
South Dakota State Capitol Scavenger Hunt Parent & Teacher (Review Version)



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This scavenger hunt has been designed to provide children visiting the South Dakota State Capitol with an educational and entertaining experience.

START at the Main Entrance located on the south side of the Capitol. (You will enter the 2nd floor entrance.)

Have FUN and look at all the cool stuff in the Capitol as you complete the scavenger hunt. Good Luck!

1. Did you ever have a bad day? It looks like the builders of the Capitol building may have. What is unusual about the spelling of South Dakota on the front of the Capitol? **South Dakota is spelled with a "V", (SOVTH DAKOTA). The "U" in SOUTH DAKOTA is a Latin "V" reflecting the building's classical influences.**
2. Look down. You should notice that there are no bird droppings in front of the Capitol building doors. Normally, nesting birds, like pigeons, can damage the building exterior and make a huge mess. The maintenance department has done two things to prevent birds from nesting above the Capitol doors. What have they done? **Window ledge spikes and representations of hanging owls are used to prevent nesting/perching birds.**
3. When you walk in the front doors, there is a South Dakota State Seal on the ceiling of the Capitol. Name three mammals found on the great seal. **Mammals are warm-blooded animals with hair/ fur. The mammals found on the South Dakota State Seal are a cow, horse and man.**
4. In what year did South Dakota become a state? **The South Dakota State Seal indicates 1889.**



Make your way to the Rotunda (large circular area below the dome)

5. There are 2 main corridors (hallways) to the west and east of the Rotunda. As you walk down the corridors, you should notice half-circle murals called lunettes. One of the lunettes shows a South Dakota Native American village. You need to locate the mural and write down the number of teepees (mobile dwellings) shown. **There are 2 teepees shown in the mural called *Indian Camp* (west hall).**

The mural is located across from what office(s)? **The mural is located across from the Governor's Office and the Office of the Secretary of State.**

Make your way to the first floor.

According to legend, 66 Italian artists each installed a blue "signature stone" while they were installing the terrazzo tile flooring throughout the Capitol building. Only 55 of the 66 stones have been found – see how many you can find during the scavenger hunt! To get you started, a "signature stone" is found on the first floor in front of the double doors leading to the basement.

6. Record two prior Governors of South Dakota and the years they were Governor. Also what were the colors of the gowns (dresses) worn by their wives at their Inaugurals? _____

_____/_____/_____ (Governor/ color)
 _____/_____/_____ (Governor/ color)

Answers will vary. The Governors are found in the Governor's Gallery (east and west wings); the gown replicas are found in the center of the first floor (below the Rotunda).

Make your way to the east wing of the 2nd floor.



7. Who is considered the father of school and public lands in South Dakota? (Hint: his legend is preserved in stone) **General W.H.H. Beadle; in 1879, General W.H.H. Beadle became Superintendent of Public Instruction. Beadle drafted the school lands provision at the South Dakota Constitutional Convention of 1885. His journeys through the territory and his previous frontier experience convinced him that school lands were a trust for future generations and should be sold at their appraised value and never for less than \$10 an acre. He is truly worthy to be considered the father of school and public lands in this state for his efforts to ensure the education of our state's future children by reserving a portion of every section of land for them. He was known as the "Savior of the School Lands."**

Make your way back to the Rotunda (large circular area below the dome).

8. Look up. How many flags do you see hanging in the Rotunda? **There are 11 flags and 1 staff hanging in the Rotunda. White represents North or "the direction from which snow comes;" red is East or "the direction of the rising sun;" yellow is South or "the direction from which the sun shines;" black is West or "the direction from which thunder comes."** For more detailed information about the flags hanging in the Rotunda look at page 8 of the "Self Guided Tour Script of South Dakota State Capitol Building." (Note: during the holiday season the flags are removed)

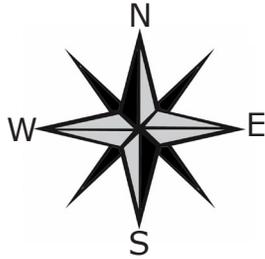
9. Which direction is the Grand Staircase (large marble staircase found near the Rotunda) in relationship to the Rotunda?

- a. North
- b. South
- c. West
- d. East

(The Beadle statue found in the "east" wing from question #7 can be used as a reference hint.)



Draw a compass rose.



10. One of the balusters (vase-shaped support for a rail) supporting the railing of the Grand Staircase was installed upside-down. Find the upside-down baluster and describe its location. **The upside-down baluster is located on the right (east) side of the Grand Staircase, 3rd from top.**

11. The vaulted ceiling above the Grand Staircase is made of stained-glass. What type of starchy vegetable is shown in the stained-glass? **Corn** How many are there? **30 ears of corn**

Make your way to the Senate Chamber.

12. How many chandeliers do you see? **2**
How many columns do you see? **16 – The gallery of the Senate Chambers has an open design with columns (more open than the arch design used in the House of Representatives).** How many desks do you see on the floor for the Senators? **There are 35 desks on the main floor of the Senate.**

Make your way to the House of Representatives.

13. Notice the phone booths; before cell phones, many towns had public phone booths just like these. How many phone booths do you find here? _____

14. How many columns are found in the House of Representatives? **None – The gallery of the House of Representatives has an arch design without traditional columns (the Senate Chambers has an open design with columns).** How many desks do you see on the floor for the Representatives? **There are 70 desks on the floor of the House of Representatives.**



15. Find the clock at the front of the House of Representatives. How old do you think this clock is? (Hint: the clock was installed when the building was constructed)

- a. 25 years old
- b. 50 year old
- c. **100 years old**
- d. 150 years old

The cornerstone of the Capitol was installed in June of 1908; the construction of the Capitol was completed in June of 1910.

Have you seen any of the blue tiles? Hint: stand by the H₂O (water) fountain near the Senate Chamber, and walk toward the radiator by the window. There is a blue tile approximately 3 feet from the radiator. Can you find it?

16. In the 1980s, the tiles you are standing on were repaired, and the craftsmen who completed the work left several "signature stones". Can you guess which of the following "signature stones" they used?

- a. Circle
- b. **Heart**
- c. Clover
- d. Spiral

One of the "signature stones" is centered in the mosaic of tiles leading into the Senate Lobby. Can you find it? **The tile in front of the Senate Lobby is white.**

A second "signature stone" is located on the fourth floor near a door leading into the Gallery of the Senate Chamber. This tile may be covered by a rug. (Hint: Look near a fire extinguisher located close to a radiator.) Can you find it? **This heart shaped tile is black; you may also notice the following initials in the same location – GT and TT. The initials were installed by some of the craftsman without permission.**



17. Name one Representative and his/her district.
_____ Name one Senator and his/her district. _____. **You may want to have your students identify a Representative and Senator from their corresponding district.**

18. Draw the South Dakota State Seal. **The South Dakota State Seal can be found in many locations throughout the Capitol, including, but not limited to, rugs, door knobs and the ceiling of the main entrance.**

Great Job! We hope you enjoyed the hunt.

For more information about the South Dakota State Capitol complete the "Self Guided Tour Script of South Dakota State Capitol Building" which is available at the South Dakota State Capitol.

Visit

Our Statehouse: A Capitol Idea at <http://sdpb.sd.gov/CapitolIdea/>

South Dakota Bureau of Administration at <http://www.state.sd.us/boa/>

Please help us finalize this activity by sending comments and suggestions to steven.rokusek@state.sd.us. Thanks for your input!



Notes:

