

# It Was A Wonderful Year

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Our Place in Time – Urbana Local History  
Learning about the year our home was built

Children will gather data about different periods in history (based on the year their home was built) to later be amalgamated into a whole class time line and used on their final projects.

## Materials:

Research Framework page 2

Science and Social Studies notebook (or other location to take notes)

Old local newspapers both on microfilm and hard copies

Microfilm projectors housed at the Archives

Rationale: The children get to tie something personal (the year their home was built) to the broader pictures of local, state, and national events. This connection gives the children a hook, a connection to events that are often nebulous otherwise.

Method: Once the children have found the date their home was built (see lesson: Home History), brainstorm with them places where they could find information about that year. Hopefully someone will say a newspaper.

Bring out the old bound newspapers (again, these will be at our fingertips because of the pre-research the wonderful archive people have done for us). Let the kids use them to gather information.

Also show the children the newspapers on Microfilm so they understand that storage system and the resources available. For the children who need it, set them up with the microfilm readers.

Give them time to fill out their worksheet gathering data. They are looking for important local and state news as well as something interesting to them that may not qualify as important.

The children also need to be on the look out for an artifact that would represent this time

Assessment is based on worksheet.