LAND-GRANT COLLEGES

SUBJECTS: Social Studies

STUDENT SKILL: The student will identify, evaluate and draw conclusions from different kinds of maps, graphs, charts, diagrams, and other sources, such as dictionaries.

OBJECTIVE: The student will explore how the agricultural system is involved in education through the land-grant colleges and the Morrill Act.

BACKGROUND
In 18th and 19th Century America, agriculture was the nation's main pursuit. Strengthening agriculture meant strengthening the nation. Wealthy farmers, like Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, tried different methods of growing plants and carried out other experiments on their own farms. Eventually they began to see a need to share what they had learned with others.

In the mid-1800s, most American colleges prepared their students to be ministers, doctors or lawyers. Education for 95 percent of all Americans ended after a few years of school. Only wealthy people could go to college. Farmers and city workers could not afford it.

In 1857, Vermont Congressman Justin Morrill introduced the "College Land Bill" to Congress. Abraham Lincoln signed the bill, The Morrill Act, in 1862. Under this Act, a state could receive 30,000 acres of federal land for each of its congressmen. The state could then sell the land to fund at least one college that would teach agriculture and the mechanical arts. These came to be known as land-grant colleges. The second Morrill Act, approved in 1890, provided continuing support for land-grant colleges but that states practicing racial segregation could not receive funds unless they created colleges for Black students.

In the beginning, many of the teachers from the new colleges worked on local farms to study problems first-hand and try to solve them through experiments and research. The president of Iowa Agricultural College, Seaman Knapp, saw the value of this hands-on experimentation and asked Congress to create an agricultural experiment station at every land-grant college.

OKLAHOMA AG IN THE CLASSROOM

MATERIALS
- dictionaries
- encyclopedias or computers with internet access
- fine line markers or pens
- map pencils
- straight pins
Congress passed this bill, the Hatch Act, in 1887. Eventually land-grant colleges began to look for ways to get the results of their research out to the people who needed it most—the farmers and ranchers. Colleges began arranging extension courses for farmers who were unable to go to the college campuses. Home economics departments followed this example and began to provide information to help women improve rural home life. Programs for young people were set up to demonstrate new methods which the young people could share with their families. This was the beginning of 4-H clubs.

In 1914 Congress passed the Smith-Lever Act which gave land-grant colleges the money to establish an extension program in every state. Today, agricultural experiment stations work with Cooperative Extension networks to provide one of the best tools of agricultural research in the world.

**ACTIVITY**

1. Share background information. Draw a time line on the chalk board to help students keep track of the dates. Make sure students understand the difference between 1862 land-grant colleges and 1890 land-grant colleges.
2. Pass out student worksheets. Read through the list of colleges on Student Worksheet A, and ask students if they are familiar with any of the schools listed.
3. Have students use dictionaries to complete the student worksheet. On the US maps, have students label each state with the appropriate abbreviation. Provide map pencils, and direct students to color in each state that has a land-grant university. (There is a land-grant university located in every state).
4. Divide your class into five groups, and assign ten states to each group. Have groups use encyclopedias to locate each land-grant university in their assigned states and use fine-line markers or ink pens to mark the locations.
5. Have students make tiny pennants and glue them to straight pens. On a large US map, have group members place pennants to locate the land-grant universities in their assigned states.

**ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES**

1. Have groups find the addresses of the land-grant universities in their assigned states in a dictionary and write a letter to the office of student relations for each school. Have students write for general information about the areas of

---

**VOCABULARY**

- experiment
- agriculture
- mechanical arts
- land-grant college
- research

**Cooperative Extension Service**

- home economics
- 4-H clubs
- Smith-Lever Act
- Morrill Act
- agricultural experiment station
specialization, campus life, school color, school mascot, etc. Use the materials students receive to make a display.

2. Have students research the origins of Oklahoma's two land grant universities.

3. Have students look in a telephone book for the county Extension office located in their county seat.

4. Discuss the statement: "Agriculture was the nation's main pursuit in the 18th and 19th centuries. Strengthening agriculture meant strengthening the nation." What does that mean? Is the statement still true today? If not, what would you say is the nation's "main pursuit" today (Computer technology? Space technology? Entertainment? National defense? Business?)

5. Have students research all Oklahoma colleges and universities and find the specialty areas for each one.

EXTRA READING

EVALUATION
Answer sheets have been provided.
Look in the dictionary for the listing of four-year colleges and universities. Fill in the blanks below by writing the name of the city or town where the land grant college is located and the abbreviation for the state.

**LAND GRANT COLLEGES—1862**

1. University of Alaska—Fairbanks, AK
2. American Samoa Community College—Pago Pago, AS
3. University of Arizona
4. University of Arkansas—Little Rock, AR
5. Auburn University
6. University of California—Oakland, CA
7. Clemson University
8. Colorado State University
9. University of Connecticut
10. Cornell University
11. University of Delaware
13. University of Florida
14. University of Georgia
15. University of Guam—Mangilao, Guam
16. University of Hawaii
17. University of Idaho
18. University of Illinois—Urbana, IL
19. Iowa State
20. Kansas State University
21. University of Kentucky
22. Louisiana State University
23. University of Maine—Orono, ME
24. University of Maryland—Adelphi, MD
25. University of Massachusetts—Amhurst, MA
26. Michigan State University
27. College of Micronesia—Kolonia, Pohnpei
28. University of Minnesota—St. Paul, MN
29. Mississippi State University
30. University of Missouri—Columbia, MO
31. Montana State University
32. University of Nebraska—Lincoln, NE
33. University of Nevada—Reno, NV
34. University of New Hampshire
35. New Mexico State University
36. North Carolina State
37. North Dakota State
38. Northern Marianas College—Saipan, CM
39. Ohio State—Columbus, Ohio
40. Oklahoma State University
41. Oregon State University
42. Pennsylvania State—University Park, PA
43. University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez, PR
44. Purdue—West Lafayette, IN
45. University of Rhode Island
46. Rutgers—Cook College
47. South Dakota State
48. University of Tennessee—Knoxville, TN
49. Texas A & M University
50. Utah State University
51. University of Vermont
52. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
53. University of the Virgin Islands
54. Washington State
55. West Virginia University
56. University of Wisconsin—Madison, WI
57. University of Wyoming

**Land Grant Colleges—1890**

58. Delaware State University
59. Florida A & M University
60. Langston University
61. University of Maryland—Eastern Shore
62. South Carolina State University
63. Tennessee State University
64. Virginia State University
65. Prairie View A & M University
66. University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff, AR
67. Lincoln University—Jefferson City, MO
68. Southern University—Baton Rouge, LA
69. Alcorn State University
70. North Dakota State University
71. Tuskegee Institute
72. Alabama A&M
73. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
74. Kentucky State University
75. Fort Valley State University

Produced by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, OSU, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2002.
Land Grant Colleges (answers) A

Look in the dictionary for the listing of four-year colleges and universities. Fill in the blanks below by writing the name of the city or town where the land grant college is located and the abbreviation for the state.

**LAND GRANT COLLEGES—1862**

1. University of Alaska—Fairbanks, AK
2. American Samoa Community College—Pago Pago, AS
3. University of Arizona TUCSON, AZ
4. University of Arkansas—Little Rock, AR
5. Auburn University AUBURN, AL
6. University of California—Oakland, CA
7. Clemson University CLEMSON, SC
8. Colorado State college FT. COLLINS, CO
9. University of Connecticut STORRS, CT
10. Cornell University ITHACA, NY
11. University of Delaware NEWARK, DE
13. University of Florida GAINESVILLE, FL
14. University of Georgia ATHENS, GA
15. University of Guam MANGILAO, GUAM
16. University of Hawaii at Manoa HONOLULU, HI
17. University of Idaho MOSCOW, ID
18. University of Illinois—Urbana, IL
19. Iowa State AMES, IA
20. Kansas State MANHATTAN, KS
21. University of Kentucky LEXINGTON, KY
22. Louisiana State A&M BATON ROUGE, LA
23. University of Maine—Orono, ME
24. University of Maryland—Adelphi, MD
25. University of Massachusetts—Amhurst, MA
26. Michigan State EAST LANSING, MI
27. College of Micronesia—Kolonia, Pohnpei
28. University of Minnesota—St. Paul, MN
29. Mississippi State MISSISSIPPI STATE, MS
30. University of Missouri—Columbia, MO
31. Montana State BOZEMAN, MT
32. University of Nebraska—Lincoln, NE
33. University of Nevada—Reno, NV
34. University of New Hampshire DURHAM, NH
35. New Mexico State LAS CRUCES, NM
36. North Carolina State RALEIGH, NC
37. North Dakota State FARGO, ND
38. Northern Marianas College—Saipan, CM
39. Ohio State—Columbus, OH
40. Oklahoma State STILLWATER, OK
41. Oregon State CORVALLIS, OR
42. Pennyslvania State—University Park, PA
43. University of Puerto Rico—Mayaguez, PR
44. Purdue—West Lafayette, IN
45. University of Rhode Island KINGSTON, RI
46. Rutgers—Cook College NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ
47. South Dakota State BROOKINGS, SD
48. University of Tennessee—Knoxville, TN
49. Texas A & M COLLEGE STATION, TX
50. Utah State LOGAN, UT
51. University of Vermont BURLINGTON, VT
52. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University BLACKSBURG, VA
53. University of the Virgin Islands—St. Croix, USVI
54. Washington State PULLMAN, WA
55. West Virginia University MORGANTOWN, WV
56. University of Wisconsin—Madison, WI
57. University of Wyoming LARAMIE, WY

**LAND GRANT COLLEGES—1890**

58. Delaware State DOVER, DE
59. Florida A & M TALAHASSEE, FL
60. Langston LANGLEY, OK
61. University of Maryland—Eastern Shore PRINCESS ANNE, MD
62. South Carolina State ORANGEBURG, SC
63. Tennessee State NASHVILLE, TN
64. Virginia State PETERSBURG, VA
65. Prairie View A & M PRAIRIE VIEW, TX
66. University of Arkansas—Pine Bluff, AR
67. Lincoln University—Jefferson City, MO
68. Southern University—Baton Rouge, LA
69. Alcorn State LORMAN, MS
70. North Dakota State FARGO, ND
71. Tuskegee Institute TUSKEGEE, AL
72. Alabama A&M NORMAL, AL
73. North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University GREENSBORO, NC
74. Kentucky State FRANKFORT, KY
75. Fort Valley State FORT VALLEY, GA

Produced by Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, Division of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources, OSU, in cooperation with the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education, 2002
Use encyclopedia or the internet to locate each land-grant university in your assigned states. Use a marker or ink pens to mark the locations.
Land Grant Colleges (answers)  B

Name _____________________________________________________________
Land Grant Colleges

VOCABULARY

**experiment**—The process of conducting a test.

**agriculture**—The science, art, and business of cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock; farming.

**mechanical arts**—Interpreting and explaining the art of mechanics.

**land grant college**—College established through a grant of public land from the government.

**research**—Close and careful study.

**Cooperative Extension Service**—Formerly the Cooperative States Extension Service, an agency of the US Department of Agriculture established in 1914 to apply the results of agricultural research done in US land grant colleges. Operating through state and county extension agents, it helps US farmers to learn and use new agricultural techniques. In addition, home—demonstration agents supply information and advice on farm economics and financing, food—safety and nutrition, gardening and a wide variety of practical topics.

**home economics**—The science and art of home management.

**4-H Clubs**—A program of the US Cooperative States Research Education and Extension Service founded in 1900 to provide local educational clubs for youth between the ages of 9 and 19. The program is designed to foster character development and good citizenship through hands—on learning.

**Smith—Lever Act**—Law passed by Congress in 1914 which gave land—grant colleges the money to establish an agricultural extension program in every state.

**Morrill Act**—Law introduced by Vermont Congressman Justin Morrill and signed in 1862 by President Abraham Lincoln granting federal land to the states for establishment of colleges to teach agriculture and the mechanical arts.

**Agriculture Experiment Stations**—Facilities established by the Hatch Act of 1887 stations are to be maintained by land grant colleges in which agricultural research is conducted in various locations around the state to study and solve agriculture—related problems first hand.