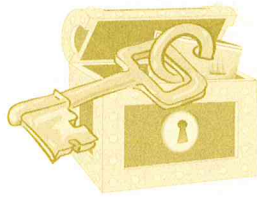
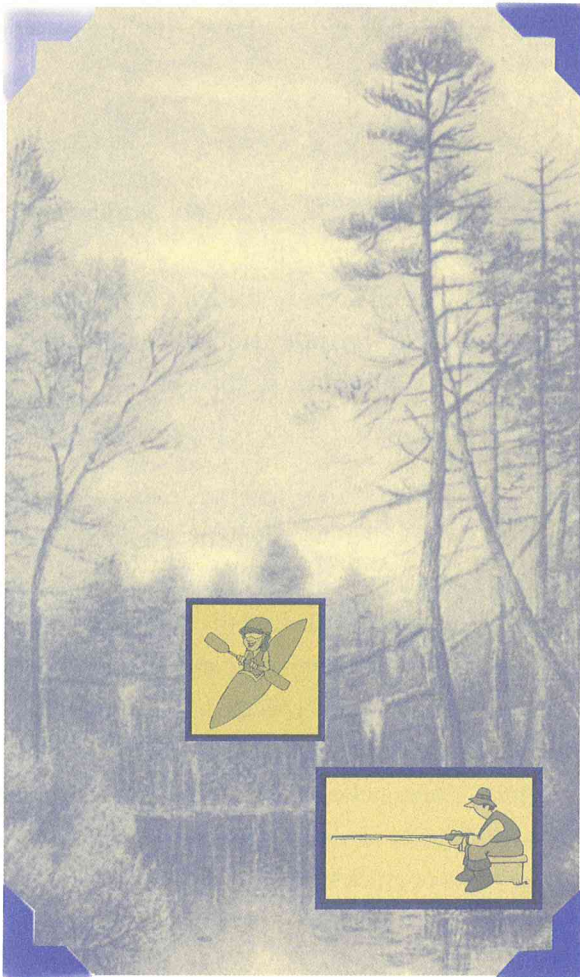


Perspectives from the Past



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1 OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- interpret writings from the past and compare them to present descriptions of Barnegat Bay and its region,
- use the description of Barnegat Bay as it appeared in the New Jersey Courier in 1921 as a catalyst for creative and descriptive writing exercises,
- apply descriptive writings to the creation of visual art.

CORRELATION TO NJCCCS:

The correlations in this publication were done prior to 2002 utilizing the older standards from 1994.

LANGUAGE ARTS: 3.1 (12, 13), 3.2 (2), 3.4 (1,3,5,6,8,9,12), 3.5 (10,12,13)

VISUAL ARTS: 1.3 (1), 1.5 (1.3)

Subject Areas

Language Art, Art.

Duration

One or two class periods.

Setting

Classroom.

Skills

Inferring, interpreting, analyzing, describing, visualizing.

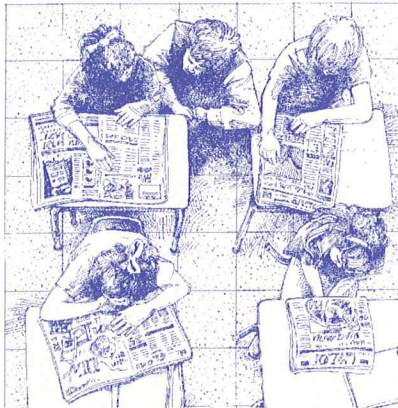
Charting the Course

This activity offers a glimpse of the past and relates a detailed description with various places within the Barnegat Bay region. By using the writing of Dr. Ballou, students can visualize the area he is describing and analyze the accuracy of his predictions.

Vocabulary

Students should write/infer definitions of words they do not know which are used in the passage.

Perspectives from the Past



2 Materials

Dictionaries for defining unfamiliar words, copies of the article “Here one forgets the outside world”(included)

OLDER STUDENTS:

For an extra challenge for your students, delete the year the article was written prior to photocopying the article and have students try to guess the year by using context clues.

YOUNGER STUDENTS:

Have them close their eyes and read the description to them; take them on a “visualization.” *

* See *A Different Kind of Nursery Rhyme* activity for tips and guidelines for leading Guided Imagery activities.

FOR PART TWO:

Large mural/butcher paper and a variety of art materials (crayons, paints, markers,etc.)

OPTIONAL:

Copies of a recent descriptive article from the newspaper which describes Barnegat Bay or some descriptive text from other Barnegat Bay source material (see reference materials listed, visit the library, etc.). This could be a homework assignment for students in preparation for this activity.

3 Making Connections

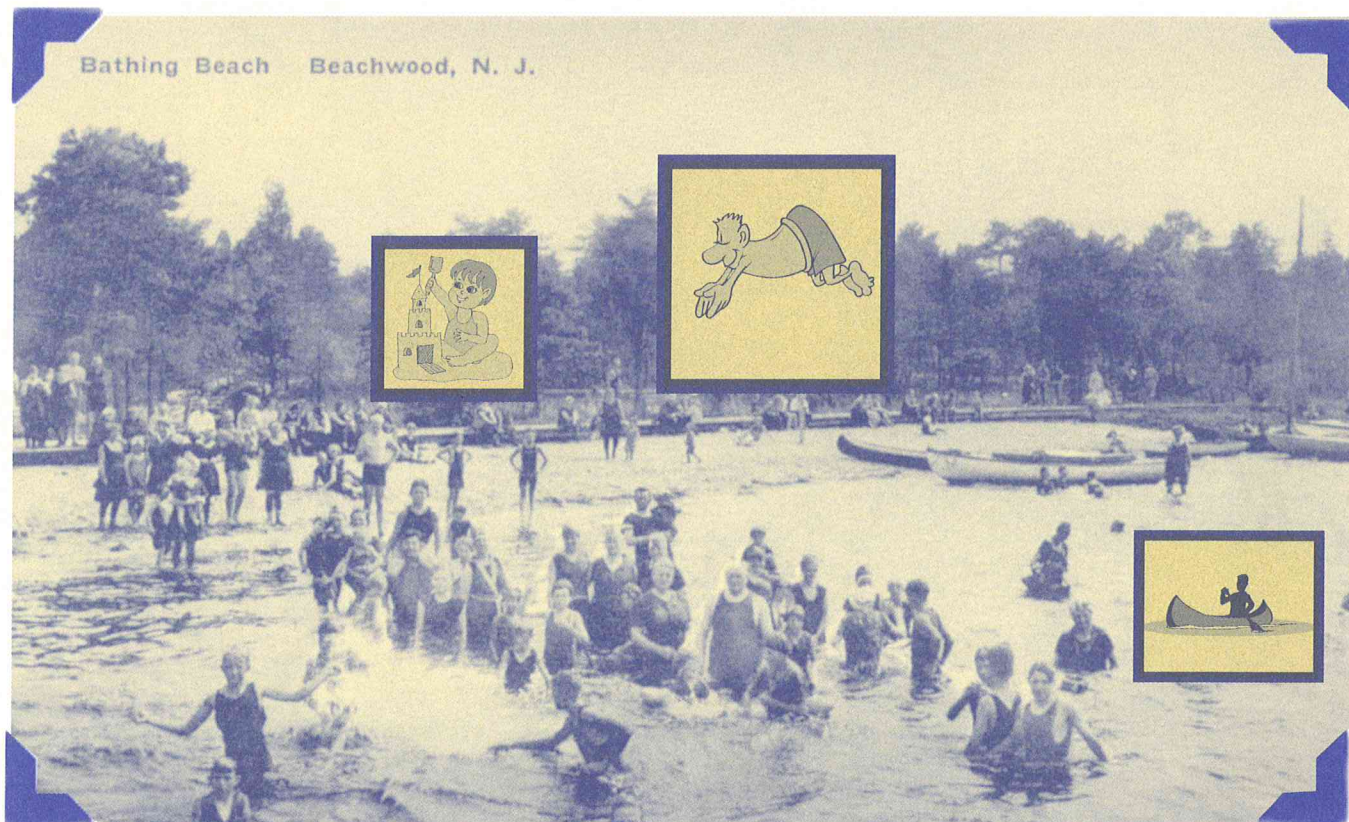
By reading and interpreting a historical description of Barnegat Bay, students can begin to appreciate the changes that have occurred and continue to occur all around them to the landscape, the waterways, and the entire watershed. Sharing one man’s perspective on “how it was back then” is a great way to get students starting to think about “how it is right now.” This can be a valuable way to raise environmental awareness among students.

4 Background

Since being settled, Ocean County and the entire Barnegat Bay watershed has undergone tremendous change and growth. People still come to the area to live or visit to enjoy its natural beauty as much as they have in the past.

5 Procedure

WARM UP: Begin this activity by introducing the fact that descriptions of people and places are often written descriptions. Discuss the difference between fiction and nonfiction and describe how they are sometimes intermingled. For example, a fictional story may include some actual facts about an area. Often, newspapers run articles that express a person’s point of view or perspective. Discuss these types of articles. Tell the students that they are going to be hearing (reading) a story that describes Barnegat Bay.



THE ACTIVITY

Distribute copies of the article “*Here One Forgets the Outside World.*”

It is up to the teacher to divide students into groups if desired. One student would read the article, the other students should pay attention to details and list descriptive adjectives and words that are included in the excerpt. The article may have to be read more than once for complete comprehension and understanding.

Students in groups should use the dictionary to define words that they do not know. Each group should also generate a list of natural resources that are mentioned or referenced in the text.

Each group should work cooperatively to illustrate what the author was trying to convey about Barnegat Bay. As much detail should be included in their



drawings so that the perspective of the author is conveyed.

Each group then produces a mural to display. The process of creating the drawings could be a simple sketching exercise, or a more elaborate, detailed, artistic endeavor. This is totally dependent on the teacher’s preference and time factor.

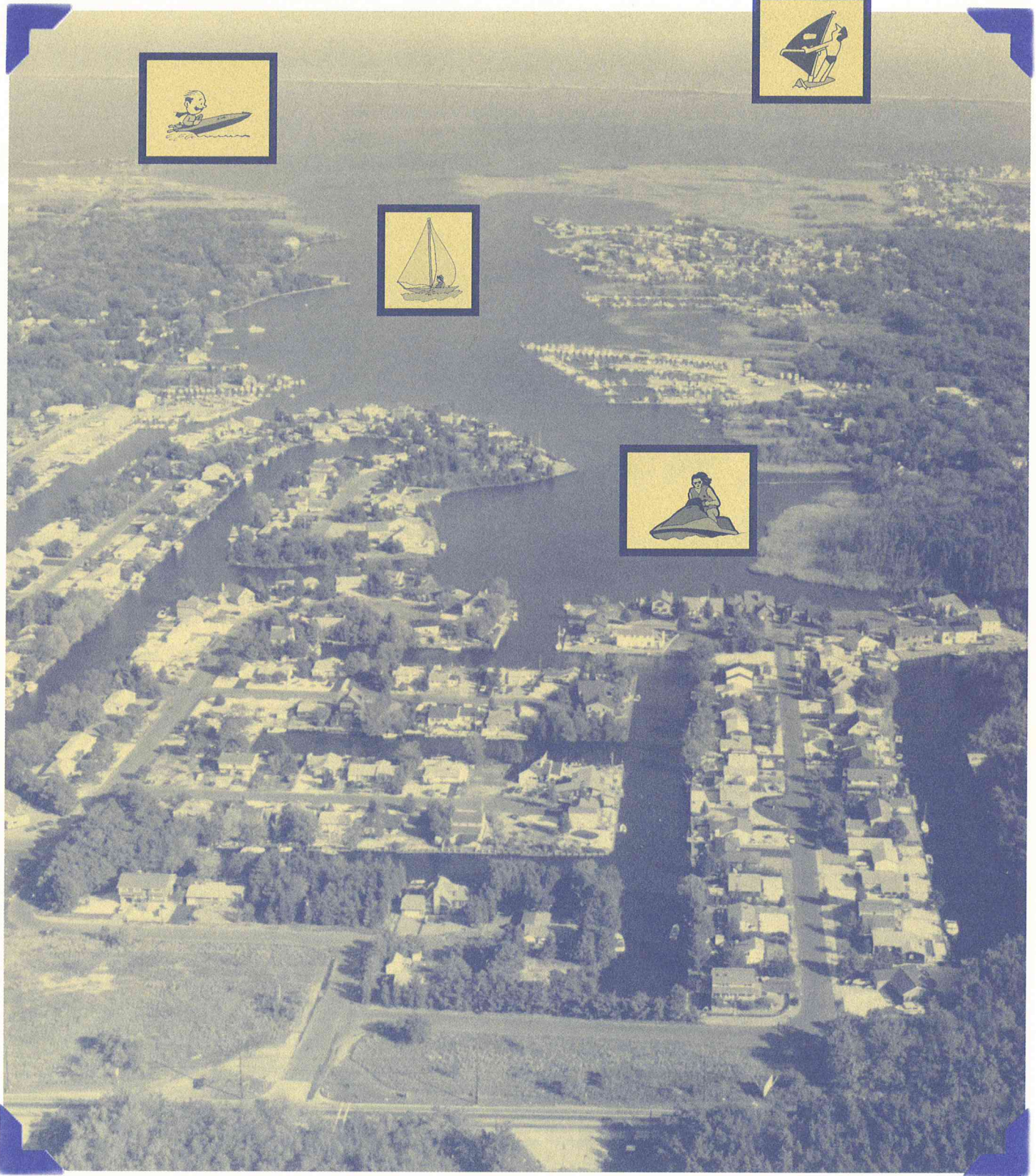
WRAP UP: Groups share their murals with the class. Discuss what changes have occurred in Barnegat Bay since the article was written.

ACTION: Students create descriptions of Barnegat Bay from their current perspective on the area or region. Perhaps a trip to see Barnegat Bay may be in order.

6 Extensions

Repeat this exercise with other articles or stories that relate to Barnegat Bay.

Perspectives from the Past



Aerial of Cedar Creek and the Bay in the 1990s. Photo, Studio 9, Waretown, NJ.

Here One Forgets the Outside World

OCEAN COUNTY— Barnegat Bay has ever been one of the wildest, most romantic of waters in the world. Certainly, there is nothing in America to compare with it and I have visited and angled in all of the national waters. Shortly after a boat passes southward from Seaside Park Bridge, all dwellings are left behind or obscured, with exceptions possibly at Waretown and Old Barnegat. Ever looming up in front, with an almost ever shining sun overhead, is the tall tower of the lighthouse at the inlet.

On the left hand are miles of the tallest, whitest sand dunes, between bay and ocean. On the right hand are the rising banks of varied hued greens of marshland, fading into tall forests of pines and oaks. In that body of water from Cedar Creek oyster beds to the inlet, in season, are gathered all known edible fish which makes angling worth while at all costs, which make recreation so fascinating that all outside influences are out of place and all memories of elsewhere blotted out. Here one forgets the outside world nor cares what is happening to business or home or events.

It is obvious that every change, every new building put up bordering on this enchanted water, makes to the destruction of just so much scenic effect. Civilization, progress, improvements - all destroy nature. Such spots as Barnegat Bay are the sole recreative reliefs from the intensity of civilization, the enticing escape from office and home, from heat of summer and pestilence of unsavory smells of manufactories and crowded populations.

The recreative rest here, which no crowded coast resort can give, is of a type hard to find elsewhere, in fact cannot be duplicated elsewhere. I challenge the world to name any like body of salt water of like environment and fascinations, of like rest, boating recreations and angling,

elsewhere on the face of the earth. Believe me, there is no bay or water so situated, so placed that in a few moments one so desiring can get back into the whirl of civilization.

Gradually, encroachments are approaching Barnegat Bay which will, if continued, surely change its character for the worst. Slowly a canal is being cut at the head of the bay to connect with outside waters. On that moment when such a connection is made, all that is described above will go by the board in an instant.

The sewage from great cities and populations will come down through the new channel together with larger vessels of commerce, driving out the coveted species of fish, and making the present pleasure boating and angling as odious as it was formerly enjoyable and exclusive. In addition, buildings, wharves and populations will quickly arise around the whole bay. Where automobile parties at present find long stretches of enjoyable breaths of pine air, a continuous line of streets will surely take place of pleasure bearing roadways as they have elsewhere from Cape May to Portland.

Instead of the reasonable number of autos now passing to and fro between Lakewood and Atlantic City, there will be the same massed formations as make such great and costly highways as the Merrick Road of Long Island dangerous for travel and void of recreation. All the blossoms and greens along both sides of such massed highways are obliterated by ever floating storms of dust sent up by millions of grinding wheels.

Such is the history of other coastal bays and waters and such will surely be the fate of Barnegat Bay, soon to become a mere memory of dead and buried pleasures of boating and angling, when the fatal connection by canal with outside navigation is completed.

Perspectives from the Past

The idea and procedure for this activity came from the publication: *DOWN JERSEY - Celebrating Our Sense of Place* from an activity of the same name. Photo: Studio 9, Waretown, NJ.

