

Come Into My Parlor

Objective

Students read and answer comprehension questions about milking parlors. Students research to learn about milk delivery. Students interpret a map scale to measure the space in a milking parlor.

Background

Most dairies are automated. Gates open and close without the aid of humans and even assist in moving animals along. The map included with this lesson is the floor plan for a style of milking parlor called a “Double Three Milking Parlor.” In milking parlors designed in this style, the cow herd is trained to enter the holding area on the east side of the building. Each cow ambles into one of the two alleys and enters a prep stall one at a time.

In the prep stall, sprays of warm water clean and stimulate the cow’s udder. This pre-milking routine is a vital step in the milking process. It helps increase milk-flow and maintains a healthy udder.

After the pre-milking routine is complete, automated gates open, and the cow enters an unoccupied stall in the milking parlor. She munches on grains and silage while the dairy worker dries her udder and connects it to the milking machine. The milking machine can milk one cow in about five minutes. When milking is complete, the dairyman removes the milker, and the cow is allowed to leave through one of the two exit lanes in the parlor.

During the milking process, if the cow needs special attention (runny nose, lame foot) she is herded into one of the catch pens where the dairy worker can examine her and decide what type of medical treatment is needed.

An office with up-to-date information is essential to running a profitable dairy. The dairy operator must keep exact records on matters like milk production, feed and labor costs.

Other rooms in the floor plan are used for milk handling and storage. Milk pumps housed in the handling room move the milk through a maze of pumps from the parlor to the storage tanks. All rooms in the parlor are kept extremely clean and cool to maintain a high standard of quality.

Procedures

1. Read and discuss the background and vocabulary.
2. Hand out the Reading Page, included with this lesson.
—Students will discuss the information and answer the comprehension questions individually or as a group.
3. Students will use online or library resources to research and write short papers about the history of milk delivery.
4. On a traditional map, review the process of using a map scale to calculate distances.
5. Hand out the Milking Parlor Map included with this lesson.
—Students will use rulers to complete the questions individually or in a

Oklahoma Academic Standards

GRADE 4

Speaking and Listening: R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and Writing Process: R.1,3,4. Critical Reading and Writing: 6,7. Research: R.1,2,3; W.1,2,3
Math—Number & Operations:1.1; Algebra:. 2.2; Geometry & Measurement: 2.4,5

group.

— Students will convert the measurements to the metric system.

6. Students will calculate to find the answers to the following word problems:

— If it takes five minutes to milk one cow, how many cows can be milked in one hour?

— How long would it take to milk 100 cows?

Extra Reading

Llewellyn, Claire, *Milk: What's for Lunch?*, Franklin Watts, 2003.

Murphy, Andy, *Out and About at the Dairy Farm*, Picture Window, 2004.

Taus-Bolstad, Stacy, *From Grass to Milk*, Lerner, 2004.

Materials

rulers

Vocabulary

milking machine—mechanical device to draw milk from the udders of a dairy animal by use of a vacuum

sanitary—characterized by cleanliness

parlor—a room in a private home set apart for the entertainment of visitors

Ag in Your Community

Invite an architect to the classroom to show blueprints and explain their purpose

Come Into My Parlor

One of the dairy operator's most important jobs is keeping everything very clean. That is the only way to make sure bacteria doesn't get into the milk and cause it to spoil. The invention of the milking machine made it possible for the dairy operator to milk quickly and to keep everything cleaner than ever before. Not only was this more sanitary, it also cut down on the dairy operator's work.

Before the invention of the milking machine, cows were milked by hand in the same stalls where they ate and slept. By the early 1930s dairymen began to set up special rooms just for milking. Experts explained that with the milking machines, dairy operators were moving the cows "from the bedroom to the parlor." Back then, the parlor was the name for a fancy room in the house that served as a showplace of a family's wealth. Furnishings, pictures and decorations in the parlor were quite fancy.



As news of the automated milking machines spread, people from the surrounding communities began to ask if they could come watch. More and more people became interested, and spectators even started coming in from large cities. Non-farm families found the process very interesting. Some would take a day and make an outing of watching the cows being milked.

Dairy operators began selling the fresh milk to the spectators. Soon they realized this was a great way to sell more milk. Some dairy operators built nice rooms with large glass windows, so visitors could watch in comfort. The room could be as elaborate as the dairyman could afford. It might have chairs in which the visitors could sit and a dairy bar from which the visitors could purchase cream, butter and fresh milk. Since the rooms were as nice as most people's parlors, they came to be called "milking parlors."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

What is the main idea of this reading? What is the purpose? What are the key details? How do they support the main idea?

What is the dairy operator's most important job? Why?

How did milking machines help with this job?

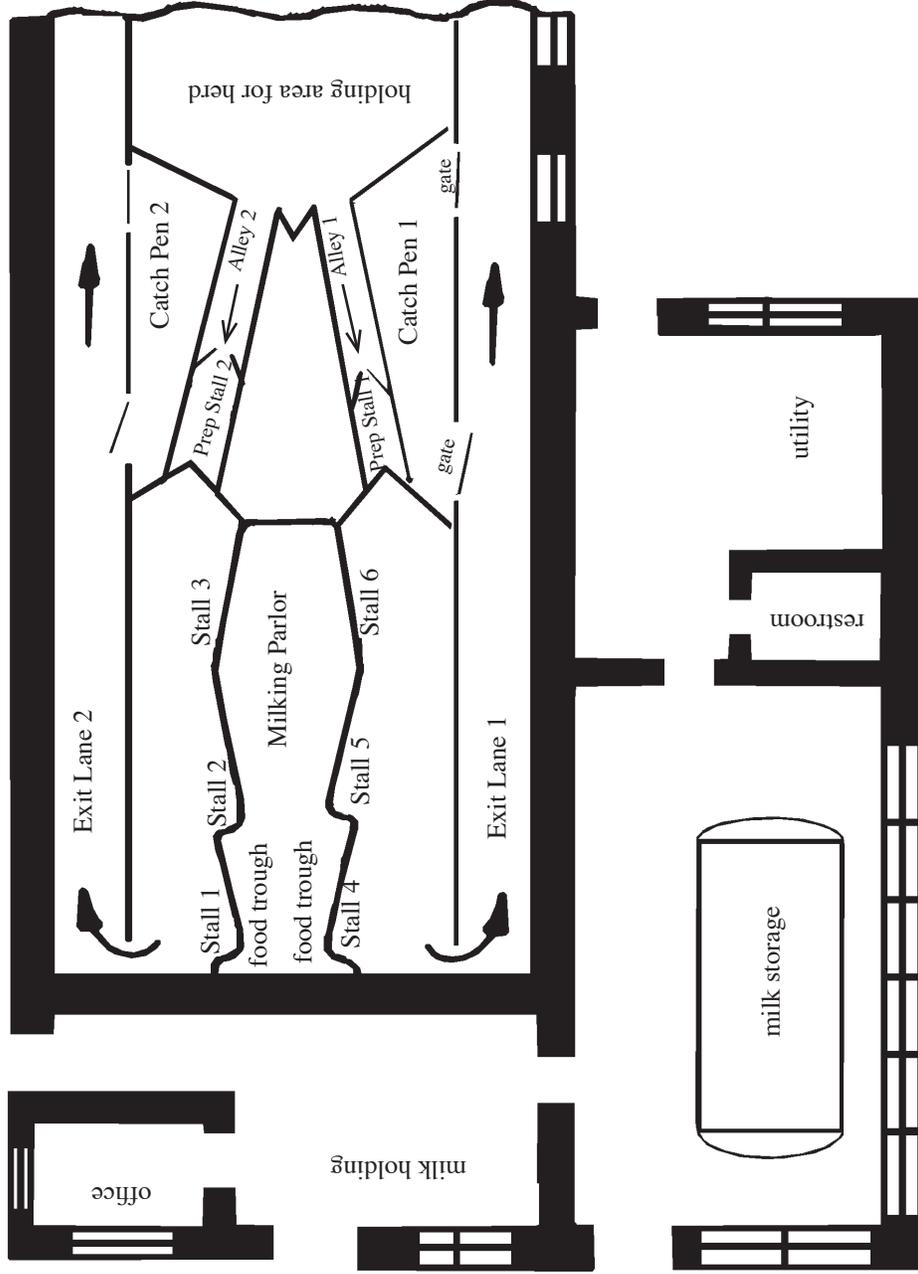
Explain this statement: Experts explained that with the milking machines, dairy operators were moving the cows "from the bedroom to the parlor."

Why do you think non-farm people were interested in watching the cows being milked? Would you be interested in watching? Why or why not?

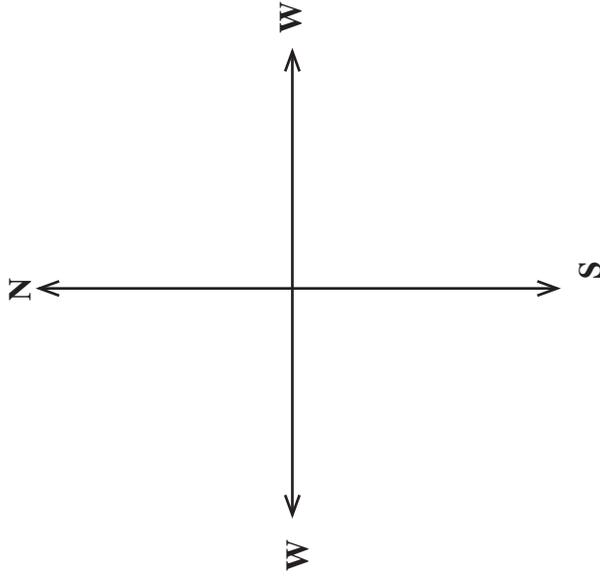
In your own words explain how milking rooms came to be called "milking parlors."

Name _____

Milking Parlor Map



Double 3 Milking Parlor Plan
Automated diagonal stall parlor
with side milk room and utility for
one-man operation



one inch = five feet

Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom is a program of the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service, the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry and the Oklahoma State Department of Education.

Name _____

Measuring the Milking Parlor

Answer the following questions, using the map of the milking parlor and the scale printed on the map. One inch equals five feet on the map.

1. Exit Lane 2 is _____ feet long.
2. Move a cow from Prep Stall 1, on the south side of the parlor, to the food trough in Stall 4. Measure the distance in inches. What is the distance in inches? _____ Convert the inches to feet. What is the distance in feet? _____
3. The cow in Stall 2, on the north side, looks droopy and sick. You need to go to the office to check health records. How far is it? _____
4. The cow in Stall 4 and the cow in Stall 5, on the south side, are butting each other. Move the cow in Stall 5 to Stall 6 on the south side. Measure the distance from trough 5 to trough 6. How many feet? _____
5. A cow moves from the entrance to Alley 2 and to Stall 3. How far is that in feet? _____
6. Follow the wall of the milking parlor from the southeast corner to the southwest corner and measure the distance. _____ feet, _____ inches
7. You need a wrench to repair a milk pipe. Measure from the doorway of the milk handling room to the doorway of the utility room. _____ feet
8. The milk storage room is in the _____ corner of the dairy building. (Use the compass rose.)

Come Into My Parlor (answers)

Answer the following questions, using the map of the milking parlor and the scale printed on the map. One inch equals five feet on the map.

NOTE: DIFFERENT PRINTERS WILL PRINT THE MILKING PARLOR MAP AT DIFFERENT RESOLUTIONS, CAUSING THE MEASUREMENTS TO VARY SLIGHTLY.

1. Exit Lane 2 is 25 feet long.
2. Move a cow from Prep Stall 1, on the south side of the parlor, to the food trough in Stall 4. Measure the distance in inches. What is the distance in inches? three inches Convert the inches to feet. What is the distance in feet?15 feet
3. The cow in Stall 2, on the north side, looks droopy and sick. You need to go to the office to check health records. How far is it? 10 feet
4. The cow in Stall 4 and the cow in Stall 5, on the south side, are butting each other. Move the cow in Stall 5 to Stall 6 on the south side. Measure the distance from trough 5 to trough 6. How many feet? five feet
5. A cow moves from the entrance to Alley 2 and to Stall 3. How far is that in feet?10 feet
6. Follow the wall of the milking parlor from the southeast corner to the southwest corner and measure the distance. 26 feet, 3 inches
7. You need a wrench to repair a milk pipe. Measure from the doorway of the milk handling room to the doorway of the utility room. 15 feet
8. The milk storage room is in the southwest corner of the dairy building. (Use the compass rose.)