A new unit in *North Dakota Agriculture* is now available to complement the North Dakota Studies series for Grade 4. In early May, North Dakota elementary schools will receive a complimentary copy of *North Dakota Agriculture* for review and consideration.

Throughout the history of North Dakota, agriculture has shaped and molded the destiny of the state. North Dakota is one of America’s most agricultural states; no other industry or activity plays a greater or more vital role in the lives of present-day North Dakotans than agriculture.

Today, North Dakota has more than 30,000 family farmers and ranchers who help supply the world with the food, feed, and fuel it needs. It is essential that North Dakota students understand and appreciate the historical significance of agriculture, as well as the role it plays in today’s state economy.

*North Dakota Agriculture* includes such topics as the Mandan as the state’s first farmers; bonanza farming and early ranching; homesteading; and the impact of the railroad on early settlement.

The unit highlights the various agricultural products and produce for which North Dakota is famous, the labor and methods of the women and men who toiled and prospered on the land, and the dramatic changes that have shaped the state’s 21st Century farms and ranches.

This unit in *North Dakota Agriculture* also promotes an appreciation for the variety of products grown in the state—helping students understand that the source of America’s food is from the farm and ranch and not the grocery store.
North Dakota Agriculture is an attractive, 152-page text with over 200 full-color photographs, charts, maps, and other illustrations to help enhance and explain the reading content.

There are more than 100 bold and yellow-highlighted vocabulary words to help students understand the content. Comprehension and critical thinking questions are incorporated throughout the text enabling students to interpret and understand key points relating to agriculture in North Dakota.

A comprehensive Teacher Resource Guide (TRG) is available to accompany North Dakota Agriculture. The TRG provides a wide variety of worksheets, assessments, maps, illustrations, and other suggested activities to teach North Dakota Agriculture.

The TRG also includes an answer key for all activities and worksheets, including all the comprehension and critical thinking questions from the student text.

When teaching North Dakota Studies to students in Grades 4 and 8, schools are required to provide instruction “with an emphasis on geography, history, and agriculture.” This new North Dakota Agriculture unit provides an excellent resource for teachers and students to learn about the state’s number one industry.

North Dakota Agriculture is aligned to the North Dakota Content and Achievement Standards for Social Studies.
The thousands of barns that dot North Dakota’s landscape tell an interesting story about North Dakota—and about the history of North Dakota agriculture. The new North Dakota Agriculture unit features a photo essay on “Barns of North Dakota” to help students learn and appreciate the interesting history and styles of these rural structures.

The barn has been an important part of North Dakota agriculture and farm life for decades. Farmers threshed grain on barn floors, stored hay in the lofts for feeding livestock, and sheltered animals in the stalls.

The photos shown here and in the North Dakota Agriculture text are representative of the many types and styles of barns that can be found all over North Dakota. Often, the culture of early immigrants dictated the style and shape of these barns. Sometimes the availability of certain raw materials and North Dakota’s climate determined the type of barn that was constructed by these early settlers.

Like one-room country schoolhouses, rural churches, and towering wood grain elevators—farmstead barns built by North Dakota’s early pioneers are slowly disappearing from the country landscape.

Efforts to save some of these grand structures have been undertaken by local owners and preservation groups. Like other early landmark structures, most of these farmstead barns will, over time, eventually succumb to the lack of attention and the elements of weather.

Photos of barns courtesy of David Paukert.
GEOLOGY, GEOGRAPHY, AND CLIMATE
Students are introduced to North Dakota’s geological past, the three major geographical regions, as well as the weather and climate of the state.

AMERICAN INDIANS OF NORTH DAKOTA
Students study the history and culture of the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, Chippewa, and the Great Sioux Nation.

CITIZENSHIP
Students learn about national, state, and local governments. Students also learn about rights and responsibilities of young citizens, voting, state symbols, and Theodore Roosevelt Roughrider Award recipients.

FRONTIER ERA OF NORTH DAKOTA
Students will learn about the Lewis and Clark Expedition, fur trade on the Red and Missouri Rivers, and early frontier military history.

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF NORTH DAKOTA
Students are introduced to early forms of transportation, including the Red River cart, steamboats, stagecoaches, and the railroad. Students are also introduced to bonanza farms and cattle ranching in the Badlands, immigration, and pioneer life between 1870 and 1915.

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURE
Students learn about the historical background of agriculture, the Mandan as the first farmers, homesteading and early ranching, as well as modern production agriculture and the role it plays in today’s state economy.

4TH GRADE NORTH DAKOTA STUDIES
Are you looking to adopt a new North Dakota Studies curriculum?
Is it time to replace some of those tattered ND Studies books?
Order any of the 4th Grade North Dakota Studies units now until June 30, and receive a 20% discount.

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Discounted prices are effective through June 30, 2010. Schools that order before June 30 may choose to be billed after July 1. Regular prices will apply to all orders received after July 1, 2010.
The North Dakota Studies Project is pleased to introduce the all-new 2009–2011 edition of *Governing North Dakota* for use by teachers and students in the classrooms of North Dakota schools.

For more than 40 years, *Governing North Dakota* has been the pre-eminent source of information on the unique features of state and local government in North Dakota, and government officials and classroom teachers have made this publication an important desktop resource.

The 2009–2011 edition of *Governing North Dakota* has an exciting new look, including a new full-color layout and more than 200 all-new maps, graphics, and photographs to enhance the presentation of our local and state governments. The content has been expanded and updated to include full coverage of the 2008 election cycle and the 2009 biennial legislative session.

*Governing North Dakota* was first published by the University of North Dakota’s Bureau of Governmental Affairs in 1973. Its roots stretch back to 1950 when Professor Walter Kaloupek prepared a textbook on state and local government to be used for the North Dakota Flickertail Girls State.

Now in its 19th Edition, *Governing North Dakota, 2009–2011* is the result of a collaboration between the Bureau of Governmental Affairs and the North Dakota Studies Project at the North Dakota Center for Distance Education. Dr. Robert Wood, Bureau Director, and Neil Howe, North Dakota Studies Project Coordinator worked closely to assure that the new publication continues its long tradition of accuracy and excellence, and contributes to the resources available from the North Dakota Studies Project.

The primary mission of the Bureau of Governmental Affairs is to be a resource center for students, community members, and political leaders. *Governing North Dakota, 2009–2011* continues the Bureau’s commitment to public service and community development through research and publication.

The new *Governing North Dakota* also enhances the goals of the North Dakota Studies Project by promoting civic education to North Dakota citizens. *Governing North Dakota, 2009–2011* provides valuable information on the functions of our federal, state, and local governments and helps promote a better understanding of the civic responsibility of each citizen.

Copies are available for just $8.00/each plus shipping.
ONLINE RESOURCES—CHECK IT OUT!
www.NDstudies.org

The North Dakota Studies website offers valuable resources for teachers and students wanting to explore the interesting history and traditions of our state. In addition to providing information on the many publications and resources for Grades 4, 8, and high school, the website directs users to a host of supplemental resources for use in a variety of ways. The following three examples are just a few of the resources that are available at www.ndstudies.org.

**North Dakota History**

Primary research **document sets** have been designed to accompany the North Dakota History textbook. These **document sets** present and enhance the study of the history of this region from the prehistoric era to the present. Each of these online primary sources tells a story of the way the people who lived here brought about changes in the economic activities, social relationships, and political structures of the state.

The **document sets** are organized to match the chronological divisions of the North Dakota History textbook—and each unit corresponds to a unit in the textbook. Activities associated with most of the **document sets** encourage students to develop skill in the interpretation of historical events, as well as competence in critical thinking.

**Indian Studies**

To promote a better knowledge and understanding of North Dakota’s four tribal nations, online curriculum guides have been developed to present the history and culture of these Indian nations. The curriculum guides include “The History and Culture of the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Sahnish,” “The History and Culture of the Standing Rock Oyate,” “The History and Culture of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa,” and “The History and Culture of the Mni Wakan Oyate” (Spirit Lake).

This online content features historical tribal overviews, traditional and contemporary governments, demographics, cultures, and creation narratives for each of the four tribal nations.

**USS North Dakota**

Lesson plans to teach students about the USS North Dakota are available for Grades 4, 8, and high school. These lessons—primary documents and research from the archives of the State Historical Society—offer students, teachers, and the general public an opportunity to study this unique story in our state’s history. Teachers may use these online lessons to supplement discussions in connection with the launching of the new USS North Dakota submarine in 2014, or to teach about early 20th Century North Dakota history.

4th Grade:  www.ndstudies.org/resources/4th_ussnd/ussnd_intro.html
8th Grade:  www.ndstudies.org/resources/8th_ussnd/ussnd_intro.html
High School: www.ndstudies.org/resources/hs/ussnd_intro.html
The document sets that supplement *North Dakota History: Readings about the Northern Plains State*, available at the North Dakota Studies website, are compiled and written by Dr. Barbara Handy-Marchello. Dr. Handy-Marchello recently retired from the University of North Dakota, where she was an associate professor of history for fifteen years.

In a recent interview about her work as a teacher and historian, Dr. Handy-Marchello spoke of her belief that for history to be important, it needs to be important to every one, not just historians. Too often history is seen as a list of facts to memorize, but it is really more like a detective story. Teaching how to find and analyze historical clues, especially in the original materials, creates more interested and knowledgeable students. This was the approach she used in many of her classes, and which she modeled for future history teachers.

The Internet can be a powerful tool that allows us to take material out of archives and collections and make it available to the public. Students need to learn that information is stored not just in history books but in primary documents. Part of the role of teachers is to provide context for the original materials, so that students see them not as isolated events but as part of a larger story.

The material Dr. Handy-Marchello has researched and included in the *North Dakota History* document sets reflect her views on teaching history. The supplemental material is divided into a number of smaller, flexible sets that teachers can adapt to suit their own classrooms. The original materials (otherwise available only at the State Historical Society of North Dakota) are combined with contextual explanations for students. The activity pages are not followed by answer sheets—as the purpose is not to provide conclusions but to encourage analysis.

After her retirement from UND, Dr. Handy-Marchello moved to Bismarck. In addition to working on North Dakota Studies material, she has been busy with other volunteer and professional activities.

Dr. Barbara Handy-Marchello has researched and developed more than 35 primary document sets to accompany *North Dakota History*. These primary document sets are available at [www.ndstudies.org/resources/hs/index.html](http://www.ndstudies.org/resources/hs/index.html).

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**North Dakota History**

*North Dakota History: Readings about the Northern Plains State* has been developed for the high school student and is designed to promote and encourage a better understanding of the state’s rich history.

**North Dakota Legendary**

*North Dakota Legendary* is an attractive and affordable 8th grade textbook designed to be a comprehensive discussion of North Dakota’s geography, history, government, and current issues.

**Habitats of North Dakota**

The *Habitats of North Dakota* series promotes the teaching and learning about North Dakota’s five habitats—Wetlands, Prairie, Badlands, Woodlands, and Riparian Areas. The texts help explain the significant features of each habitat, while highlighting the wildlife species that rely on that environment for existence.
The North Dakota Institute for Regional Studies (NDIRS) recently celebrated its 60th anniversary. Located at North Dakota State University in Fargo, the Institute was founded in 1950 to stimulate historical research into the region’s resources and culture. The Institute also began its own publishing program in 1950. Its first publication, *Handbook of North Dakota Plants*, was written by Professor O.A. Stevens. Today, the Institute publishes more than 40 books. Its most recent publication, *Palaces on the Prairie* by Rod Evans, takes the reader on a journey through the past to experience the hope, struggle, victory and sometimes defeat of Midwestern communities—large and small—as they fought to survive difficult times during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The Institute is committed to collecting records on all aspects of the state’s past, but has been especially successful in acquiring records related to agriculture, literary figures, the pioneer era, women, and the development of Fargo as an urban center. To date the Institute has accessioned over 2,900 separate collections and preserves over 100,000 photographs. Many of the photographs are available on Digital Horizons, an online visual collection of historic images showcasing North Dakota and the Northern Great Plains. Students, teachers, and the general public can learn more about the resources and services available from NDIRS by visiting www.ndsu.edu/archives.

Photographs from the Institute have been used extensively to enhance the publications from the North Dakota Studies Project. *North Dakota Agriculture*, for example, includes more than 25 historic photos from NDIRS on bonanza farming and other aspects of early agriculture in the state.

Many NDIRS photos are available at Digital Horizons, an online collection of historic photos showcasing North Dakota.