why were hops important to Ezra Meeker, what happened to Ezra Meeker's hops.

Vocabulary:

Hops: a hop plant produces flowers or cones, called hops which are one of the main ingredients in brewing beer.

Kiln: building designed for drying hops

Cultivation: preparing and working on land to raise and grow crops

En route: on the way

Flourish: grow in a healthy way

Distinctive: characteristic of something that can be distinguished from others

Remedied: solve, sort out, make good

Ignorance: lack of knowledge or information

Heyday: period of great success

Hop Lice: tiny, aphid like, eats the hop plant

Discourse or Syntax: Understanding main idea from artifact by looking at artifact and reading an article about the artifact

Language Supports: Bottle full of hops included in teacher's box

Accommodations and/or Modifications: NA

Materials Needed:

Website Article: Becker, P. (2006, April 29). Ezra Meeker plants hops in the Puyallup valley in March 1865. Retrieved October 12, 2015, from http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&file_id=7742

Artifact-Bottle of Hops

Exit Slip

Teaching Plan:

Time	Student Behavior	Teacher Behavior	Assessment to monitor learning
Opening of Lesson			
5 min	Participating in classroom discussion	Introduce artifact to students. (Do not let students know what the artifact is yet) Have students come look/smell the artifact. Have a discussion on what the students think they are. Give hints if needed Tell the students what they are We are going to learn a little bit more about this artifact that made Ezra Meeker his fortune	
Body of Lesson			
10-15min	Reading with the class	Read article: <i>Ezra Meeker plants hops in the Puyallup valley in March 1865.</i> As whole class	

		<p>While reading, when the class comes across a vocabulary word have a class discussion on what the word means</p>	
<p>10 min</p>		<p>After reading:</p> <p>Discuss what a hop is and what is it used for? a hop plant produces flowers or cones, called hops which are one of the main ingredients in brewing beer.</p> <p>Where grown? (Have students think about climate of Washington State), and brain storm some other states, or places around the world that might be good for growing hops.</p> <p>Best grown in moist climates (states, places that have similar climate and temperatures like Washington).</p> <p>What location other than the U.S, that was mentioned in the reading, is also a good place to grow crops? Europe London</p> <p>How did hop farmers cultivate the hops? By hand Where did they take the hops to dry? Kilns</p>	

		<p>Why important to Ezra? Hop farming is how Ezra made his fortune. What happened to Ezra Meeker's hops? Destroyed by hop lice</p>	
Closure and End of Lesson			
5 min		Exit slip	Exit slip Have students read rubric, and grade themselves on what grade they think they are

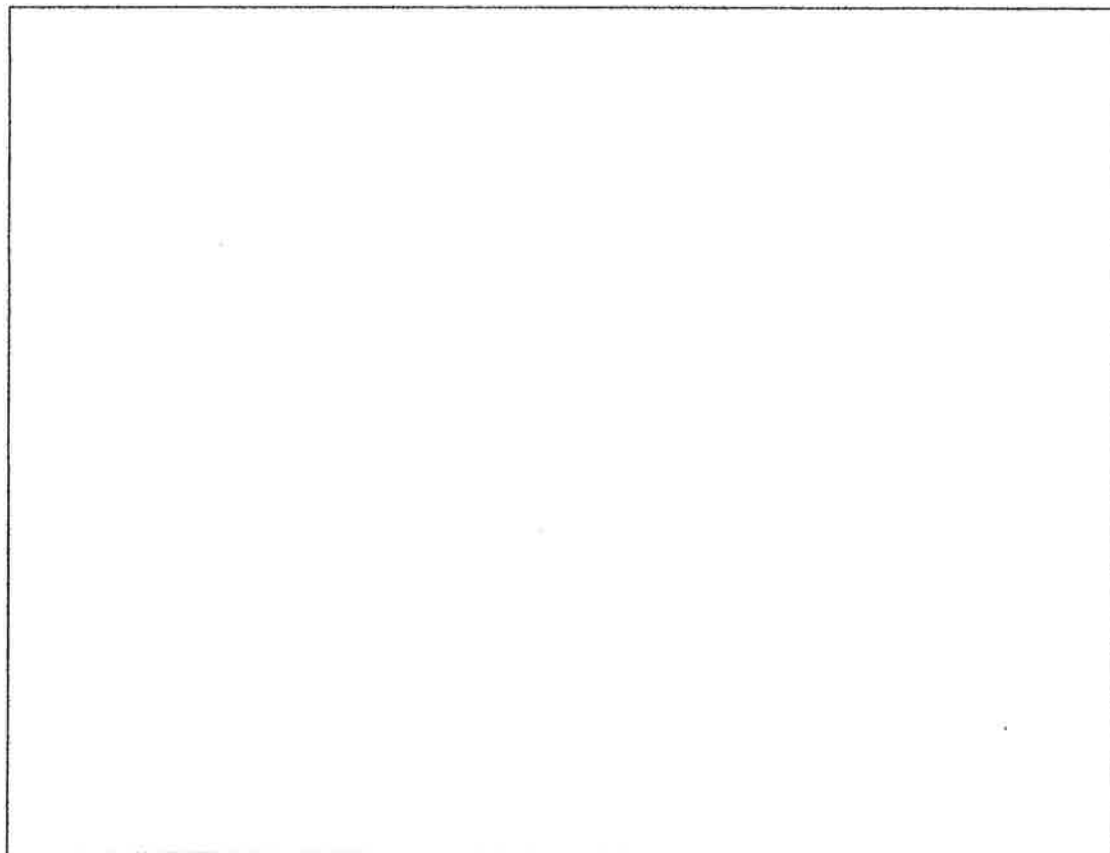
Exit Slip

Name _____ Date _____

What happened to my hops?

You are a hop farmer. You have just awakened to see your crops destroyed. These crops were your main source of money. Explain what you see, how do you feel, what do you think could have destroyed your crops?

Draw a picture of what you see when you awaken to the destroyed crops in the space provided.



Rubric:

1	2	3
<p>Does not use complete sentences, or punctuation. Does not answer every question in the prompt. Picture does not relate to prompt. “What do you see when you awaken the next day to destroyed hops?”</p>	<p>Uses complete sentences, but does not use correct punctuation. Answers two of the prompts. Picture relates to prompt, but is uncolored</p>	<p>Uses complete sentences and correct punctuation. Answers all of the prompts. Picture relates to prompt, and it is colored.</p>

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Ezra Meeker plants hops in the Puyallup valley in March 1865.

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In March 1865, pioneer Ezra Meeker (1830-1928) plants hop vine cuttings on his farm in the Puyallup valley. The plants flourish and Meeker continues to expand his plantings over the years. By the early 1880s Meeker is a wealthy hop merchant with a branch in London selling hops on the world market.

Pioneers to the Puyallup Valley

Ezra and Eliza Meeker (1832-1909) immigrated to Oregon Territory from Indiana in 1852 over what would later be immortalized (largely due to Ezra Meeker's efforts) as the Oregon Trail. They moved to the Puyallup valley in 1862 with their young children and began subsistence farming.

In March 1865, Ezra Meeker's younger brother John stopped by Ezra's cabin en route to their father Jacob Meeker's home near Sumner. He carried with him cuttings from hops plants that Olympia resident and brewer Charles Wood had been cultivating in his garden. Wood, evidently more intent on brewing beer than on farming, had promised to buy any hops Jacob Meeker might produce. Ezra Meeker helped himself to several of the cuttings, planted them, and watched them flourish. Jacob Meeker also planted his cuttings successfully.

The Puyallup Valley seemed ideally suited to the cultivation of hops. Hop fields are visually distinctive. The plants are usually set eight feet apart in little mounds with one or two tall poles erected near each mound. Cord or wire runs from the ground to top of the pole and the hop vines climb it rapidly, sometimes growing as much as a foot per day. The cone-shaped hop flowers are harvested by hand then dried in kilns. Dried hops are used to flavor beer.

Hop Fever

Ezra Meeker later described how hop fever spread throughout the valley:

"The following September (my father) harvested the equivalent of one bale of hops, 180 pounds. That was sold for eighty-five cents a pound, or a little more than a hundred and fifty dollars for the bale. The sum was more than had been received by any of the settlers in the Puyallup valley, except perhaps two, from the products of their farms for that year. My father's near neighbors obtained a barrel of hop roots from California the next year, and planted them the following spring -- four acres ... [In 1867] I planted four acres, and for twenty-six successive years thereafter we added to the area planted, until our holdings reached past the five-hundred-acre mark and our production was over four hundred tons a year. None of us knew anything about the hop business,

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Ezra Meeker (1830-1928), ca. 1880
Courtesy Ventures and Adventures



Hop pickers, Puyallup Valley, 1889
Courtesy UW Special Collections (Image William F. Boyd Album, PH Coll 34)



Hop kiln and a crowd near Puyallup, ca. 1910
Photo by A. H. Barnes, Courtesy UW Special Collections (Image No. Barnes 2051-A)

and it was entirely by accident that we engaged in it" (Meeker and Driggs, p. 201).

Meeker remedied his ignorance by studying how hops were grown in Europe. He discovered that the secret to a high-quality hop crop was allowing the flowers to fully mature, drying them at a low temperature, and then baling them while they were still hot.

Meeker built his first hop-curing house near his cabin in what is now (2006) Pioneer Park in 1868. He continued adding acreage to his fields, clearing land and planting larger crops each spring. In time he employed up to 1,000 harvesters, many of them Indian and some drawn from as far away as coastal British Columbia and Alaska. Portland brewer Henry Weinhard was a steady customer.

Heyday of Hops

In 1882 most of the British hop crop failed, driving prices up. Meeker sold 100,000 pounds of hops at 70 cents per pound that year, a \$70,000 yield. Meeker later wrote,

"Finally our annual shipments reached eleven thousand bales a year, or the equivalent value of half a million dollars – said at the time to be the largest export hop business of any one concern in the United States. At one time I had two full trainloads between the Pacific and the Atlantic, on their way to London. I spent four winters in London dealing in the hop market" (Meeker and Driggs, p. 203).

During one of these London winters Eliza Meeker was presented at court to Queen Victoria (1819-1901). A tribute to Meeker, printed in *The Puyallup Press* on September 21, 1939, stated that Meeker "made speeches in London which were printed in the papers. London brewers admitted that he had cornered the market ... the hop industry was to bring \$20,000,000 in fresh money into the Pacific Northwest ... Ezra was hop king of the world" (p. 36).

In 1883 Meeker published his first book, *Hop Culture In the United States*, a treatise on hop growing in Washington Territory. Meeker wrote, "This treatise is not published with a view to induce people to embark in the business of hop-raising, but for the purpose of enabling those that contemplate engaging in, or are already in it, to avoid the mistakes of early pioneers ... none of the pioneers in hop-growing in Washington Territory knew anything of the business; many of them had never seen a hop-vine growing before the planting in the Puyallup Valley" (p.4).

By 1891 Ezra Meeker was cultivating 500 acres of hops and had an interest in almost every other commercial hops crop growing in the Pacific Northwest.

The 1892 Hop Lice Disaster

In 1892 disaster struck: hop lice devastated the Meeker's hops crop and those of other growers from California to British Columbia. The crop sold at a fraction of the expected price, and the Puyallup hop industry never rebounded. Meeker later wrote:

"One evening in 1892, as I stepped out of my office and cast my eyes toward one group of hop houses, it struck me that the hop foliage of a field near by was off color -- did not look natural ... I walked down to the yards, a quarter of a mile away, and there saw the first hop louse. The yard was literally alive with lice, and they were destroying the quality of the hops ... At that time I had advanced to my neighbors and others upon their hop crops more than a hundred thousand dollars, which was lost. These people simply could not pay, and I forgave

the debt, taking no judgments against them, and I have never regretted the action. All my accumulations were swept away, and I quit the business -- or rather, the business quit me" (Meeker and Driggs, p. 204).

Sources:

Frank L. Green, *Ezra Meeker, Pioneer. A Guide to the Ezra Meeker papers in the Library of the Washington State Historical Society* (Tacoma: Washington State Historical Society, 1969); Ezra Meeker, *Hop Culture in the United States, Being a Treatise on Hop Growing in Washington Territory From the Cutting To the Bale* (Puyallup: E. Meeker & Co., 1883); Ezra Meeker and Howard Driggs for Oregon Trail Memorial Association, *Covered Wagon Centennial and Ox-Team Days* (Yonkers-On-Hudson: World Book Company, 1932); E. T. Krefting and Marshall Hunt, "The Story of Ezra Meeker," *The Puyallup Press*, September 21, 1939.

By Paula Becker, April 29, 2006

Travel through time (chronological order):

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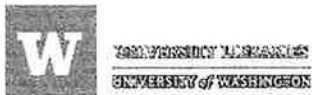
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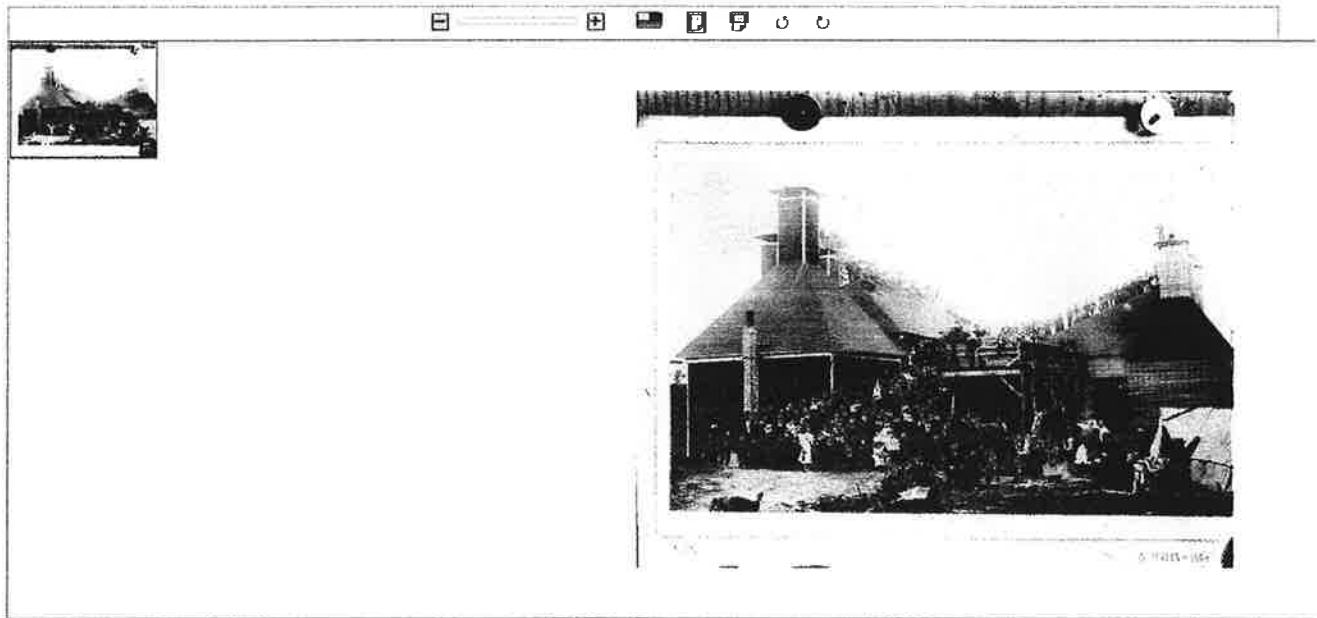
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Photographer Barnes, A. H. (Albert Henry), b. 1876

Date 1910-

Notes Copy of photograph by Otto W. Pautzke pinned to wall with thumbtacks. On sleeve of negative: Hop kilns and crowds. Kent-Auburn-Puyallup Valley (?)

Subjects (LCTGM) Tents--Washington (State)--Kent; Kilns--Washington (State)--Kent

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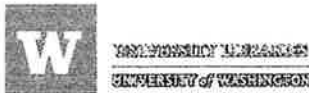
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Horse teams--Washington (State)--Puyallup Valley
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