

***The Prince and the Pauper* Lesson Plan**
Mark Twain Teachers Workshop – Mark Twain Museum
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Overview of the Lesson:

This unit of study is designed for middle school students but could easily be modified for intermediate elementary and high school students. The emphasis of this lesson is on the skill of comparing and contrasting, using themes from *The Prince and the Pauper*.



Comparing and Contrasting using *The Prince and the Pauper*

Grade Level: 6-8

Time Frame: 3 weeks (can be modified)

Materials: *The Prince and the Pauper*, Internet and library access

Focus: Language Arts/History

Skill: Compare and Contrast

Objective:

Students will compare and contrast at least three differences and three similarities of a cultural aspect of their choice of present day London and London in the 1500s using Mark Twain's *The Prince and the Pauper*.

Missouri Goals: 1.1, 1.2, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 1.10, 2.1, 2.5, 2.7, 3.5, 4.3, 4.6

Missouri Standards: CA-1, CA-4, CA-6, SS-3, SS-4, SS-6, FA-1, FA-5

Note: The reading of *The Prince and the Pauper* is a **prerequisite** for completing the activities of this lesson.

Building Background Knowledge: Assess your students' level of knowledge of comparing and contrasting. Questions to consider:

1. What does it mean to compare?
2. What does it mean to contrast?
3. Discuss examples and non-examples.

“Hooking” the students’ interest:

Options:

1. Show a movie clip. (There are many film versions of *The Prince and the Pauper*.)
2. Decorate the classroom to reflect the style of London in the 1500s.
3. Play an audio clip of the old English language/dialect.
4. Provide biographical information about Mark Twain.

Process: Divide the class into equally small groups. Provide them with the list of activity options and discuss each option. Each group will choose one of the activities in which to become experts, and then present orally to the class. (Jigsaw method).

Activities:

1. Compare and contrast modes of travel used in London in the 1500s to those used today.
2. Compare and contrast the money system in the 1500s to present-day London.
3. Compare and contrast what it’s like to live under royalty in the 1500s to royalty in present day London.
4. Compare and contrast laws in the 1500s to present day laws in London.
5. Compare and contrast education of royalty in the 1500s to education of royalty today.
6. Compare and contrast the clothing in the 1500s to the clothing of present-day London.
7. Compare and contrast subject of students’ choice (with teacher approval).

Assessment Options:

1. Act out a student-written scene to illustrate their activity.
2. Present a fashion show using a narrator to describe the clothing.
3. Present a power point explaining the topic.
4. Present a newscast reporting on the topic.
5. Engage in a mock trial.
6. Illustrate the topic in poster or bulletin board form.
7. Write a song or poem explaining the topic.
8. Students can suggest an option (with teacher approval).

Note: The option must address the learning objective.