



Lesson One: To Market to Market

Answer the following questions based on the PowerPoint To Market to Market: A Visit to Todd's General Store

1. What are 10 items you might find in a general store in the mid-1800s?

Potatoes, turnips, coffee, sugar, rice, cloth, farm equipment, hardware, tea, ribbons, buttons, dishes, candy, kettles, slates, schoolbooks, medicine, etc.

2. Where did the shopkeeper get the items he sold in the store?

Some of the goods were from local bartering, such as locally produced meats, fruits, and vegetables. The other items were from wholesaling and were imported from other countries or other parts of the country

3. What is bartering? How did it help the shopkeeper and the customer? Do we barter today? How do we pay for goods?

Bartering is the exchange of goods and services without using money. The family was able to buy needed items without having cash and pay their debts through goods produced on their farm and through labor. The shopkeeper was able to stock his store and get some work done without paying someone to do it. While some people in rural areas do barter, it is more common to use a credit card or cash. Credit does allow people to pay for items purchased later or over time, so it is similar to the credit given from bringing items to the store.

4. What did people do at the general store besides shopping? Is there any modern day comparison?

The general store was a social hub of the community. It was a bank, post office, meeting place, place to catch up on the news, and a place to play checkers or other games. Shopping malls could be a modern day comparison—a place where people go to walk, congregate, hang out etc. Students may have other examples.

5. Compare a trip to a general store in the mid-1800s to a trip to the store today. How is it different? How is it the same? Write a 1-2 paragraph response with specific details.

Answers vary—students should use examples from their experience as well as from the PowerPoint lesson