

Happy 125th Birthday, State Capitol!

Note to teachers: This supplement includes a discussion guide, lessons and Michigan Content Standards to use with the Michigan Time Traveler Kids' History page published in the *Lansing State Journal* on January 14, 2004. You may reproduce the pages in this supplement to use with students.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

(SOC.1.2. *Comprehend the Past*; SOC 1.3. *Analyze and Interpret the Past*; ELA.1. *Meaning and Communication in Context*)

Words to know:

Capital: a city that is the seat of government

Capitol: the building in which a legislative body meets; the statehouse

Cornerstone: a stone that forms a part of a corner in a wall at its foundation and is put in place at the beginning of construction. It is usually inscribed with the date and may be hollowed out for memorabilia.

Excursionist: a person who goes on an excursion (a pleasure trip that is a round trip)

Reinstate: to set in place again, to restore

Suffragist: a person who works for the right to vote for others; also for a woman who advocates a woman's right to vote: suffragette

A Capitol Destination. Why did people come to the Capitol grounds in 1873? (for the cornerstone laying ceremony) Why were the excursionists from Grand Rapids disappointed when they visited in 1878? (They could not enter the Capitol—it was still under construction.) For how many years has the building served as Michigan's state capitol? (125)

Buses Bring Students. Why do many 4th graders visit the Capitol? (They are studying about Michigan.) Why might you want to be the Capitol's next visitor?

Famous Visitors. Why did Sojourner Truth give a speech at the Capitol? (Legislators were considering restoring the death penalty. Although famous for her activism against slavery, Sojourner Truth also campaigned against the death penalty.) Why did President Roosevelt visit Michigan in 1907? (50th anniversary of Michigan State College) How can you tell that it was a big occasion for Lansing? (The Capitol and city were decorated.) Why did Harry Gardiner come to the Capitol? (As the "Human Fly," he performed by climbing its walls twice.)

Scrapbooking the Capitol. How did O. A. Jenison help preserve the history of the Capitol's construction? (He assembled 6 scrapbooks of mementos.) Have you saved any photos, newspaper or magazines or souvenirs about any events that happened within the past few years? Why? What kinds of things did you save? Why might people be interested in a scrapbook of them 50 or 100 years from now?

ACTIVITY ONE: A Capitol Challenge

(SOC.1.2. *Comprehend the Past*)

Start a discussion about the Capitol and its characteristics with the Capitol Challenge questions on the Michigan Time Traveler page. Continue with the Capitol Challenge handout (page 4). Most of the information is from "Your State Capitol – A Walking Tour," an excellent resource for learning about the Capitol and/or preparing for a Capitol tour. It is available in PDF format from the Legislative Council Facilities Web site at www.milegislativecouncil.org/lcfa/capinfo.pdf. (Find more facts and make up a classroom "Jeopardy" game!)

Answers

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. 2 (Detroit and Lansing) (Discuss difference in capitol/capital spelling for building and city.) | 3. 976 | 7. larger than |
| 2. 3 (one in Detroit and two in Lansing) | 4. Gas | 8. coats-of-arms of all 50 states |
| | 5. Elk (from Michigan's coat-of-arms) | 9. Greek and Roman myths |
| | 6. Michigan's coat-of-arms | 10. Austin Blair (Civil War-era governor) |
- Bonus: 6 acres. The building is considered the best surviving example of this sort of art in the United States today.
(NOTE: For comparison of the size of an acre, the Capitol grounds cover 1 1/6 acres.)

ACTIVITY TWO: Make A Capitol Time Line

(SOC.1.1. Time and Chronology; SOC.1.2. Comprehend the Past)

What was news during the decade of the Capitol's construction? Ask students to find all the dates on the Time Traveler page that relate to building the Capitol. List them on the board. Then list other events that took place during the 1870s (students do library research, use a world almanac or use the list in this Teacher's guide bonus pages on the www.michiganhistory.org Web site.

Put the Capitol's construction into historical perspective by discussing the events Lansing residents would have read and talked about at this time. Discuss what, if any, impact they might have had on the building of the Capitol. Ask: Do you think the Capitol had electricity when it opened? Do you think the Capitol had telephones when it opened? What impact might the financial problems of 1873 have had on the Capitol? What events of the decade would not have had any impact on building the Capitol?

Ask students to design a "newspaper page" on an 8½" x 11" piece of paper (page will have only one story). Have each student write a large date, a headline and one or two sentences (in large, readable print) about an event from the Time Traveler or the class discussion. Post the "pages" in chronological order around the classroom.

ACTIVITY THREE: The New Capitol's Neighborhood – Map Study

(SOC.1.2. Comprehend the Past; SOC.II.3. Location, Movement, and Connections)

The map (page 4) shows downtown Lansing during construction of the Capitol. Distribute copies to students and discuss. Sample discussion topics and questions:

- Where is north on this map? (Genesee Street side)
- Find the old wood Capitol. (Later used for offices and manufacturing, it burned in 1882.) Some state business was done in temporary offices until the new Capitol was finished. Find this building.
- Two newspapers were the ancestors of the *Lansing State Journal*. Find the offices of the *Republican* and the *State Journal*.
- Where is the hotel? (The Lansing House is on Washington Avenue)
- Find two places where people could go for entertainment. (Buck's Opera House, Mead's Hall)
- Find two manufacturing companies. (Hall's Brick Manufactory, Lansing Chair Factory)
- Name the two churches (Plymouth, St. Paul's) Which church is still downtown today? (St. Paul's; Plymouth burned in 1971 and was rebuilt at East Grand River and Marshall streets.)
- What other things on the map are still here today? (Capitol, St. Paul's church, streets, river)

Trace the streets on this map and make a map of Lansing as it is today. Will most of the government offices be on the map? (No, most are west of the Capitol, at the Secondary Complex in Delta Township and in cities where services are needed such as Detroit.)

MORE RESOURCES

See the bonus page for this Teacher's Guide on the Time Traveler pages at www.michiganhistory.org. Go to For the Professional – Teacher Resources and click on the "Michigan Time Traveler" button in the left column on the Web page. Find links to online Capitol tours, information and photos that you can use as your students learn about Michigan's Capitol.

Teachers, please send your suggestions for these Teacher's Guides to timetraveler@michigan.gov.

A Capitol Challenge

How much do you know about your state Capitol? Circle the correct answer for each question.

1. How many capitals has Michigan had?

1

2

3

2. How many capitols has Michigan had?

2

3

4

3. How many panes of glass are in the floor of the Capitol's rotunda?

276

476

976

1,127

4. Lighting for the Capitol's rooms originally came from this source—

CANDLES

ELECTRICITY

GAS

5. What animal is featured on the Capitol's 20 "Michigan" chandeliers?

WOLVERINE

ELK

MASTODON

6. The Capitol's doorknobs and door hinges are decorated with —

MICHIGAN'S COAT-OF-ARMS

MAP OF MICHIGAN

STARS

7. The House Chamber is _____ the Senate Chamber.

LARGER THAN

SMALLER THAN

THE SAME SIZE AS

8. Panes of glass in the House and Senate ceilings feature these designs —

STARS

COATS-OF-ARMS OF ALL 50 STATES

MICHIGAN COUNTY MAPS

9. Paintings of eight muses on the inside of the Capitol dome are from —

AESOP'S FABLES

AMERICAN FOLKTALES

GREEK AND ROMAN MYTHS

10. The only statue on the Capitol grounds that represents an actual person honors Governor —

STEVENS T. MASON

AUSTIN BLAIR

G. MENNEN WILLIAMS

Bonus:

How many acres of the capitol's interior surfaces (walls, ceilings, woodwork, columns, etc.) are decorated by hand with intricately painted patterns and designs?

1

3

6

12

An 1870s Time Line of Events

- 1871** The Great Chicago Fire destroys Chicago, October 8-11, and some of the plans that were to be submitted as Michigan selected an architect for the Capitol. The state delays its deadline so the plans can be replaced. Fires also destroy parts of Michigan and Wisconsin.
- 1872** On November 5, suffragist Susan B. Anthony votes for the first time in spite of the law which says that only men can vote. President Ulysses S. Grant signs the law creating the first national park, Yellowstone.
- 1873** A financial panic begins in September, and the nation is in a Depression for 5 years. In Montana, the United States 7th Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, clashes for the first time with the Sioux on August 4.
- 1874** Levi Strauss and Jacob Davis receive a US patent for blue jeans with copper rivets on May 20.
- 1875** The first Kentucky Derby is held on May 17.
- 1876** The United States orders all Native Americans to move into reservations on January 31. Alexander Graham Bell makes the first successful telephone call on March 10. Col. George Custer and 264 soldiers die in "Custer's last stand" in the Battle of the Little Big Horn (Montana) on June 25. Colorado becomes the 38th state on August 1.
- 1877** In July President Rutherford B. Hayes sends in troops to quiet a violent national strike by railroad workers.
- 1878** Thomas Edison founds the Edison Electric Light Company on October 15.
- 1879** F. W. Woolworth opens the first five-and-ten cent store in Utica, New York, on February 22. Thomas Edison demonstrates incandescent lighting to the public for the first time on December 31.

Resources

Web Sites

- Governor Baldwin Announces New Capitol, Message to the Legislature of the State of Michigan, March 13, 1872
www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17451_18670_18793-53359--,00.html
- Lansing State Journal Capitol page
<http://www.lsj.com/news/capitol/>
- Michigan's State Capitols (Photos from the State Archives)
www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-15481_19271_19357-56884--,00.html
- Michigan State Capitol Virtual Tour (Michigan EPIC)
michiganepic.org/capitol/
- Photo and story of Theodore Roosevelt in REO auto at the Capitol (Lansing Police Dept. Historical Web Site)
www.lansingpolice.com/site/History/REO.htm
- Photo Tour (Michigan House Democratic Caucus)
www.housedems.com/tour/rotunda.htm
- Michigan State Capitol, National Historic Landmark (State Historic Preservation Office)
www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-15481_19267_20424-54598--,00.html
- Your State Capitol - A Walking Tour
www.milegislativecouncil.org/lcfa/capinfo.pdf (PDF format, Legislative Council Facilities Web site)
www.milegislativecouncil.org/lcfa/x1.htm (Page-by-page HTML tour)

Books

- Seale, William. *Michigan's Capitol: Construction and Restoration*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press in association with the Michigan Capitol Committee, 1995.
- Hitchcock, Henry-Russell and William Seale *Temples of Democracy: The State Capitols of the U.S.A.* NY: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976.
- Ehlert, Willis, J. *America's Heritage: Capitols of the United States*. (6th edition) Madison, WI: State House Publishing, 1999.

Michigan History Magazine Articles

November/December, 1978 (This special issue about the Capitol at its 100th birthday is one of the items now in the time capsule in the building's cornerstone.)

A Grand Old Dame Reaches One Hundred. The state capitol celebrates its centennial. (pgs. 15-21)

"Tuebor": The Capitol Craftsmanship of Elijah E. Meyers. Meyers submitted penned line drawings of the building in these days before blueprints. (pgs. 22-28)

A Capitol Portfolio. Photos by Lansing photographer Gary Boynton capture the Capitol at 100. (pgs. 29-36)

November/December 1981

The Capitol's Time Capsule by Mel McClung. Learn what they found when opening the Capitol's cornerstone for the first time in 1978. (pgs. 12-16)

March/April 1982

What Went into the 1979 Capitol Cornerstone? Here's a list of the items now in the time capsule. (p. 33)

November/December 1988

A Capitol Investment by Allison S. Cartwright. Follow visitors to the Capitol for 110 years. (pgs. 24-31)

July/August 1990

Michigan's "Atomic Age" Capitol by Kerry Chartkoff. See designs proposed for a new Capitol building during the 1960s. (pgs. 28-31)

Elijah Would Be Proud! The Restoration of the Michigan State Capitol by Kathryn B. Eckert. Government and citizens plan the restoration of the Capitol. (pgs. 16-19)

Unveiling a Masterpiece: A Walking Tour through the Restoration Process by Kerry Chartkoff. The Capitol is restored to its original splendor while being adapted for modern use. (pgs. 20-27)

September/October 1991

Capitol Renaissance by Carey Draeger. The Capitol's dome is the focus of this article about the building's restoration. (p. 44)

Videos

Michigan's Capitol: A Symbol Renewed. Writer/producers, Kerry K. Chartkoff and Nancy L. Kless; Director, David A. Koskinen. Lansing, MI: Michigan Capitol Committee, Friends of the Capitol, 1989.

Michigan's Capitol Restored. Produced, written and directed by Timothy M. Scarpino. Grand Rapids, MI: West Michigan Public Broadcasting, 1990(?).