

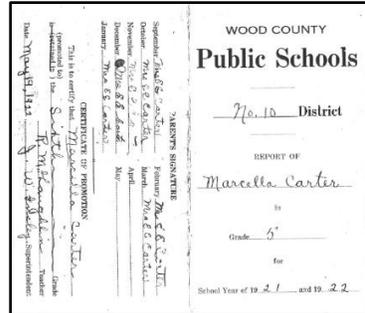
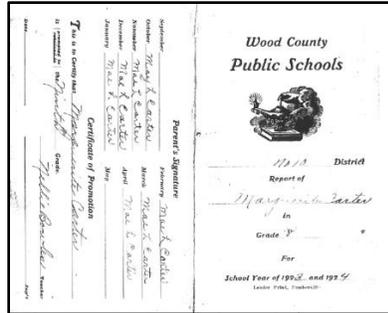
Name:

Date:

Analyze Primary Sources: Report Cards

How do you check your grades in school? Most kids today view them online through programs like progress book, blackboard, or canvas. The internet, however, did not exist during much of the 20th century. Marguerite and Sally Carter grew up during the 1920s and 1930s. To see how well they were doing in school, they had to wait for their report card to be handed out by their teacher.

Below are photos of Marguerite and Sally's report cards from the 1920s:



You will be prompted to analyze the following images, then asked a few questions. First, let's take a look Sally Carter's report card:

| | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Exam. | Semes. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May | Exam. | Semes. | Yr. Av. |
|--------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|--------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-------|--------|---------|
| Days Present | 17 | 20 | 18 | 25 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 19 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 21 | 23 | |
| Days Absent | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | |
| Tardy | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| Spelling | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A |
| Reading | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ | B+ |
| Writing | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| Arithmetic | A | B | B+ | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| English | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| Geography | 1 | | | | | | 12 | | | | | | | |
| History | B+ | C | B+ | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| Hygiene | A | A | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| Citizenship | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| Handwriting | B | A | A | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| Music | | | | | | | B | C | C | | | | | |
| Ind. Arts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Conduct | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | C |

NOTE — The quality of the work done is indicated by the letters A, B, C, D, and F.
 "A" indicates that the pupil is in the highest group — about 5 to 8 per cent. of the class.
 "B" indicates that the pupil is in next to the highest group — about 23 to 25 per cent. of the class.
 "C" indicates that the pupil is in the central or average group — about 34 to 44 per cent. of the class.
 "D" indicates that the pupil is below the average, as far below C as B is above — about 23 to 25 per cent. of the class.
 "F" indicates that the pupil is failing.

On the first Wednesday of each school month this report will be filled out by the teacher and sent to the parent, who is earnestly requested to examine the record of the child's school progress, and co-operate with school in making report what it ought to be.

Name:

Date:

Question 1: Do you notice anything on Sally's report card that is different from report/grade cards of today?

Question 2: What do you think was taught in hygiene class? What modern day class could this be compared to?

Next, analyze the photo of Marguerite Carter's report card:

| | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Exam. | Semes. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May | Exam. | Semes. | Yr. Av. |
|------------------|-------|------|------|------|-------|--------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-------|--------|---------|
| Days Present | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | | | 10 | 15 | 20 | 19 | 20 | | 68 | 15 1/2 |
| Days Absent | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | | 20 | 2 1/2 |
| Tardy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | C |
| Spelling | A | A | A | A | D | C | B | B | B | B | B | A | B | B |
| Reading | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | A | B | A | A | A |
| Writing | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| Arithmetic | A | B | B | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C | C |
| Language English | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B | B |
| Geography | B | A | A | C | B | B | B | C | C | A | A | B | B | B |
| History | B | B | A | A | B | B | B | C | C | B | A | B | B | B |
| Hygiene | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Citizenship | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Drawing | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Music | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ind. Arts | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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On the first Wednesday of each school month this report will be filled out by the teacher and sent to the parent, who is earnestly requested to examine the record of the child's school progress, and co-operate with school in making report what it ought to be.

| Habits and Attitudes Affecting Citizenship | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | April | May |
|--|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----|
| Indolent | | | | | | | | | |
| Wastes Time | | | | | | | | | |
| Work is Carelessly Done | | | | | | | | | X |
| Copies: Gets Too Much Help | | | | | | | | | |
| Gives Up Too Easily | | | | | | | | | |
| Shows Improvement | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Very Commendable | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| CLASS WORK | | | | | | | | | |
| Comes Poorly Prepared | | | | | | | | | |
| Appears Not to Try | | | | | | | | | |
| Contributes Little to Discussion | | | | | | | | | |
| Inattentive | | | | | | | | | X |
| Promotion in Danger | | | | | | | | | X |
| Capable of Doing Much Better | | | | | | | | | |
| Work Shows Falling Off | | | | | | | | | X |
| Shows Improvement | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Thinks Clearly, Purposefully | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Gaining in Self-Reliance | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Attacks Work Energetically | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Becoming More Thoughtful | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Very Satisfactory | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| CONDUCT | | | | | | | | | |
| Restless: Inattentive | | | | | | | | | |
| Inclined to Mischief | | | | | | | | | |
| Rude: Discourteous at Times | | | | | | | | | |
| Annoys Others | X | X | | | | | | | |
| Whispers Too Much | X | X | | | | | | | |
| Shows Improvement | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Obedient and Trustworthy | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Courteous and Considerate | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| Very Good | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |

NOTE: This check (X) indicates traits to which attention is called.

Name:

Date:

Question 3: Look at the top of the report card where lists “Days Present” and “Days Absent”. What do you notice?

Question 4: Take a look at Marguerite’s grades in the March and April columns. What do you notice about her grades in these months compared to previous months?

Question 5: Look at the “Habits and Attitudes” section of the report card on the right. Look at the March and April columns. What do you notice about Marguerite’s class behavior these months?

Question 6: The Carters were a farming family. Think about what farmers do for a living. What time of year do they plant and harvest their crops? Could there be a connection between this and Marguerite’s absences? Why or why not?

Question 7: Why do you think Marguerite was absent for such a long period of time?

Name:

Date:

Teacher Answer/Lesson Guide Sheet:

- 1.) The names of some of the classes are different. Arithmetic (math), hygiene (health), Industrial Arts (Science/STEM), are all good answers.
- 2.) Today, hygiene class is known as health class. In the class, students learn about eating healthy, cleanliness, physical activity, and how the body works.
- 3.) Marguerite was absent many days in March and April.
- 4.) Her grades were down, meaning she was struggling to keep up in school.
- 5.) Her work in school was suffering and it was threatening her promotion to the next grade.
- 6.) They plant in the spring and harvest in the fall.
- 7.) This was possibly due to preparing fields for spring/summer planting. Many kids, mainly boys, would be taken out of school to help on their family's farm. The Carter Family had only girls. Marguerite, being the oldest, was often the child that stayed behind to help.