



Social Studies Competencies and Activities

Grade 3

Competency Goal 3/Objective 3.01: Analyze changes that have occurred in communities past and present.

Tweetsie Site: Entire Park

Activity: Discuss the map and the various buildings at Tweetsie.
Compare the map to what might have existed in 1875.

Reference: Tweetsie Railroad brochure

Competency Goal 3/Objective 3.02: Describe how individuals, events and ideas change over time.

Tweetsie Site: Entire Park

Activity: Discuss the jobs that people had in the late 1800s.

- How do these compare with the kind of jobs we have today?
- How do geography and modern day transportation affect the types of jobs and transportation?

Activity: Review these terms and relate them to the Tweetsie train area.

- Elevation
- Distance (from point of origin)
- Transportation of goods and people in 1800s versus 2000s
- Lumber
- Iron ore
- Logs
- Mail
- People

Competency Goal 4/Objective 4.03: Use geographic terminology to describe and explain variations in the physical environment, such as communities.

Tweetsie Site: In classroom or traveling to and from the park

Competency Goal 5/Objective 5.02: Explain the impact of scarcity on the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services.

Tweetsie Site: Traveling to the park

Activity: Review the map from Resource Section, identify the route taken by East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad in the late 1800s.

- Reference map: Johnson City, Tennessee, through Cranberry, North Carolina (in Avery County), to Boone, North Carolina (near Foscoe).

Note: *After the East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad began to rely more heavily on transporting passengers than iron ore, buses became popular. Once again there was a scarcity of passengers for the train.*



Competency Goal 5/Objective 5.05: Distinguish and analyze the economic resources within communities.

Tweetsie Site: In classroom or traveling to and from the park

Activity: The East Tennessee & Western North Carolina Railroad began to carry passengers in the 1920s–1930s (during the Great Depression). Linville Gap at 4,545 feet above sea level was the highest point in the Eastern United States served by a passenger train. In the 1930s, the train was nicknamed Tweetsie because of the distant, shrill whistle heard by many. The visiting “flatlanders” began to call the train “Tweetsie” and the name stuck. The following list shows the various names used for the train starting in the 1880s. Are these related to the economic resources of the communities served by the ET&WNC Railroad? If so, how are they related?

- 1880s–Stem-winder
- 1920s–Eat Taters and Wear No Clothes (during the Great Depression)
- 1920s–Every Time and With No Complaint
- 1930s–Tweetsie
- 1957–Tweetsie maintained the name of Tweetsie even after relocation to Blowing Rock.