

Lesson 1: Explore Town Fairs

UNIT: Town Fair

TRANSCRIPT

HOOK 1

Hi, writers. It's Margaret. My friend Mark lives in a town that is about to cross a huge milestone—the town is soon going to be 200 years old!

The people in his town want to do something to celebrate. Maybe they could unveil a statue or have a parade. But there's one idea that has Mark excited. Some people think that the town should hold a town fair to celebrate the town's 200th anniversary.

A town fair is a big event where people in the town can come together and do all sorts of fun things. Check out this map of a town fair. At this fair, there was an artist alley where local artists showed and sold their art. There was also a learning zone, where people could learn about the animals in the town and learn about the town's history. And there were event spaces where people put on amazing shows, like this motorcycle stunt show.

DISCUSSION 1

Discuss: If you could go to a town fair, what kinds of things would you want to do?

HOOK 2

I don't know what you said, but I would love to see all the animals and feed them too.

Soon, Mark's town will be holding a vote on whether or not the town should have a fair. Mark wants lots of people to vote yes on the town fair. Mark wants to convince as many people as he can to vote yes on the fair. But trying to talk to everyone in town would be really tough. Mark knows that writing is a great way to share ideas with lots of people all at once.

Mark needs your help to write a flyer that will convince lots of people in town to vote yes on the fair. Like any opinion writing, the flyer will need a thesis statement telling everyone to vote yes, convincing reasons, and examples for each reason. With all these parts, everyone who reads the flyer is sure to vote yes.

In order to write a persuasive flyer, you'll need to learn about what kinds of things people can do at fairs. Mark has found a local news broadcast and an online article that are all about other town fairs that have happened nearby. You can use these sources to find examples of all the fun things that people can do at fairs.

In the sources, you'll learn about the amazing events that town fairs can have such as a corn maze, a giant vegetable contest, and butter sculpting, where people make sculptures completely out of butter.

Today, you'll read and take notes on two sources to learn more about fun events that happen at fairs. Then in later lessons, you'll write a persuasive flyer to convince lots of people to vote yes on the town fair.

I'll get you started, step by step.

STEP 1

Get Your Supplies.

STEP 2

Take a look at this video that Mark found from a local news channel.

Jessica: Tonight, we're joined by two guests who had a great time at the town fair last weekend. Our first guest is Aaron Haines. Aaron, what were some of your favorite parts of the fair?

Aaron: Thanks, Jessica. This fair was full of fantastic activities. For starters, I had a great time in the corn maze. The local farmers spent weeks building their cornfield into a giant maze. I got lost in the maze for an hour, but I made it out in the end. Corn mazes are great fun for people of all ages to play outside and try to solve the maze. Plus, they look absolutely beautiful from the air. I also really like the downhill trike race. Kids and adults of all ages rode tricycles down a super steep and winding hill. It was fun to do and silly to watch. I love events like the trike race because it's just pure excitement and fun that brings everyone together.

Jessica: Thanks for sharing, Aaron. It definitely sounds like you had a great time. Lots of activities and thrills at the fair. For another perspective, we now go to Sarah Torres. Sarah, how was the fair for you?

Sarah: Thanks, Jessica. I had an amazing time at the fair, too. Fairs are great places to learn more about your town and local community. For starters, I went to the farm animal show space. Local farmers were there with their animals. I got to meet all sorts of animals that create the products we eat every day, like milk and eggs. There was even a beekeeper there who taught me all about local bee populations and how they take care of bees and harvest honey. I had no idea that so many of the products at the grocery store are actually produced right here by farmers in town. There were workshops about the history of the town, too. There was a blacksmith there where I learned all about how people in the town made tools over two hundred years ago. It was amazing to watch him make tools

like pickaxes right in front of our eyes. There was also a weaver at the fair who taught me all about how rugs and fabric were made hundreds of years ago. I loved learning about the history of our town and some of the craft skills from long ago. I've got to say, I learned so much. I wish the fair went on longer so I could have learned even more.

Jessica: Thanks for sharing, Sarah. Sounds like this year's fair was quite a success. I think we're all looking forward to the next one. Thanks for watching!

If you'd like to watch this video again, replay this step. Otherwise, move on to the next step.

STEP 3

Source 1 is a transcript of the video you just watched.

Get your Source 1 and your Notes worksheet.

When you take notes, you don't need to write in complete sentences. You can write just a few words to remember the information in the source.

Read Source 1, and take notes on all the examples of activities people can do at fairs.

STEP 4

Get your Source 2 worksheet.

This is an online article about another town fair. For now, let's just read the article. You'll take notes later on. If you'd like to read the article on your own, pause the video now, or keep playing to hear me read it aloud.

Fun at the Fair

By Andrew Lee

Contests

This year, the fair held the annual largest vegetable contest, where local farmers brought in their prized vegetables. The winner of the largest pumpkin contest grew a pumpkin that weighed a whopping 2,471 pounds! That's almost as heavy as a car. It was a close contest this year, however, because the runner-up pumpkin only weighed 4 pounds less. It was a fantastic sight to see all the huge pumpkins that were grown this year.

If gardening isn't your thing, there were still contests that you could participate in at the fair. For a more humorous contest, attendees could compete in a rubber chicken throwing contest. Anyone could sign up to throw a rubber chicken as far as possible. No machines or devices to help are allowed in this contest; it's simply how far you can throw it with your arm strength. The winner of this year's contest threw a rubber chicken 57 feet, causing huge cheers and whoops from the crowd. It will definitely be tough to beat that record!

Art

The artists alley is a street at the town fair dedicated to showcasing local artists and their work. This year's fair featured outstanding art of all different kinds. There were painters, sculptors, pottery artists, and more. Kyla Berchum is a local artist who creates amazing work out of glass. At the fair she featured household glass items, such as plates and vases, as well as beautiful stained glass windows. Attendees at the fair could admire her work, or purchase her art for their homes.

For those who wanted to participate in making art at the fair this year, the fair held a butter sculpting event. People could sign up to make a sculpture completely out of a huge chunk of butter! Making a butter sculpture requires time, patience, and a whole lot

of butter. The butter artists work in a refrigerated room so the butter stays solid and is easier to carve. Attendees can see the sculptures in progress as well as admire them when they are complete! While these sculptures are amazing, they don't tend to last. When the butter melts, the sculpture is gone!

If you'd like to hear me read this source out loud again, replay this step. Otherwise, move on to the next step.

STEP 5

Reread Source 2 and take notes on examples of contests and art that can be seen at fairs.

STEP 6

Nice job, writers! You now have notes of lots of examples of activities and things to learn at town fairs.

Find the "Thesis" section of your Notes worksheet.

Your thesis is a sentence that shares the purpose of your writing. The purpose of your flyer is to get everyone in Mark's town to vote "yes" on the town fair to celebrate his town's 200th anniversary.

You can use this thesis statement or come up with your own. Write your thesis statement on the line.

STEP 7

Now you can think of three reasons why everyone should vote yes. Maybe they should vote yes because there are lots of activities, or there are things to learn, or there are

contests, or artists can showcase their work. Pick three reasons why you think the town should hold a fair. You can use these ideas or come up with your own.

Write your reasons in the three tickets at the bottom of your worksheet.

STEP 8

The papers shown on screen are V.I.P.s—very important papers. Your teacher will tell you where to put them, so you'll have them for the next lesson.

WRAP UP

Amazing job, writers! You have a thesis statement, three reasons, and lots of examples to choose from to write your persuasive flyer.

Right now, in the writing process, you're here, gathering information. In later lessons, you'll make a plan, draft, revise and edit, and then share your flyer. With your help, the residents in Mark's Town are sure to vote "yes" and hold the most amazing town fair.

I'll see you next time.