

PERSHING MURAL PROJECT CURRICULUM

Learning From the Past, Understanding the Present, and Discovering the Future



THE PERSHING MURAL ~ A NEBRASKA CULTURAL LANDMARK

Creative Writing: Chain Stories

In this lesson students will be asked to explore and visualize the many events and activities that took place at the Pershing Auditorium and work collaboratively to write chain stories about those experiences.

Included in this Lesson:

- Lesson: Creative Writing: Chain Stories
- Power point: Greetings from the Pershing Mural
- Power point: Writing a Chain Story

Nebraska Standards Addressed:

Present: SS 1.4.1.a List and describe life events over time.

Connect: SS 4.3.4.a Compare and contrast patterns of culture within the state of Nebraska.

Respond: SS 6.4.3.a Identify how differing experiences can lead to the development of perspectives.

Respond: L.A.5.W.2 Use a recursive writing process to develop, strengthen, and produce writing appropriate to the audience

Create: EP6. Use English structures to communicate context-specific messages.

Objectives:

- After learning about the history of Pershing Auditorium, the students will be able to list five events, activities, etc. that took place there from 1957 to 2014.
- The students will compare community entertainment, activities, and events in the second half of the 20th century with those in the 21st century.
- The students will be able to work in collaborative groups to create chain stories.
- The students will be able to proofread, edit and revise their stories.

Grade Level:

Written at 6th Grade Level (educators are encouraged to adjust the lesson to meet needs of Pre-K to 12th Grade)

Materials Needed:

Paper, pens/pencils, timer

Time Requirement:

1-2 (50 minute) sessions

Vocabulary:

Chain Story: Stories in which students each add a different segment or part to a story.

Direct Instruction:

Before construction began on Pershing Auditorium in 1955, the planning committee needed to determine how the Arena would be used. The goal was to bring to the residents of the State stage attractions, big-name music acts, conventions, expos, trade shows, sporting events, and many types of entertainment. The arena needed to be highly versatile to accommodate a broad variety of services for its visitors with its 4,500 seats.

Before the first girder was installed, the planning committee commissioned Nebraska Artists Leonard Thiessen and William Hammon to create a tile mural to adorn the building. The tile mural was to depict events, activities, and entertainment that could take place at Pershing. In the mid 1950's when the mural's design and installation took place, it was the largest work of its type to have been undertaken in the U.S.

Pershing Auditorium lived up to the vision of the mural for the 60+ years it was in use. It was the venue for the Shrine Circus, Sesame Street Live, Roller Derby, World Wrestling Federal matches, indoor mud drag racing, ballet, musicals, PRCA Championship Rodeo, roller figure skating, boxing, pancake feeds, football, high schools state games (girls' and boys' basketball, volleyball, and wrestling), Nebraska marching band competitions, choral clinics and much more.

The Auditorium hosted concerts featuring world-class entertainers from the first curtain going up in 1957 with headliners like Johnny Carson and Louis Armstrong until the final curtain came down in 2014 with acts such as The Moody Blues and Boston. In between, even Elvis was in the house; his 1977 Pershing concert was one of the last performances Elvis Presley gave. And Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave a powerful speech at Pershing just a few months before his death.

With improved building materials and state-of-the-art technology, Pinnacle Bank Arena was completed in August, 2013. The 15,500-seat facility would soon replace the smaller Pershing Auditorium as the sports and entertainment venue for the city. After being left unused for nine years, Pershing Auditorium was slated for demolition in the summer of 2023. However, thanks to the efforts of a group committed to its preservation, the historic mural was saved and successfully removed before the wrecking ball took its first swipe. The mural was stored away in anticipation of its future home where it would be reassembled and displayed for a new generation to enjoy. Even though the Pershing Auditorium was reduced to rubble, memories of all that took place there live on. In this lesson, students will be asked to go back in time to experience and write about some of the different performing artists, activities and events that took place there. Students can research past issues of the Lincoln Journal Star

and other archival sources for advertisements and reviews of performances and events taking place at the Auditorium.

In the meantime, here are some images of the advertisements and calendars for Pershing Events to study:

Come In Your 50's & 60's Apparel!



**OLD TIME
"SOCK HOP"**

Featuring a large collection of 50's and 60's music & an exclusive Coca-Cola Winchester Rifle door prize!!

at Pershing Municipal Auditorium
Friday, April 21, 1989
7:00 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
\$5/Ticket in Advance
\$6/Ticket day of Show

Advanced tickets available at Pershing Auditorium or at the Parks and Recreation office at 2740 A Street
Proceeds are for the much needed purchase of trees for Pioneers Park.

LINCOLN ELKS LODGE NO. 80 B.P.O.E.
91ST ANNUAL CITY WIDE

CHRISTMAS PARTY
Sunday, Dec. 20th, 2p.m.
(Doors Open At 1)
PERSHING AUDITORIUM

All Children are invited to join the fun!
Parents may accompany their children.

- Shrine Band Performance
- Entertainment
- FREE Treats For The Children
- Christmas Carols
- Clowns

IT'S ALL FREE!
LINCOLN ELKS LODGE NO. 80 B.P.O.E.
Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks
5910 South 58th Street • 421-6363



Coming Sunday, Nov. 21, 3 P.M.
Pershing Auditorium

*National Ballet
of Washington*

the second concert in the 1971-72 series
by the
LINCOLN COMMUNITY CONCERT
Association
Adm. by membership only • Doors open 2 P.M.

UPCOMING • PERSHING • EVENTS



mark your CALENDAR

EVENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



• PERSHING • YOUNKERS • HOMERS
• UNL CITY UNION • BLOCKBUSTER MUSIC
CHARGE AT 475-1212

• FLEA MARKET 10AM TO 5PM 3		• BUSH WITH SPECIAL GUEST GOO GOO DOLLS SHOW STARTS AT 7:30 PM 5		• NE BOY'S STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT GAMES BEGIN AT 9:30 AM 7	• NE GIRL'S STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT GAMES BEGIN AT 9:30 AM 1	• FLEA MARKET 10AM TO 5PM 2
• WORLD OF HORSES LIPZZANER STALLIONS SHOWS BEGIN AT 2 PM & 6 PM 10			• SESOSTRIS ANNUAL SHRINE CIRCUS SHOW STARTS AT 7 PM 13	• SESOSTRIS ANNUAL SHRINE CIRCUS SHOWS START AT 1:30 & 7 PM 14	• NE BOY'S STATE BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT GAMES BEGIN AT 9:30 AM 8	
• SESOSTRIS ANNUAL SHRINE CIRCUS SHOWS START AT 1 PM & 4:30 PM 17				• ANNUAL SERATOMA PANCAKE JAMBOREE OPEN 7AM TO 7 PM 21		• SESOSTRIS ANNUAL SHRINE CIRCUS SHOWS START AT 1:30 PM & 7 PM 16
• 38TH GEN & MINERAL SHOW 9AM TO 7 PM 24						• 38TH GEN & MINERAL SHOW 9AM TO 7 PM • CITY EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION MEETING 5:30 PM 23
						30 /
						31

Pershing Auditorium

226 Centennial Mall South, Lincoln, NE 68508



For Information Call:

441-7500

Ticket prices and show times subject to change.

For special needs seating requirement, please contact the ticket office at 441-7766 at least 2 weeks in advance of the show date.

FUTURE EVENTS

APRIL:

- 6 NE Professional Firefighters Oldies Concert with Gary Puckett + Grass Roots & the Spencer Davis Group. Call 488-0016 for tickets.
- 23 Living Arts for Students School Show, "The Lion, Witch and Wardrobe". Call 615-450-3455 for tickets.

high bar champion, has a high score of 53.55 in the all around. still available.

11th Annual International

Auto-Rama

PERSHING MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

FEB. 18, 19, 20

featuring



Happy Days
Mercury

HOURS:

Friday 5-11 p.m.
Saturday and Sunday noon-11 p.m.

featuring



Stagecoach

See
FONZIE'S
Motorcycle
from
"HAPPY
DAYS"

In Concert
**Spike
and the
Sputniks**

See the
full length
motion
picture
**Gone in
60
Seconds**

HEY,
DON'T
MISS
'EM

PERSHING MUNICIPAL
AUDITORIUM

In Concert Chicago

COMING MAY 6th at 8:30 P.M.

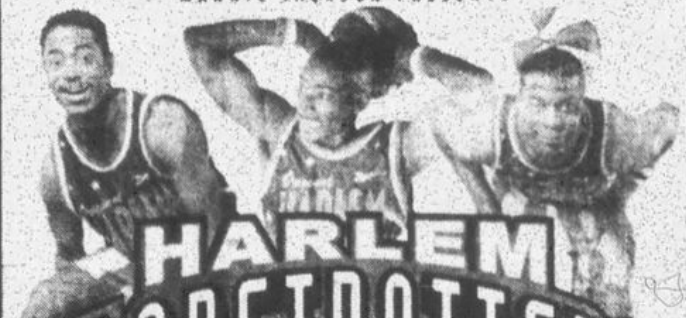
MAIL ORDERS ACCEPTED NOW
\$600-\$500 Tax Inc.

Just Drop Pershing Auditorium P.O. Box
81726, Lincoln, Neb. 68501 a Letter Stating
How Many Tickets of the price you
desire. Enclose Money Order payable
to Pershing Auditorium. Send Stamped
self-addressed envelope for prompt
return of tickets.
Boxoffice open 12 noon 4 pm daily

ALL SEATS RESERVED

ONE PERFORMANCE ONLY

MANNIE JACKSON PRESENTS



HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS

WORLD 2000 TOUR




ON SALE TOMORROW!

Pershing Auditorium
January 5 7PM
Tickets \$14.25 & \$17.25

Kids (12 & under) and Seniors (over 60) SAVE \$2!

Limited VIP and Magic Circle (courtside seating with a commemorative jersey) seating also available.
Tickets available at Pershing Box Office, all Ticketmaster outlets,
or charge by phone at 475-1212. For group info, call 441-7766.
Save with your Russ's Market Privilege Plus Card.
No double discounts. No discounts on VIP or Magic Circle Seats

Presented by

www.harlemglobetrotters.com

Positively Magical

KISS

HOT IN THE SHADE TOUR 1990

SPECIAL GUESTS:

WINGED

WIKER

ON SALE NOW

Wednesday • 7:30 PM
PERSHING AUDITORIUM


\$19.00 in advance **\$20.00** day of show

Tickets available at all Ticketmaster Outlets including Pershing Auditorium Box Office, Younkers and University of Nebraska Student Union, or Charge by Phone 475-1212.

Tickets may be subject to a service charge.

A CONTEMPORARY PRESENTATION

ON SALE TOMORROW



D A V I D
COPPERFIELD

MAGIC FOR THE 90'S

DECEMBER 16
 CHARGE BY PHONE 475-1212
 INFO/GROUPS 471-7500

Pershing Auditorium
 TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY!
 5:30 PM & 8:30 PM


\$24.50 Reserved Seats.
 Tickets at Pershing & all Ticketmaster outlets (Younkers, Pickles, U.N.L. City Union) Cash only at Pershing & Pickles. Subject to convenience fee at outlets.

TICKETS AT
TICKETMASTER

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER \$5 OFF 5:30 PM SHOW ONLY WITH COUPON FROM

ParkPlace 48TH & 'O'

TODAY THRU THURS.!



PERSHING MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

ASK ABOUT INFLATION FIGHTER — "SAVE-A-BUCK" DISCOUNT TICKETS!

ICE SKATING

Public Sessions Today:
 3:00-5:00—8:00-10:00 p.m.
 Mon.-Wed.-Thurs. evening sessions at 7:30-9:30 p.m.
 Youth 14 & under \$1.00, others \$1.50

LINCOLN PERSHING AUD.
SAT. JULY 13 8:00 P.M.
ONLY NEBRASKA APPEARANCE TICKETS AT GOLD'S RECORD DEPT. & AUDITORIUM BOX OFFICE \$4 - \$5 - \$6

THE BEACH BOYS SHOW

It's the Summer Teen Spectacular
IN PERSON

THE BEACH BOYS
AMERICA'S GREATEST ROCK GROUP
 1961 - 1997 30 Million Records

THE HUMAN BEINZ
NO. 1 R&B 1977-78

SPECIAL GUEST STARS

THE UNION GAP
Formerly "The Gap" 1969-1971

NO COAST DERBY GIRLS
2013 SCHEDULE

March 9th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. OMAHA ROLLERGIRLS
 March 30th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. ARCH RIVAL ROLLER GIRLS
 April 27th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. NEO ROLLER DERBY
 May 4th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. PIKES PEAK DERBY DAMES
 May 17th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. BREW CITY BRUISERS
 May 18th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. JACKSONVILLE ROLLER GIRLS
 June 15th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. MID IOWA ROLLER GIRLS
 June 29th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. DENVER ROLLER DOLLS
 July 20th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. ROCKY MOUNTAIN ROLLERGIRLS
 August 3rd NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. OLD CAPITOL CITY ROLLER GIRLS
 August 30th NO COAST DERBY GIRLS vs. TBA

ATHLETA
FOR Kinetix GWEARS
Hr. Hour Lounge
1041 the Plaza
SINGLE BARREL
PrairieLife FITNESS
LINCOLN MMA

Ivana Cone

ALL BOUTS WILL BE HELD AT PERSHING CENTER
 TICKETS AVAILABLE AT PERSHING BOX OFFICE OR TICKETMASTER
www.nocoastderbygirls.com [fb.com/NoCoastDerbyGirls](https://www.facebook.com/NoCoastDerbyGirls) [@ncdg](https://twitter.com/ncdg)

White Stallion Productions Presents
The "World Famous" LIPIZZANER STALLIONS

The Equestrian Treat of the Century!
 Don't miss The Dancing White Stallions and their "Airs Above the Ground" in "The Wonderful World of Horses" ©

This Sunday! March 5 • 2PM @ 6PM

Pershing Center

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT THE CENTER BOX OFFICE, ALL TICKETMASTER OUTLETS AND TICKETMASTER.COM. CHARGE BY PHONE AT 402-475-1212. GROUP DISCOUNTS AND EVENT INFO AT 402-441-7500. MORE INFO AT PERSHINGCENTER.COM AND LIPIZZANER.COM. ©WSP INC. PRODUCER GARY LASHINSKY.

KFOR Bridal Forum
 Lincoln's Longest Running Bridal Show

Sunday, January 17, 2010
 Noon to 5:00 p.m.


Pershing Center
 226 Centennial Mall South
 Lincoln, Nebraska

~ Fashion Show
 ~ Vendors
 ~ Great Prizes
 ~ Beer/Wine Cash Bar

Tickets Available at all **Lincoln Russ's Markets**
 \$3.00 General Admission or \$2.00 with your Russ's Privilege Plus Card.
 Children 10 & Under Free

\$3.00 at the door day of show.

A VERY LARRY CHRISTMAS
STARRING
LARRY THE CABLE GUY




**Dec 4
8 pm**
at the
Pershing Center

LARRY THE CABLE GUY

On Sale Now!

Tickets available at the box office, all Ticketmaster locations, ticketmaster.com or charge at 475.1212



Fall Fashions '75!
with
Carol Channing
Entertaining
in Person!



Fantastic Carol Channing will be in Lincoln to personally host a special benefit show of fall fashions. The show is sponsored by First Federal Lincoln and Howland-Swanson for the benefit of The Lincoln Children's Zoo.

Top designers will be represented in this special fall collection. In addition, Miss Channing will model some of her own famous dresses.

Plan now to attend this gala evening of fashion and Carol Channing comedy entertainment.

Pershing Auditorium,
8:00 p.m., Thursday, June 12

Tickets are available at all First Federal Lincoln offices, Howland-Swanson stores, and The Lincoln Children's Zoo.

Now over a half-billion dollars strong!

FIRST FEDERAL LINCOLN
 14 offices in Lincoln, Omaha, Kearney, Fairbury, Ord, Crete, Alliance and Grand Island.

Deposits insured to \$40,000 by the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

FIRST FEDERAL LINCOLN
 P.O. Box 83009
 Lincoln, NE 68501


Please send me ticket(s) for The Fall Fashions '75 Benefit Fashion Show.
 Patron (\$10.00) General Admission (\$5.00) General Admission (\$2.00)

Checks payable to Fall Fashions '75 Total \$ _____

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

\$1 Off Adult Admissions to the Show with this Ad.

On the Rocks



*Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's
48th Annual Show*

Gems, Minerals, Fossils, Meteorites
 Beads, Jewelry, Hobby Supplies and
 Equipment, Findings, Exhibits, Demonstrations,
 Lectures, Hands-On Activities for Family Fun!

March 25 and 26, 2006
 Saturday 9:00 - 6:00 Sunday 10:00 - 5:00

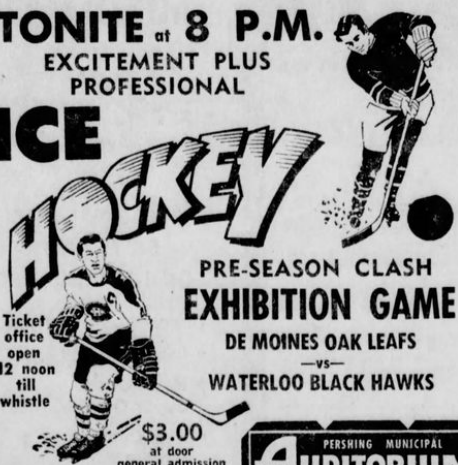
Pershing Auditorium
226 Centennial Mall South
Lincoln Nebraska

**Kids...
Come &
Meet
Mr. Bones!**

Adults \$5. Children Under 12: Free with Adult

TONITE at 8 P.M.
**EXCITEMENT PLUS
PROFESSIONAL**

**ICE
HOCKEY**



**PRE-SEASON CLASH
EXHIBITION GAME**
DE MOINES OAK LEAFS
 —vs—
WATERLOO BLACK HAWKS

Ticket office open 12 noon till whistle

\$3.00
 at door general admission

**PERSHING MUNICIPAL
AUDITORIUM**

WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION PRESENTS
 PERSHING AUDITORIUM THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 7:30PM

DOUBLE MAIN EVENT!
 INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPIONSHIP
 TITLE MATCH
**DINO BRAVO
 VS. ULTIMATE
 WARRIOR**

FOR THE CROWN!
"MACHO KING"
**RANDY SAVAGE
 VS. HACKSAW
 JIM DUGGAN**

SPECIAL ADDED
 ATTRACTION
**BROTHER LOVE
 WITH GUESTS
 "SENSATIONAL
 QUEEN SHERRI"
 AND MISS ELIZABETH**

TAG TEAM - THE BOLSHEVIKS VS. THE BUSHWHACKERS
 AND MUCH MORE!

Presented by **KFMQ Radio.**

Card is subject to change. Tickets are available at the Auditorium box office, Younkers, UNI Student Union and all Ticketmaster locations. Charge by phone 475-1212. For information call 471-7500.

KFMQ

Discussion Questions:

- How many of the activities, concerts, and events that took place at Pershing can you list (Rodeo, mud drag racing, musical, style show, wedding fair, circus, roller skating, roller derby, concerts, semi-pro football, all-star wrestling, high school athletic and music events, Sesame Street Live, etc.)?
- How difficult would it have been to hold a rodeo or mud drag racing in the Arena?
- How hard do you think it would be to change the arena floor from a basketball court to an ice rink?
- Which of these events would you have attended if you could go back in time?
- What do you think the audience experience was like at these events?
- In your opinion, what do you think is the craziest or most unusual event held at Pershing?

- Do you think entertainment was a lot different in the 20th century than it is today?
- What can you learn from studying about entertainment in the past?
- Why was Pershing Auditorium demolished in 2023?

Guided and Independent Practice:

Using the events, activities, etc. that took place at Pershing Auditorium as inspiration, the students will take turns to collectively write chain (or folded) stories in small groups.

Guidelines for Chain Story Writing:

- 1) Students should try to write as clearly and legibly as possible so their classmates will be able to read their handwriting.
- 2) The teacher will tell students when to begin and then there will be a 60 second time called out by the teacher as a limit for each student writing segment. The time allowance is at the teacher's discretion.
- 3) Those students not actively involved in the writing process should be quietly forming ideas of what they will be writing when it is their turn.
- 4) Students should write one or two complete sentences during their writing segment.
- 5) Once the first student has added to the story and before the paper is passed to the right, the student will fold the paper over to cover everything except what they have just written.
- 6) This process is repeated until all the students have had a chance to add to their collective story twice.
- 7) The student in the final position will be responsible for ending the story or drawing a conclusion.

Step One: Prior to the class session, the teacher/facilitator will write several beginning sentences on sheets of paper. There should be enough starter sheets with different topics based on Pershing Auditorium events that the students may be allowed to pick and choose a bit. Here are some examples:

- Jesse was so excited to be going to the Shrine Circus at Pershing! He wasn't quite sure what to expect.

- Cole and his best friend Tate had tickets to the Rodeo at Pershing. He hoped he didn't look like a dork with his cowboy hat.
- Alyssa had always wanted to see the Lipizzaner Horses and now she had her chance! Her grandmother had tickets for the Sunday matinee.
- Malcom had heard a lot about professional wrestling. He could not decide if it was fake or real so was happy to go to a match at Pershing to check it out.
- Molly could not wait to try out ice skating at Pershing, even if she was afraid of falling. She was meeting her friends Sarah and Matt there.

Step Two: Divide the class into smaller groups of four to five students so there are multiple groups in the class. Share the guidelines for the writing activity.

- 1) Ask the students to number off to see who goes first, second, etc. in each group.
- 2) Give each group a "starter" sheet and have them read the opening sentence(s) aloud together. Give the students two minutes to brainstorm.
- 3) Person #1 will now write a sentence or two to add to the beginning of the story. Follow the guidelines with folding, passing, and time limits (above).
- 4) After the story has circulated two times and the last sentences have been written, the group unfolds the story paper and reads what was written.

Step Three: Ask the students read their unedited Chain Stories aloud to the class. Allow for some class feedback and interaction and a little fun.

Step Four: Have the students return to their groups with their story to review the draft and make corrections or additions as needed.

- 1) As a group, ask the students to rewrite to make the story flow so that it is connected and logical.
- 2) The students can make additions to the story but they need to keep the basic storyline intact.
- 3) Ask the students to review their story for sentence structure, spelling, punctuation, and grammar.

- 4) When the students are satisfied with their end-product, the students can hand in their story with their names attached.
- 5) Stories can be posted for all to read.

Evaluation:

The students will be evaluated on:

- 1) Use of class time
- 2) Participation in the group
- 3) Use of language arts skills in their editing process
 - a. Sentence structure
 - b. Grammar
 - c. Spelling
 - d. Flow

Closure:

Sometimes it is difficult to get started with writing a story. The words just don't always flow and it is easy to get bogged down. By working together as a group to creatively share ideas, students will gain confidence that they have great ideas and they CAN write at the same time they have a bit of fun.

Resources:

<https://www.nshsf.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/725.83-P466m-Pershing-Municipal-Auditorium.pdf> (*Public Domain*)

Special thanks to the Pershing Mural Curriculum Committee:
Liz Shea-McCoy, Bob Reeker, and Anne Woita

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and the
And was made possible by the:

Pershing Mural Historic Preservation Project

