Instructional practices in Education and Training is the name of this class. You must be here because you want to help educate others. You have thought about what it would be like without education. Now we are going to think about how our schools have come to be what they are.
Life was about the same until the middle of the century when there were significant events in American history. What happened?

**History:** The Revolutionary War in 1775 led to the Declaration of Independence in 1776. Two events that made the United States a country separate from England. Two men, Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the Declaration of Independence, and Benjamin Franklin, a statesman, inventor and philosopher, contributed to advances in education.

**Education:** 1. Ben Franklin initiated the inclusion of variety in school with subjects such as astronomy, navigation, and other languages. Subjects were taught in English, not Latin, in his Franklin Academy.
2. Thomas Jefferson believed that only with education could the citizens of the new country preserve their freedom and happiness. He established the University of Virginia, designed the buildings, planned the curriculum, planted the trees, hired the teachers, and bought the books. He believed that those who could vote must know to read.
3. Town schools were set up in communities.
4. The Quakers were very religious people and they provided schools for all children, girls, African Americans, and Native Americans (Indians). They lived in Northern areas. In the South, Black children were not allowed to go to school.

More universities started and degrees such as theology, law, medicine and commerce were available.
When the 19th century began there were only 17 states. When it ended, there were 45 states. The United States was growing to the south and west. The nation had many problems. What was a significant event in the 1800’s?

**History:** The Civil War brought many problems to America. It started in 1861 and over 600,000 Americans were killed. As the United States was reunited in 1865, there were problems for children with the Industrial Revolution, poverty, and immigration. Education was not a priority.

**Education:** 1. There were a variety of schools; some were one room schools in frontier communities and others were sponsored by churches and the expensive private academies. 2. Horace Mann, who became known as the Father of Education, was a supporter of common schools. These were free schools for all children. Many argued that children should be working not going to school. Others questioned their cost. 3. High schools became popular after the Civil War. 4. Fredrich Froebel was known as the Father of Kindergarten (“children’s garden”) as he started the first American kindergarten in Boston. He emphasized an active curriculum for self-development and self-expression for young children. 4. Normal schools were started by Horace Mann to train teachers. 5. Schools started for children with disabilities such as blindness and deafness began in this century.
**History:** What historical events occurred in the 1900’s? World War I took place from 1914-1918, World War II in 1940, the Korean War in the fifties and Vietnam in the sixties. Women got the right to vote in 1919. The Civil Rights Act in 1964 increased attention to equal for all. Astronauts walked on the moon and more than ever there was a priority placed on education so America could compete with the rest of the world.

**Education:** Now more than ever, all children went to school, all races, all colors, and those with disabilities...for free!

John Dewey established the first laboratory school to emphasize progressive education. It focused on connecting learning to the child’s interests, teaching cooperation, and allowing the teacher to help children solve problems, not just memorize facts. During World War II, women had to go to work for the war effort and needed child care. Daycare facilities become more popular.

After WW II, laws were passed so former soldiers could go to college with money from the GI Bill.

In 1954, the Supreme Court mandated that all children were to have an equal education. Slowly the nation moved toward combining all children together in schools. The Vocational Education Act, the Civil Rights Act, and the Bilingual Education Act provided federal laws and funds to support equal education. Federal legislation supported Head Start programs to provide all children with skills for success in school.

Benjamin Bloom examined learning and devised levels of thinking that are still studied by teachers today.
During this time, people began to question the effectiveness of American education. Standardized tests were developed to determine how well students were learning.
What historical event occurred in this century that has changed much about how Americans think and live?

**History:** The terrorist Attacks in 2001 and the Iraq War

**Education:** In 2001, the No Child Left Behind Act was passed. It calls for accountability of all public schools. It required standards and testing to make certain that all students were learning what they needed to know. In Texas, we have the TEKS, the TAKS, and now the STAAR tests as part of NCLB.

Where will we go from here? That will be up to you and all of the teachers in the future.
“Children are messages to a time we will never see.”
Neil Postman
Resource