

PERSHING MURAL PROJECT CURRICULUM

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



THE PERSHING MURAL ~ A NEBRASKA CULTURAL LANDMARK

Nebraska Sites on the National Register of Historic Places Scavenger Hunt

In this lesson, students will learn how to navigate the National Register of Historic places and use a series of clues to identify Nebraska Counties and specific properties. They will complete a worksheet as they go on their virtual scavenger hunt.

Included in this lesson:

- Lesson Plan: Nebraska Sites on the National Register of Historic Places Scavenger Hunt
- PDF: Nebraska Sites on the National Register of Historic Places Scavenger Hunt Clues
- Power Point: Nebraska Sites on the National Register of Historic Places Scavenger Hunt
- PDF: National Register of Historic Places in Nebraska Scavenger Hunt Answer Sheet

Nebraska Standards Addressed:

Present: SS 7.4.5.c Gather, analyze, and communicate historical information from multiple sources.

Connect: SS 6.4.2 Use multiple perspectives to identify the historical, social, and cultural context of past and current events.

Respond: SS 1.4.1.b Compare and contrast family life from earlier times and today.

Connect: SS 1.4.1.b Compare and contrast family life from earlier times and today.

Create: SS 6.4.5 Apply the inquiry process to construct and answer historical questions.

Objectives:

- Given clues, the students will be able to identify 15 of the 93 counties in Nebraska.
- The students will be able to use problem-solving and cognitive skills to unravel clues to find information while conducting their research.
- The students will be able to identify various structures/sites on the National Register of Historic Places by name and reference number.

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:

Printed out scavenger hunt sheet and answer sheet, pencil or pen, access to computer and internet

Time Requirement:

1-3 (50 minute) class period

Vocabulary:

National Register of Historic Places: The United States Federal Government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation for their historical significance or "great artistic value."

Direct Instruction:

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

“The National Register of Historic Places is a list of historic places that tell the stories of the people and events that form America’s collective identity. This prestigious list is also one of the most valuable tools individuals and communities have to encourage the preservation of important historic places.

“Appropriately, this process begins with the people—it is not a top-down process. Individuals and communities can nominate properties that serve as historical touchstones to a shared history. The National Register is a federal program of the National Park Service and administered within Nebraska by the State Historic Preservation Office.

“Nebraska currently has over 1,000 listed properties throughout the state. These properties range from private residences to county courthouses to archeological sites. Also, properties listed in the National Register are potentially eligible for State and Federal tax incentives.” -- *From History Nebraska*

The Pershing Mural is making its new home at Wyuka Cemetery and Park which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Park was established in 1869 by the Nebraska Legislature and was intended to be a “Lincoln State Cemetery” for the state’s capital city. The name Wyuka is a Lakota Indian word that means “to rest”. Although not on the National Register of Historic Places now, the Mural will be eligible for nomination to the Register when it is reestablished at Wyuka because it is at least 50 years old and will still maintains its historic significance.

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P cvkqpcnTgi kvgtA

“To be considered eligible, a property must meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. This involves examining the property’s age, significance, and integrity.

“Age and Integrity: Is the property old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and does it still look much the way it did in the past?

“Significance: Is the property associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past? With the lives of people who were important in the past? With significant architectural history, landscape history, or engineering achievements? Does it have the potential to yield information through archeological investigation about our past?” –*From the National Park Services*

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“The National Register nomination process usually starts with your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Contact your SHPO or check their web page for National Register information, research materials, and necessary forms to begin the nomination process. If the property is on federal or tribal land, then the process starts with the Federal Preservation Office or Tribal Preservation Office.

“Nominations can be submitted to your SHPO from property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, governmental agencies, and other individuals or groups. Official National Register Nomination Forms are downloadable or from your State Historic Preservation Office. National Register Bulletins can also provide guidance on how to document and evaluate certain types of properties. Sample Nominations provide additional useful information.

“The SHPO notifies affected property owners and local governments and solicits public comment. If the owner (or a majority of owners for a district nomination) objects, the property cannot be listed but may be forwarded to the National Park Service for a Determination of Eligibility (DOE).

“Proposed nominations are reviewed by your state’s historic preservation office and the state’s National Register Review Board. The length of the state process varies but will take a minimum of 90 days.

“Complete nominations, with certifying recommendations, are submitted by the state to the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. for final review and listing by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places. The

National Park Service makes a listing decision within 45 days.”—*From the National Park Service*

What Are the Benefits of Having a Site Listed on the National Register of Historic Places?

- 1) Access to Grants: Public and private organizations provide various grant opportunities.
- 2) Tax Incentives: Federal income tax incentives are available for easements and for rehabilitation.
- 3) Assistance with Preservation: NPS provides technical information and guidance on the care of historic buildings and sites.
- 4) Heritage Tourism: Publications and lists of the properties on the National Register are an excellent resource for travelers and visitors to find and explore sites on the Register.
- 5) Education: Sites on the Historic Register are a great teaching tool for K-12 educators, colleges, and universities to teach history through historic places.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is it important to preserve historic sites?
- What can you learn from visiting or researching an historic site? About history? About culture and heritage?
- Do you think having sites in your community listed on the National Register encourages preservation of other historic buildings? How?
- How is preserving historic sites good for the environment? For the Economy?
- Why would an individual or community want to have their sites listed on the National Register of Historic Places?
- Do you know of any buildings or sites that you think should be included on the Register?
- Do you think the Pershing Mural should be nominated for the Register? What unique features does the Mural possess that would make it a good candidate for the Register?

Guided and Independent Practice:

A routine scavenger hunt is a game where individuals or teams are given a list of objects to find and are sent out to search for those items. Whoever finds all their objects first is the “winner.” Sometimes scavenger hunts involve solving riddles, puzzles, and deciphering clues. Those who are participating need to use their problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

In this activity, students will be asked to go on a “virtual” scavenger hunt as they identify and explore sites in Nebraska that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A map of Nebraska counties with pin points of historic sites can be found at:

<https://gis.ne.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d6647460f336442e8eae88ef2a85523a>

To aid in the scavenger hunt, students can visit these sites to explore and research:

Wikipedia:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Nebraska

National Register of Historic Places:

<https://nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/ne/state.html>

All of Nebraska’s counties are listed on these sites along with the number of historic sites in each county. Some counties have many historic sites; other counties have just a few, depending upon the population density and rural versus urban communities. FYI, Blaine and Logan Counties do not currently have any historic sites listed.

After the students have had a chance to learn about the National Register of Historic Places and explore how to use the research sites, they can begin their hunt. They will be asked to:

- 1) work individually, in pairs, or in groups (at the discretion of the teacher).
- 2) use their problem-solving, computer, and research skills to decipher clues to locate specific historic sites.

3) fill in requested information about the specific site on their sheet.

Discussion Questions (following the completion of the “hunt”):

- How many of the Counties you researched can you now name?
- Would you want to visit any of the sites you researched? If so, which one(s)?
- Were you surprised by anything you found when searching the National Register?
- The Register does not just catalog buildings. What other kinds of structures or sites did you find listed on the Register?
- What was the most unusual site/structure you found on the Register?
- Think about some of the sites that you investigated. What do you think life might have been like when they were new?

Criteria for Evaluation:

Students will be evaluated on:

- 1) Use of class time
- 2) Ability to find all the sites on their scavenger hunt sheet
- 3) Accurate completion of their scavenger hunt sheet

Closure:

Recognizing and preserving our historic treasures are more important now than ever. Students have learned a few tools with this scavenger hunt that will help them to explore and research historic sites from Nebraska’s past. It is easy to drive by an historic marker, landmark, structure, or site every day without giving it a second thought. Hopefully students will now pause to take a second or third look at these sites and recognize their importance to their community and society as we celebrate and cherish the past.

Note: Make sure to explore “scavenger hunt” resources in your community that may be available for you and your students. Here are a couple of examples from the Lincoln area:

- 1) *If your students live in proximity to the Nebraska State Capitol Building in Lincoln, they can go on their own scavenger hunt. Here is*

a link for a guided tour of the Capitol and a scavenger hunt:

<https://capitol.nebraska.gov/educational-materials/>

2) *History Nebraska, located at 1500 R Street in Lincoln, has a scavenger hunt for students visiting the Museum called “Exhibit Explorers.” Visit <https://history.nebraska.gov/education/museum-field-trips/> to learn more.*

Resources:

Wikipedia:

https://www.wikiwand.com/en/National_Register_of_Historic_Places_listings_in_Thurston_County,_Nebraska *(Public Domain)*

National Register of Historic Places:

<https://nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/ne/state.html> *(Public Domain)*

History Nebraska <https://history.nebraska.gov/historic-preservation/national-register-historic-places>

National Park Service: National Register of Historic Places

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/how-to-list-a-property.htm>
(Public Domain)

National Park Service: Benefits for Properties Designated as National Historic Landmarks

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/benefits.htm>
(Public Domain)

National Register of Historic Places in Nebraska Scavenger Hunt Clues

Directions: Decipher the clues given below and then research to find the county, site name, and National Registry number.

Site #1

- (a) If you were going to list all of Nebraska's counties in alphabetical order, which county would be the first?
- (b) Find a house that was originally built in 1881, not of wood or brick but of something else from the earth. Hint: The nickname for these kinds of structures is "soddies."

Site #2

- (a) Find a county that is named after an animal that could also be called a gazelle, eland, impala, or kudu.
- (b) Find a building constructed in 1873 that used waterpower to make flour? Hint: It was built by the city's founder and named after him.

Site #3

- (a) What is the name of the "fruity" county in Nebraska?
- (b) Find and name a structure built in 1903 that "ring-a-dings" as it spans the Niobrara River.

Site #4

- (a) Think about a hit Broadway musical that raps its way through the Revolutionary War to find your next County.
- (b) Find the historic structure where hearings and trials were held and records were kept. Hint: It was built in 1895 and replaced two other buildings of its kind, one of which was destroyed by fire.

Site #5

- (a) Look down at your hands and make a fist—the feature that you see is the next county to explore.
- (b) The "sad" house you are looking for was built in 1898. Although it features a tower and is built in the Queen Anne style, there is no princess in residence.

Site #6

- (a) Find the county that means to evade, elude, sidestep, avoid. Hint: Think of a recess game where you try not to get hit by a ball?
- (b) Find the house that was built in 1874 and is now a museum—the Louis E. May Museum in Fremont. Hint: it was commissioned by Theron Nye.

Site #7

- (a) Find the county that is named after a U.S. Statesman from the 1800's. Hint: This gentleman was not responsible for writing the Merriam-Webster dictionary—that was Noah W.
- (b) Find a structure that was built in 1902-1903 and does not have any corners.

Site #8

- (a) Do not confuse this county with salt-water, brine, or seawater.
- (b) Find a structure that may be a good place to lay your head if you are a traveler, even if it was built way back in 1895.

Site #9

- (a) Find a county that shares its name with a house feature that is a passage between rooms.
- (b) Find a structure that was built in 1903 and would be a good place to check out a book.

Site #10

- (a) Find a county that would be good for planting vegetables.
- (b) Find a site that prehistoric and/or indigenous peoples used as a place to stay.

Site #11 *(use the Wikipedia website for this selection)*

- (a) What county was named after cities in Pennsylvania and England? Hint: It kind of rhymes with bandmaster, broadcaster, and forecaster.
- (b) What site's name in Lakota means "to rest" and has been a final resting place for Nebraskans since the 1800's; it is also home to the Holocaust Memorial, 911 Memorial, and Pershing Mural.

Site #12

- (a) Find a county that comes in handy if the doorbell is not working and you want to announce your presence at the door.
- (b) Find the structure that was built in 1907 for only \$37—and it looks like it! It is also a place that makes you want to stay out of trouble to avoid spending time there.

Site #13

- (a) Find a county that is named after a massive shaggy, horned animal that used to roam the plains of Nebraska before almost being hunted to extinction.
- (b) Find a site built in 1914 that once was a great place to catch a silent movie but now is a place to have a tooth pulled.

Site #14

- (a) Find a county that is big part of playing tag. Hint: It rhymes with race and place.
- (b) What site built in the 1880's has been a school, hotel, tourist camp, and bed and breakfast?

Site #15

- (a) Find a county whose name is the same as a house servant who answers the door and helps with meal service for the wealthy.
- (b) Find a structure finished in 1913 that a Soprano would like to visit

**Nebraska Sites on the National Register of Historic
Places Scavenger Hunt**

Site	(a) Name of County	(b) Name of Site	(c) NR#
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Name(s) of "Hunter(s)"

**Answer
Sheet**

Site	(a) Name of County	(b) Name of Site	(c) NR#
1	Adams	Jackson-Einspahr House	06000994
2	Antelope	Neligh Mill	69000128
3	Cherry	Bell Bridge	92000752
4	Hamilton	Hamilton County Courthouse	85001665
5	Nuckolls	W. Wallace & L. G. B. Kendall House	93001402
6	Dodge	Nye House	77000827
7	Webster	Stark Round Barn	72000761
8	Saline	Hotel Wilber	78001709
9	Hall	Grand Island Carnegie Library	75001094
10	Garden	Ash Hollow Cave	66000445
11	Lancaster	Wyuka Cemetery	82003198
12	Knox	Winnetoon Jail	95000094
13	Buffalo	Fort Theater	06000607
14	Chase	Balcony House	00000767
15	Butler	Surprise Opera House	88000940

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

This lesson has been supported by a grant from:



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And was made possible by the:

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