

**The Oil Embargo: What, When, Why, and How did it Impact Local Schools?**  
**2009 Fellowship, Champaign County Archives**  
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**Lesson 4:**

This lesson involves examination of primary sources, completion of graphic organizers, and writing assignment to show how students would deal with a current oil embargo if they were superintendent of their school district. Information will cover how government reaction to the oil embargo impacted local school districts.

**Teacher Prep:**

- Make copies of and familiarize yourself with the following articles
  - Energy Crisis Raises Problems for Schools. *Urbana Courier*, November 9, 1973.
  - Local School Districts Take Steps to Save on Fuel. *Urbana Courier*, November 12, 1973.
  - Schools' Fuel Saving Plan Hampered by Law. *Urbana Courier*, November 13, 1973.
  - State to Suggest That Schools Close. *Urbana Courier*, November 15, 1973.
  - Limited Oil Restricts the Use of School District's Buses. *Urbana Courier*, December 1, 1973.
  - Schools Cooler, Darker as Cutbacks Take Effect. *Urbana Courier*, December 7, 1973.
- Make copies of the following graphic organizers...
  - Cluster Word Web found at the following website,  
[http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/cluster\\_web3.pdf](http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/cluster_web3.pdf)
  - Ticktacktoe found at the following website,  
<http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer/pdf/ticktack.pdf>

**Classroom Activities:**

- Divide students into partners and pass out the Cluster Word Web
  - Each student should receive a cluster word web but complete it in partners
- In the middle square students should write "How would an oil shortage impact out school districts"?
  - Students should then think of six ways their school district would be effected
- When students are finished come back together as a class and discuss student answers
  - Try to build upon some student responses and even bring up other answers students may not have thought of
- After going over student brainstorming responses pass out the Ticktacktoe Graphic Organizer and the *Urbana Courier* articles listed above
- Student partner groups should then review the articles and fill out the Ticktacktoe Graphic Organizer
  - Each box of the organizer should deal with a different way the local school districts in Urbana-Champaign were impacted by the oil embargo

- After students have learned how the oil shortage affected local schools they need to write a 1-2 page response over the following question, “If you were superintendant how would you specifically go about dealing with an oil shortage if it happened again today”?
  - Students should draw in information from articles and ideas they come up with on their own
  - Students should come up with their top three ways they would deal with a current shortage and justify them