

# *The Old Capitol Museum Teacher Resource Guide*



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# *Welcome to the Old Capitol Museum*

Dear Teacher,

We appreciate your interest in visiting the Old Capitol Museum with your class. This resource guide includes an exhibit summary, list of goals and objectives, and list of competencies from the State of Mississippi's Social Studies Curriculum that will be covered in your museum visit. Also included are several activities that will help you prepare your students for their visit and reinforce what they learn after the visit. Answers to the activities are found on the final page of the resource guide.

## The Old Capitol Museum Vision Statement

The premier symbol of Mississippi statehood, the Old Capitol embodies in its design the founders' concept of democratic government and the key principles of the state's constitution. It provides children and adult visitors alike with unique insight into the hopes and expectations of the state's frontier leaders and the issues and challenges of legislating and governing then and now. The Old Capitol Museum will re-establish itself as a hub of state and local communities. The museum will become a national role model and will shape the public, young and old, in citizenship and history education and instill a preservation ethic through its quality programming.

## The Old Capitol Museum Mission Statement

The Old Capitol Museum shall educate the public about the history, people, and architecture of the building, the governmental processes of the state, and the importance of historic preservation.

# General Information

## Location

100 South State Street  
Jackson, MS 39201

## Contact Information

P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205  
Phone: 601-576-6920  
Fax: 601-576-6981  
Web: [www.oldcapitolmuseum.com](http://www.oldcapitolmuseum.com)  
Email: [info@oldcapitolmuseum.com](mailto:info@oldcapitolmuseum.com)

## Admission

FREE

## Museum Hours

Tuesday-Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed Mondays

*\*Groups of 10 or more must schedule a tour*

## Booking a Tour

The museum is self-guided for groups of fewer than 10, and no scheduled time is necessary.

*\*For groups of 10 or more, call the museum as early as possible to schedule your visit. Our museum coordinator will book your tour and send confirmation of your scheduled time.*

## Parking

Free parking behind the Old Capitol.

Bus parking on Amite Street beside the War Memorial Building.

## Tour Checklist

\*Please bring confirmation form when arriving for your tour.

\*Please leave backpacks and large totes in vehicle.

\*Please sign in at the front desk of the Rotunda before the group enters the museum.

\*Guide/docent will greet the group at the front desk.

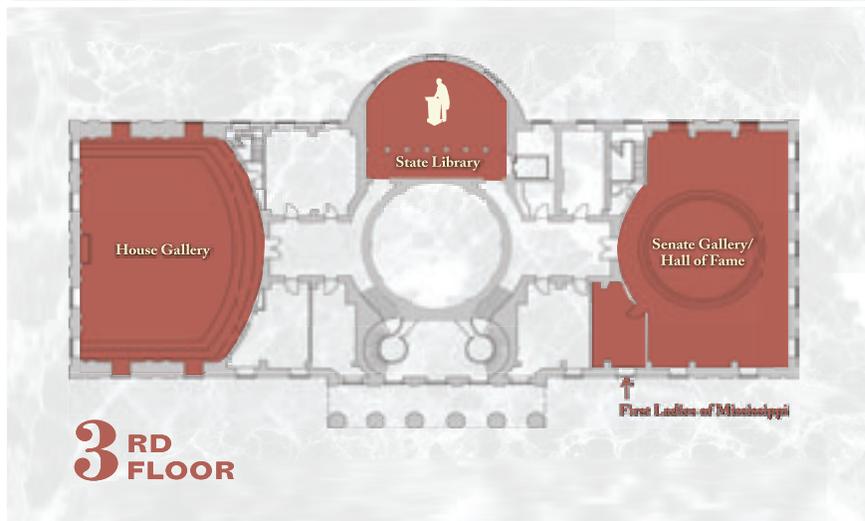
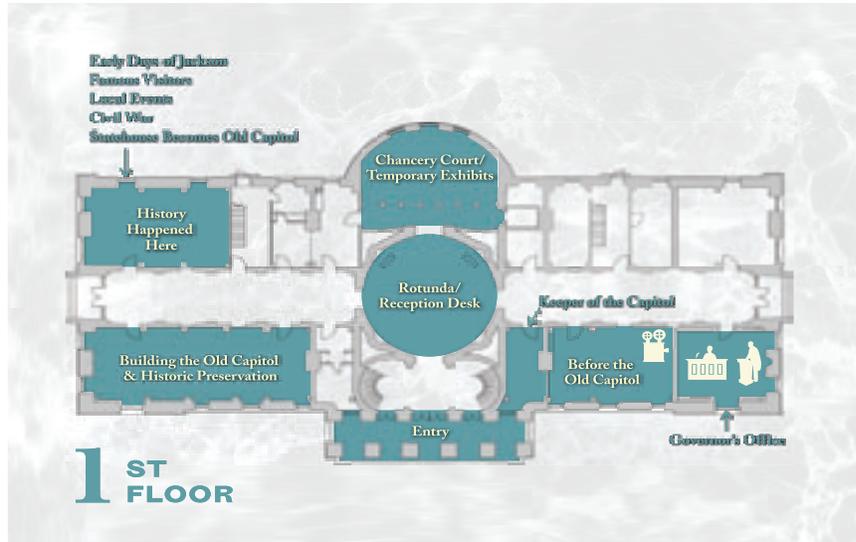
\*Restrooms are located on the *2nd* floor. Please arrive with your group 15-20 minutes early to allow time for restroom and water breaks before your scheduled appointment.

\*Please provide 1 teacher or chaperone for every 10 students, and remain with the students for the duration of the tour.

\*If you will be late or need to reschedule your tour, please contact the museum as soon as possible.



# Old Capitol Museum Floor Plans



# Old Capitol Museum

## Tour Goals

**Grade Level:** This program can accommodate early elementary through high school.

**Subjects:** Exhibits at the Old Capitol Museum include topics on Mississippi history, civics, and historic preservation.

**Goals:**

- To educate students about the Old Capitol’s role in the state’s history
- To communicate to students the ideas, principles, and practices of citizenship in a democratic society
- To educate students in Mississippi history and civics
- To foster a preservation ethic in our future generations



**Objectives:**

Students will learn:

- The role of the Old Capitol in Mississippi’s history
- Mississippi’s history from territorial days to the turn of the 20th century
- A better understanding of Mississippi’s past by participating in the interactive features of the museum and the activities in the resource guide
- The importance of preserving our history for future generations

**Depth of Knowledge:** The DOK level of each activity is listed in the description of the activity. Visit the following website for a detailed chart of DOK levels.



[http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/sia/msip/DOK\\_Chart.pdf](http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/sia/msip/DOK_Chart.pdf)

Mississippi Social Studies Competencies					
Kindergarten	1st Grade	2nd Grade	3rd Grade	4th Grade	5th Grade
2c, 2e, 2f	2a	2a	1c 2a, 2c, 2d	1c, 1d 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d 3a	1b, 1c 2a, 2c 4a, 5b, 5c 6e
	US History to 1877	MS Studies	US Hist 1877 to pres	US Government	Minority Studies
	1g, 1h, 1i, 1j 3a, 3c 5d 6b, 6d	1e 3c, 3e 5a, 5b, 5d	5a, 5b, 5c, 5d	1d	1b 2a, 2c

# *Old Capitol Museum*

## *Exhibit Summary*

Having undergone a three-year restoration following damage suffered from Hurricane Katrina, the *new* Old Capitol Museum re-opened to the public in February 2009. No longer housing the state history museum, the Old Capitol features new exhibits interpreting the distinguished history of the building that served as Mississippi's statehouse from 1839 to 1903. The exhibits focus on three main themes: the history of the building and the important events that took place in it, government and civics, and historic preservation. Many of these exhibits relate directly to the Social Studies Framework, making the Old Capitol Museum a must-see for Mississippi students. School groups will be given a brief orientation and then see a ten-minute introductory movie that relates the history of the building. Following this, the class will be divided into smaller groups in order to more easily tour the building.

### **1st floor–The first floor contains many of the museum's traditional exhibit galleries.**

- **Keeper of the Capitol:** This exhibit setting introduces the building's caretaker, who will act as an occasional tour guide and provide interesting facts as visitors tour the building.
- **Before the Old Capitol:** Interactive exhibits explore Mississippi's beginnings from territory to early statehood. Students explore Mississippi's first constitutions (1817 & 1832) and learn about their differences. Why Jackson was chosen as state capital and the differences between "capitol" and "capital" are also discussed. The introductory movie is also shown in this room.
- **Governor's Office:** The fully restored Governor's Office is located at the building's south end and illustrates the role of the governor in the nineteenth century and today. A video presentation shows three unique stories of past governors. Visitors can see actual artifacts used by governors who worked in that room.



*Before the Old Capitol room*

- **Building the Old Capitol:** This exhibit gallery provides details on Greek Revival architecture, architect William Nichols, and the construction of the Old Capitol in the late 1830s. An impressive rubble structure shows evidence of the building's eras of decay and repair. Finally, students learn about the importance of historic preservation not only of the Old Capitol, but of other important structures from their hometowns.

- **History Happened Here:** Interactive exhibits trace the early history of Jackson, famous visitors to the Old Capitol, the tumultuous Civil War, the building as the social center of the town and state, and the building's history after the state government abandoned the capitol.

- **Chancery Court:** This former courtroom features an important document from the building's past. This document will rotate periodically. The room also serves as a temporary exhibit gallery.



*Chancery Court*

## 2nd floor—This floor was home to the legislative and judicial branches.

- **Supreme Court:** Students learn about the judicial process as they argue cases before the court. After the judges issue their decision, the Keeper illustrates its relevance by asking a thought-provoking question.

- **House of Representatives Chamber:** Two important events from the building's past are highlighted in video reenactments: the 1861 Secession Convention and the 1890 Constitutional Convention.

- **Senate Chamber:** Students witness legislative history as they hear about three important events from the building's past. Other interactive exhibits explain how a bill becomes a law and the differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives.

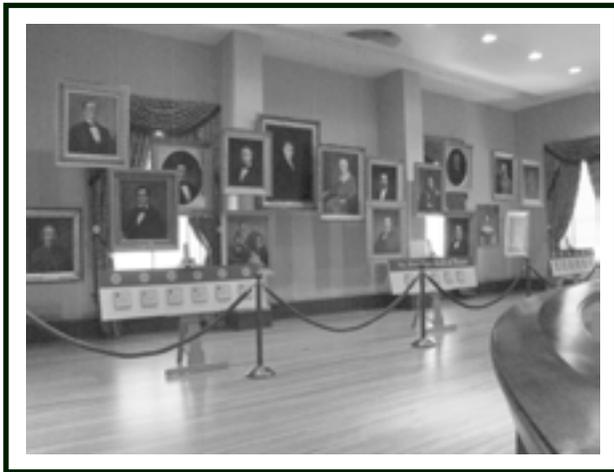


*Senate Chamber*

- **Government and Constitutions:** This exhibit gallery focuses on Mississippi's history from the end of the Civil War to the passage of the 1890 Constitution. Students will role-play and learn the differences between the state's last two constitutions (1868 & 1890) that were adopted in the building. The Old Capitol was designated a National Historic Landmark largely because of events that happened here, including the passage of these constitutions. Students also get a chance to suggest changes to the current constitution.

**3rd floor-This floor contains the legislative galleries where the public watched government in action.**

- **State Library:** This fully restored library contains a short audiovisual program that explains how the three branches of government interact and how decisions made in the Old Capitol still affect us today.
- **House Gallery:** Visitors get a great view of the chamber and learn how the room has changed over time.
- **Senate Gallery:** This room contains the Mississippi Hall of Fame, a collection of portraits of distinguished Mississippians.
- **First Ladies Gallery:** This gallery contains portraits of some of the state's first ladies and explores the role the governor's spouse plays today.



*Senate Gallery*



*State Library*

# *Terms to learn before visiting the Old Capitol Museum*

1. **Appellee** – one who argues to uphold the lower court’s decision
2. **Appellant** – one who argues to overturn the decision of the lower court
3. **Capital** – a city serving as a seat of government
4. **Capitol** – a building in which a state legislative body meets
5. **Constitution** – a written document that defines basic political principles and establishes the structure, procedures, powers, and duties of the government
6. **Convention** – an assembly of persons that meet for a common purpose – for example, to write a constitution
7. **Dome** – a large hemispherical roof or ceiling
8. **Franchise** – the right to vote
9. **Freedmen** – term given to former slaves who became free during or after the Civil War
10. **Greek Revival** – a style of architecture marked by the use or imitation of Greek order. The Old Capitol is an example of Greek Revival architecture.
11. **Legislature** – an organized body having the authority to make laws
12. **Preservation** – the act of keeping a building, document, or artifact intact and free from harm or decay
13. **Reconstruction Era** – the period during which the Federal government controlled the seceded states after the Civil War, forcing them to make changes before they could be readmitted to the Union
14. **Restoration** – the process of returning a building, document, or artifact to a former condition
15. **Rotunda** – a large round room
16. **Secession** – formal withdrawal–the withdrawal of eleven southern states from the Union in 1860 and 1861 led to the Civil War

# *Activity 1*

## *Topics to explore before visiting the Old Capitol Museum*

Directions: Divide your class into ten groups. Assign one of the topics on the following page to each group. Have each group research the topic or person from Mississippi's history and use the attached worksheet to discuss their findings with the class. Find links on the following page to articles that discuss the various topics.

Topics-Activity 1

<p>*Pre-visit activity *Grade levels 4th-high school *DOK levels 3 and 4</p>
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# Topics

1. William Nichols
2. Isaiah T. Montgomery
3. 1861 Secession Convention
4. 1890 Constitutional Convention
5. Dunbar Rowland
6. Married Women's Property Act of 1839
7. The Civil War in Jackson
8. Reconstruction in Mississippi
9. The Black Codes
10. The Building of the New Capitol

Topics 2, 4, and 9

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/55/isaiah-t-montgomery-1847-1924-part-1>

Topics 2, 4, and 9

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/55/index.php?id=57>

Topics 2, 4, 8, and 9

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/98/constitutions-of-mississippi>

Topics 2, 4, and 9

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/103/mississippi-constitution-of-1890>

Topics 1, 5, and 10

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/76/capitals-and-capitols-the-places-and-spaces-of-mississippis-seat-of-government>

Topics 2, 4, and 6

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/276/government-of-mississippi-how-it-functions>

Topics 3, 7, and 8

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/204/reconstruction-in-mississippi-1865-1876>

Topic 6

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/6/betsy-love-and-the-mississippi-married-womens-property-act-of-1839>

Topic 1

<http://mdah.state.ms.us/museum/oldcap/architect.php>

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Topic \_\_\_\_\_

Answer the following questions after researching the topic assigned to you.

1. Give a brief explanation of the topic or person that was assigned to you.

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2. How has your topic or person affected modern Mississippi?

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3. In what way do you think Mississippi today would be different if your topic or person had not happened?

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# *Activity 2*

## *Old Capitol Museum Puzzle*

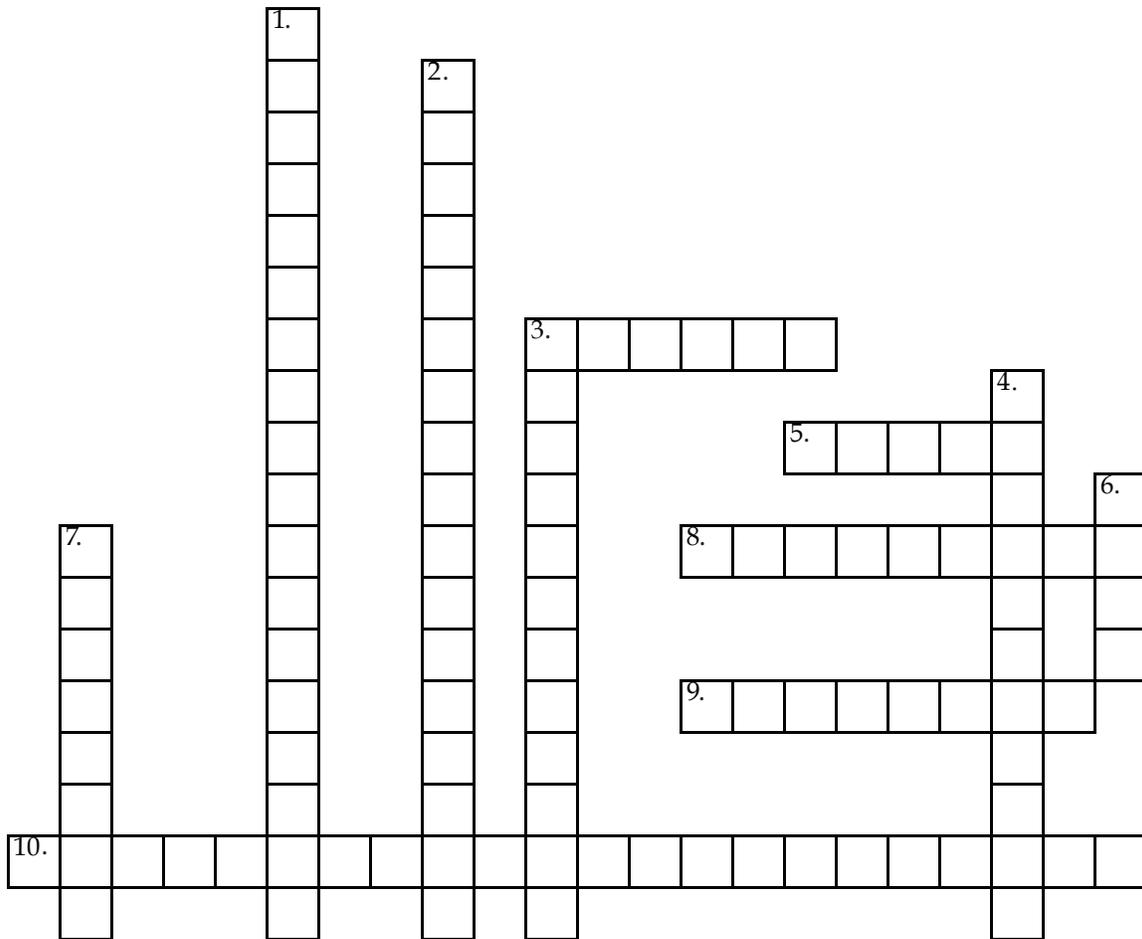
Directions: Photocopy the puzzle for students. Use the clues to answer the corresponding blanks in the puzzle. The puzzle may be used before or after the visit to the Old Capitol. Puzzle number 2 is more advanced.

State Government Puzzle 1

State Government Puzzle 2

<p>*Pre- or Post-visit activity *Grade levels 4th-high school *DOK levels 1 and 2</p>
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# State Government Puzzle 1



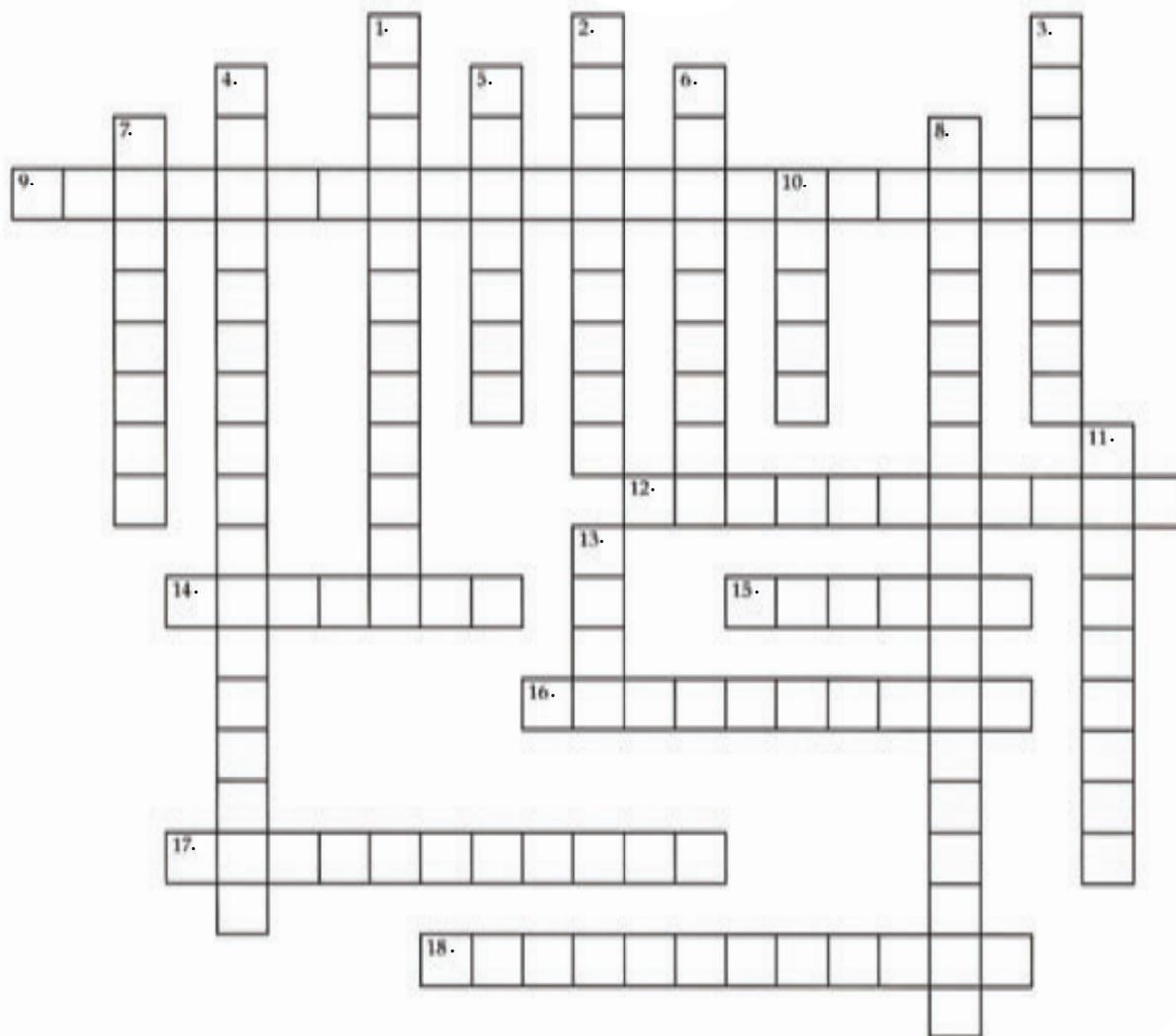
## ACROSS

3. One part of the legislative branch; contains 52 members
5. State government consists of \_\_\_\_\_ branches
8. Branch of government that carries out the law
9. Branch of government that interprets the law
10. One part of the legislative branch; contains 122 members

## DOWN

1. Second highest executive branch office; also serves as the presiding officer of the Senate
2. The three branches of government provide a system of \_\_\_\_\_
3. Highest level of the judicial branch
4. Branch of government that makes the law
6. The governor may sign or \_\_\_\_\_ a law.
7. Highest executive branch office

# State Government Puzzle 2



## ACROSS

9. One part of the legislative branch; contains 122 members
12. An organized body having the authority to make laws
14. A building in which a state legislative body meets
15. One part of the legislative branch; contains 52 members
16. An assembly of persons that meets for a common purpose
17. Branch of government that makes the law
18. A written document that defines basic political principles and establishes the structure, procedures, powers, and duties of the government

## DOWN

1. Highest level of the judicial branch
2. The withdrawal of eleven southern states from the Union in 1860 and 1861, which led to the Civil War
3. Highest executive branch office
4. The three branches of government provide a system of \_\_\_\_\_
5. A city serving as a seat of government
6. Branch of government that carries out the law
7. Branch of government that interprets the law
8. Second highest executive branch office; also serves as the presiding officer of the Senate
10. State government consists of \_\_\_\_\_ branches
11. The right to vote
13. The governor may sign or \_\_\_\_\_ a law

# *Activity 3*

## *How much do you know?*

Directions: Have your students see how many questions they can correctly answer from Activity 3A. Follow up their visit to the Old Capitol by answering the questions in activity 3B.

How much do you know?–Activity 3A  
What do you think?–Activity 3B

\*Pre- or Post-visit activity  
\*Grade levels 4th–high school  
\*DOK levels 1, 2, 3, and 4

## *How much do you know?*

Fill in the blanks below using the word bank that follows. For fun, test your knowledge before and after your visit to the Old Capitol Museum.

1. Before Jackson was finally chosen as Mississippi's capital city, Washington, \_\_\_\_\_, and Columbia all served as state capitals.
2. Including the current document, Mississippi has had \_\_\_\_\_ constitutions, two of which were written in the Old Capitol.
3. Jackson, Mississippi, was named for Andrew Jackson, decorated U.S. general. He was elected the \_\_\_\_\_ president in 1828.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the last governor to serve in the Old Capitol and the first to serve in the New Capitol. He signed the bills authorizing the construction of the New Capitol.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ refers to the time after the Civil War during which the former Confederate states were reorganized and rebuilt.
6. During the Civil War, Enterprise, Meridian, Macon, and \_\_\_\_\_ served as temporary capitals.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ of Mississippi was the first African American to serve in the United States Senate.
8. In 1861, Mississippi became the \_\_\_\_\_ state to secede from the Union.
9. The 1868 Constitution gave African Americans the right to \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ Constitution established procedures that prevented most African Americans and many poor whites from voting.
11. In \_\_\_\_\_ Mississippi became the twentieth state.

### Word Bank

Reconstruction	Vote	Seventh	Andrew Longino
Four	Second	Columbus	Hiram Revels
1890	Natchez	1817	

# *What do you think?*

At the Old Capitol, you were asked in several places to give YOUR opinion. What do you think about the following questions?

1. Do you think Jackson was a good choice for Mississippi's capital city, or should the capital have remained at one of the other towns? Explain your answer.

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2. Do you think we need to write a new Mississippi Constitution? Why?

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# *Activity 4*

## *Old Capitol Museum Architectural Activity*

Directions: Study the basic elements of Greek Revival architecture in the *Building the Old Capitol* room on the first floor. Then hand out the two-part activity to students. They may work individually or in pairs. Explore the Old Capitol to find the answers.

Scavenger Hunt – Activity 4A  
Greek Revival Elements – Activity 4B

<p>*Tour Activity *Grade levels 4th-high school *DOK levels 1, 2 and 3</p>
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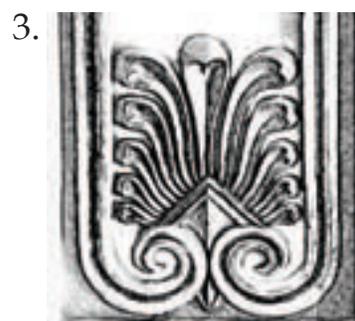
# *Old Capitol Museum Architectural Activity*

## Scavenger Hunt

1. How many rosettes can you find in the dome of the Old Capitol?
2. What is the name of the circular room in the center of the building?
3. How many rosettes are on the Governor's Office fireplace?
4. What kind of columns are in the Senate Chamber?
5. In what room on the 2nd floor can you find Ionic columns?
6. What is the correct term for the "front porch" of the Old Capitol?
7. Which doorway on the 1st floor is more decorated than the others?
8. How many Corinthian columns can you find on the 2nd floor?
9. How tall is the Rotunda from the floor to the top of the dome?
10. What is the letter on the doorknob of each of the doors of the Old Capitol, and what does it stand for?

# *Old Capitol Museum Architectural Activity*

Identify the following Greek Revival architectural elements that can be found at the Old Capitol.



## Word Bank

Rosette

Ionic Column

Corinthian Column

Acanthus Leaf

Dome

Doric Column

Palmette

Anthemion

# *Activity 5*

## *Mississippi's Constitutions*

Directions: After studying the information presented in the Before the Old Capitol room and the Government and Constitutions room, have students test their knowledge of Mississippi's four constitutions in the activity that follows.

Mississippi's Constitutions–Activity 5

<p>*Post-visit activity *Grade levels 4th–high school *DOK levels 1, 2, and 3</p>
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# *Old Capitol Museum*

## *Individual Activity*

### *Mississippi's Constitutions*

In its nearly 200-year history, Mississippi has had four constitutions. They were written in 1817, 1832, 1868, and 1890. A constitution is a written document that defines basic political principles and establishes the structure, procedures, powers, and duties of the government. Two of the constitutions were written before the Old Capitol was built, and the last two were actually written in the building.

In these two exercises we compare the two sets of constitutions.

Exercise One—Write the date of the constitution—1817 or 1832—next to its appropriate description.

1. Voting was open to all free white men \_\_\_\_\_
2. Judges were appointed \_\_\_\_\_
3. Written when Mississippi first became a state \_\_\_\_\_
4. Written during nationwide push for more representative government \_\_\_\_\_
5. Voting limited to those who had property (paid taxes) or served in the militia \_\_\_\_\_
6. Judges and other state officials were elected \_\_\_\_\_
7. Concentrated power with the wealthy elite \_\_\_\_\_

Exercise Two—Write the date of the constitution—1868 or 1890—next to its appropriate description.

1. Required a poll tax to vote \_\_\_\_\_
2. Written in the aftermath of Civil War \_\_\_\_\_
3. Current constitution that has been amended more than 100 times \_\_\_\_\_
4. First constitution that gave black men the right to vote \_\_\_\_\_
5. Established public school system \_\_\_\_\_
6. Prevented thousands of blacks as well as many poor whites from voting \_\_\_\_\_
7. Gave women the right to vote \_\_\_\_\_

All four constitutions can be read at *Mississippi History Now*, the online publication of the Mississippi Historical Society. For a quick synopsis of those documents and additional links to the constitutions themselves, go to

<http://mshistory.k12.ms.us/articles/98/constitutions-of-mississippi>

# *Activity 6*

## *Preserving Our Heritage*

Directions: Have students read the entry about the Old Capitol Museum's road to becoming a National Historic Landmark. Have students look around their communities and make note of old buildings that need to be saved or preserved. Have the students give reasons for their choices.

Preserving Our Heritage-Activity 6

<p>*Post-visit activity *Grade levels 4th-high school *DOK levels 3 and 4</p>
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# *Activity 7*

## *Old Capitol Symbols and Early Elementary Scavenger Hunt*

Directions: After your orientation at the Old Capitol Museum, have your students look for these symbols while touring the building.

Old Capitol Museum Scavenger Hunt-Activity 7

\*Tour activity  
\*Grade levels Pre-K-3  
\*DOK levels 1-3

# Old Capitol Museum Scavenger Hunt

Directions: Find the following Mississippi and American symbols in the Old Capitol Museum.

1.



2.



3.



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After finding the symbols above, see how many of the features of the Old Capitol you can find on your tour.

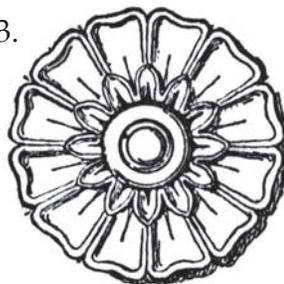
1.



2.



3.



# *Activity 8*

## *How Was Your Visit?*

Directions: Make a copy of the “Old Capitol Museum Field Trip Record” for each student. Allow each student to answer the questions as a reinforcement of their visit to the Old Capitol Museum. For younger grades, ask the children what they learned and gained from their visit. Feel free to send us some of your students’ suggestions as feedback for us when you return your *Teacher Evaluation*.

Old Capitol Museum Field Trip Record–Activity 8

\*Post-visit activity  
\*All grade levels  
\*DOK levels 1-4



# *Answer Key*

## ACTIVITY 2 ANSWER KEY:

### PUZZLE 1

Across - 3. Senate, 5. Three, 8. Executive, 9. Judicial,  
10. House of Representatives;  
Down - 1. Lieutenant Governor, 2. Checks and Balances,  
3. Supreme Court, 4. Legislative, 6. Veto, 7. Governor

### PUZZLE 2

Across - 9. House of Representatives, 12. Legislature,  
14. Capitol, 15. Senate, 16. Convention, 17. Legislative,  
18. Constitution  
Down - 1. Supreme Court, 2. Secession, 3. Governor,  
4. Checks and Balances, 5. Capital, 6. Executive,  
7. Judicial, 8. Lieutenant Governor, 10. Three,  
11. Franchise, 13. Veto

## ACTIVITY 3 ANSWER KEY:

1. Natchez, 2. Four, 3. Seventh, 4. Andrew Longino,  
5. Reconstruction, 6. Columbus, 7. Hiram Revels,  
8. Second, 9. Vote, 10. 1890, 11. 1817

## ACTIVITY 4A ANSWER KEY:

1. 48, 2. Rotunda, 3. 13, 4. Corinthian, 5. House Chamber,  
6. Portico, 7. Governor's Office, 8. 34, 9. 94 feet,  
10. The letter "M" and Mississippi

## ACTIVITY 4B ANSWER KEY:

1. Doric Column, 2. Palmette, 3. Anthemion,  
4. Ionic Column, 5. Acanthus Leaf, 6. Dome,  
7. Corinthian Column, 8. Rosette

## ACTIVITY 5 ANSWER KEY:

### EXERCISE ONE

1. 1832, 2. 1817, 3. 1817, 4. 1832, 5. 1817, 6. 1832, 7. 1817

### EXERCISE TWO

1. 1890, 2. 1868, 3. 1890, 4. 1868, 5. 1868, 6. 1890, 7. Neither

*Please complete and  
return the evaluation  
form at the back of the  
packet.*

# *The Old Capitol Museum*

## Teacher Evaluation Form

School Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Tour \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the total number and age range of students participating?
2. How well did this program and tour hold your students' attention? Which part, if any, of the program and tour did not hold your students' attention?
3. Does this program add to your teaching of the same subject? How? If not, how could it be changed to benefit you in the classroom?
4. Was the orientation film informative and appropriate for your students? Please explain.
5. How could this program and tour be improved?
6. How useful were the enrichment activities for your students? What suggestions do you have to make them more effective?
7. Please give your additional comments on the back of the sheet.

Please mail or fax the completed evaluation form to the address or fax number below.

Thank you for your interest and participation.

Old Capitol Museum

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[www.oldcapitolmuseum.com](http://www.oldcapitolmuseum.com)