

# Teaching Pennsylvania's Agricultural Heritage

Below is a summary of one of the Agriculture & Rural Life lesson plans available at [www.explorepahistory.com](http://www.explorepahistory.com). Visit the website for the complete plan, other options, and background info.



## It's Just a Barn

Web Link to Lesson Description:

<http://explorepahistory.com/viewLesson.php?id=1-D-9>

### Lesson Description

In this middle school level lesson, students will learn the importance of the Pennsylvania Barn to the development of agriculture through its diffusion to other farming regions. They will examine the architectural features of the Pennsylvania Barn, relate its structure to the physical features of the land, and study the evolution of agricultural practices due to mid-19th century emphases on increased agriculture education and experimentation.

### Objectives

Students will be able to: 1. Identify the recurring elements of a Pennsylvania Barn. 2. Explain why the Pennsylvania Barn was developed. 3. Correlate the diffusion of the Pennsylvania Barn with the physiographic regions where it is most prevalent. 4. Summarize the life of Frederick Watts and his impact on the field of agriculture.

### Teaching Time

Two 50-minute sessions

### Grade Level

Middle School

### Disciplines

Ecology and Environment  
Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening  
Geography  
History  
Science and Technology

### Historical Period

New Nation - 1761-1800  
Expansion and Reform - 1801-1855  
Civil War and Reconstruction - 1856-1876  
Contemporary Pennsylvania - 1975 to Present

**Additional Information and Resources for implementing the Lesson Plan can be found at [explorepahistory.com](http://explorepahistory.com):**

- [Lesson Description](#)
- [Background](#)
- [Teacher Resources](#)
- [Procedure](#)
- [Assessment](#)
- [After the Lesson](#)
- [Further Study](#)
- [Student References](#)

More Agriculture and Rural Life Lesson Plans from [explorepahistory.com](http://explorepahistory.com):

### [Battle of the Pole Holes!](#)

**Grade Level:** High School

**Discipline:** Civics & Government; Economics; Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening; History

**Historical Period:** The Great Depression

Summary: The struggles of Rural Electrification in PA

### [Muddy Waters: A Historical View of Land Use Patterns, Water Quality, and the Conservation Movement](#)

**Grade Level:** Middle School

**Discipline:** Ecology & Environment; Geography; History

**Historical Period:** The Great Depression and World War II - 1929-1945; Post-WWII Pennsylvania - 1946-1974; Contemporary Pennsylvania - 1975 to Present

Summary: History of land use in PA, water quality issues, and conservation movements

### [One-Room Schoolhouse in Pennsylvania](#)

**Grade Level:** Elementary School

**Discipline:** Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening; History

**Historical Period:** The Emergence of Modern Pennsylvania - 1901-1928; The Great Depression and World War II - 1929-1945

Summary: Compare and contrast current schools with One-room schools.

### [W. Atlee Burpee and the "Seeds" of Becoming an Entrepreneur](#)

**Grade Level:** Middle School

**Discipline:** Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening; Geography; History; Science & Technology

**Historical Period:** Development of the Industrial Pennsylvania - 1877-1900

Summary: Study Burpee's mail-order business and create your own business plan.