

Class Starters & Enders

Making the Most of Instructional Time Five Minute Lessons

Class Starters and Enders help utilize the last minutes of class when a lesson ends but there is not enough time to start another, or for an interest approach at the beginning of class. Mini-lessons correlate to GPS in the programs areas below.

The Smith- Lever Act - 1914

Program Areas: Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, Consumer Services, Culinary Arts

Instructions: Read the narrative and make notes of important points, answer questions, and be ready to discuss this topic.

History:

The Smith-Lever Act of 1914 is a U.S. federal law that established the Cooperative Extension Service. The purpose of the Cooperative Extension Service is to relay information on new technologies and developments from the experiment stations and land-grant colleges to the public. This act provides for vocational education in the areas of agriculture and home economics for individuals not attending college. This act is also known as the Agriculture Extension Act.

Many land-grant universities began to offer training off campus with field demonstrations for farmers, home management demonstrations for rural women, tomato clubs for girls and corn clubs for boys during 1862 - 1914. The problem was that these programs were not being well received by the masses of the common man. These programs were informal and needed to have some backing to be successful. The Smith-Lever Act provided these funds from federal, state and county governments. President Woodrow Wilson signed the Smith-Lever Act into law.

The establishment of the Cooperative Extension Service provided not only information programs to adults in the community but also to youth. The youth demonstrated an enthusiasm for learning about new discoveries and technologies that they would take home to their parents. Eventually, the parents would want to learn more about the subject. The county agents in the community had the training to help farmers and homemakers with this endeavor.



Michael Hoke Smith

Georgia Connection:

- * Hoke Smith was a co-sponsor of the bill later known as the Smith-Lever Act.
- * He was born in North Carolina but moved to Georgia at an early age.
- * He was a successful lawyer in Atlanta before being selected to be the Secretary of the Interior from 1893-1896.
- * He was governor of Georgia and later elected to the U.S. Congress.
- * Several buildings, including two on the University of Georgia campus are named after Smith.
- * The Hoke Smith building and Hoke Smith Annex building, on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens, houses the Cooperative Extension Service.

History Connection- Briefly define the following.

land-grant universities Cooperative Extension Service
Agriculture Extension Act

Review

1. What year was the Smith-Lever Act passed by the U.S. Congress?
2. Who is the Smith of the Smith-Lever Act?
3. What is the purpose of the Smith-Lever Act?
4. Why was the Smith-Lever Act important?
5. What was created by the Smith-Lever Act?