Capitol Quest

An Architectural Journey through the Arkansas State Capitol

Teacher's Guide

Presented by

Mark Martin — Secretary of State

Capitol Quest

Before You Embark on Your Quest...

Thank you for choosing **Capitol Quest** as an educational resource for your students. When you arrive at the Arkansas State Capitol, you and your students will embark on an architectural exploration of the building, guided by the details in this booklet. The questions will help students look at buildings in a new way as they study different architectural elements, styles and features of the State Capitol, as well as the history behind this elegant structure.

Things to Know Before Arriving

Capitol Quest covers all four floors of the State Capitol, so everyone should wear comfortable shoes for the journey Elevators are available for those with special needs.

To complete **Capitol Quest**, students will rely on a compass to guide them through the building. One student in each group will receive a compass upon arrival and will serve as the group's Navigator. It is highly recommended that you review compass reading skills with your students before arriving.

Organizing Your Group

Capitol Quest is a self-guided program; your group's teacher or chaperone will serve as the guide for the expedition. To ensure students get the most out of this experience, we recommend that they be divided into groups of no more than 10 with an adult guide for each group.

Your tour begins on the first floor, where a member of the Secretary of State's staff will welcome you, issue compasses and review some basic information for exploring the Capitol. You should allow about two hours to complete the quest. If your schedule allows more time, you may want to allow a few extra moments to explore rooms before moving on to the next stop on the journey.

Using This Guide

This Teacher's Guide is a version of the student guide (the "Explorer's Log") with additional interpretive materials. The narrative provides details that are necessary for completing questions in the student guide. Please make sure group leaders read the information aloud to each group.

Boxes marked "Compass Time" are included in the Explorer's Log, but other narrative text is found only in the Teacher's Guide. Passages marked by the "Stop & Listen" icon (at left) in the Teacher's Guide should be read aloud. The symbol also appears in the Explorer's Log as a clue to pay attention. Students will want to work ahead, but they must listen carefully or they will miss important details.

Vocabulary words are indicated in **BOLD TYPE** and are defined in the glossary provided at the back of the Explorer's Log. Whenever the "Look It Up" icon (at left) appears, the definition will help students answer a question. It is helpful to designate one student to read aloud from the glossary. You may need to pause and read definitions during the History and Architecture narratives.

This key provides correct answers, but for some questions, more than one response may be suitable. It is likely that your students will have some new and quite valid responses. The "Teacher's Hint" apple appears in this guide to denote clues or special instructions the guide might need to help students along the way.

We hope you enjoy this architectural stroll through the Capitol and that you and your students will come back again soon!

The Quest Begins

After welcoming your group, the Secretary of State staff member will direct you to the area where you will begin your quest. **Have a student read the introduction from the "Explorer's Log" for important directions.**

The following section introduces your group to the architectural history of the Arkansas State Capitol. Due to ongoing renovation projects or meetings in particular rooms, some areas may not be accessible during your visit, but most should be available.

Please read the History section to your group before moving outside.

History

The **ARKANSAS STATE CAPITOL** was built from 1899-1915. Natural materials from Arkansas were used in the construction wherever possible — mainly, the limestone of the outside walls. This Capitol replaced the **OLD STATE HOUSE** as the seat of state government. When it was first built, the Capitol housed all state government offices. Now it is home to six of the seven elected **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS** of our state, the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES** and the **SENATE**. On the first floor you'll find meeting rooms and offices for legislators. The Visitor Information Center, Police Desk, Capitol Press Office and Post Office are also located on this floor.

On the Grounds

A full view of the Capitol is necessary to answer most of the following questions. Lead your group outside through the tunnel entrance and down the curved **SIDEWALK** *to the intersection of Capitol Avenue and Woodlane Street. (In case of bad weather, you may wish to skip ahead to #16, then return to #1-15 at the top of page 11, answering as many as possible from inside.)*

Architecture

The Capitol is built out of **LIMESTONE** mostly quarried near Batesville, Arkansas, with Indiana stone used for the dome. It is designed in the **NEO-CLASSICAL/BEAUX ARTS** (boze-Art) architectural styles. Many **CLASSICAL DESIGNS** are used throughout the building.

(Page 2 of the "Explorer's Log")

1. What type of stone was used for this **BUILDING'S** outside walls? *Limestone*

2. What is the Capitol's architectural style? *Neoclassical; Beaux Arts*

3. How many triangle shapes (known as **PEDIMENTS**) do you see across the **FAÇADE** of the building? *5*

4. How many **DOORS** do you see across the façade of the Capitol? *6 (in 3 groups of 2)*

5. How many free-standing **COLUMNS** are across the front of the Capitol? *12*

Do not count the columns on the dome.

6. What function do the columns serve?

Supporting the structures above them

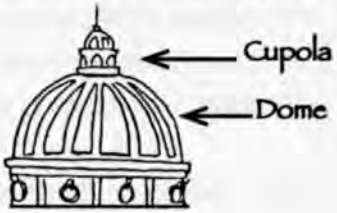
7. Circle the type of column that you see:

8. How many **DOMES** do you see? *3*

9. What material was used to make the main Capitol dome?

Limestone (from Indiana)

10. At the very top of the Capitol dome is a **CUPOLA** (Cyoo'puh'luh), which is a small decorative "cap" that sits on the roof of a building. The top of the cupola is covered in **GOLD LEAF**



What is another word for **GOLD LEAF**?

Gilded or gilding

11. Start with the **GRANITE** step and count the number of **LIMESTONE** steps to the front doors of the Capitol.

How many steps are there? *30*

The first step is granite (rough), the rest are limestone (smooth), so start counting at the second step.

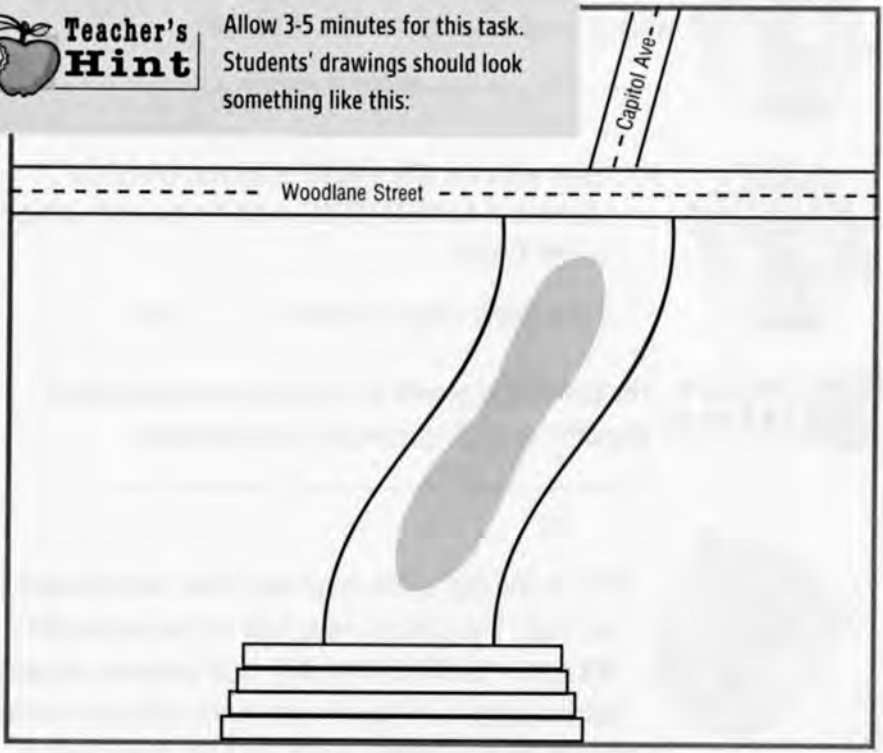
Stop at the top of the steps and look back toward the east. The Capitol was built on the site of the **STATE PENITENTIARY**, and prisoners actually helped build it. When the surveyors planned out the spot where the Capitol would be built, there was a 20-foot prison **WALL** around the property. The Capitol's **FOUNDATION** and part of the first floor were completed before that wall was torn down. According to **GOVERNOR** George Donaghey, who oversaw construction of the Capitol, when the wall came down, they found that the **SURVEYORS** had measured true east to west, assuming that the Capitol would line up with the street now known as Capitol Avenue. But the surveyors did not realize that the streets

in Little Rock do not run true east-west because of the angle of the Arkansas River to the north. As a result, the Capitol is positioned about 20 degrees off the center of Capitol Avenue. The imaginary center line of Capitol Avenue extends through the center of the Capitol rotunda, however, which shows that the surveyors' work was done carefully

12. Look down Capitol Avenue from the top step. Draw how the front sidewalk looks from the Capitol down to Woodlane Street:

Teacher's Hint

Allow 3-5 minutes for this task. Students' drawings should look something like this:



13. Why do you think the sidewalk was built this way?

The Capitol is aligned on an east-west axis, but Capitol Avenue does not run true east-west; they do not align at a 90-degree angle to each other. The designers built the sidewalk to connect the center of the Capitol with the center of Capitol Avenue.

14. Find the tunnel driveway Where is it? *Under the main steps*

15. Why do you think this tunnel was built? *To provide access to the 1st floor; covered area to drop people off*

(Gather your group in a safe area away from the tunnel driveway.)

ARCHITECTS are the people who design buildings. Two different architects worked on the building — **GEORGE MANN** from 1899-1909 and **CASS GILBERT** from 1909-1915. Mann was from St. Louis and Gilbert was from New York City. Both were well respected architects of their time and share credit for the design of the **BUILDING**.

While architects are designing a building, they must remember what it's purpose will be. The function of a building often decides its form or shape. This building was designed to be the official center of Arkansas's government with space for all the state offices. The Capitol has many offices and rooms to hold large groups of people.

(Page 4 of the "Explorer's Log")

16. Who were the two **ARCHITECTS** of this Capitol?

Cass Gilbert and George Mann

17. What is this building's purpose?

To house the state's government, hold public meetings, contain governor's office, etc.

First Floor

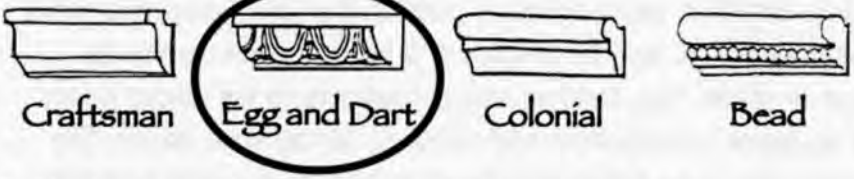
Proceed into the Capitol through the **TUNNEL** *Entrance and enter the center glass doors. Continue through the Capitol Police's security checkpoint and assemble in the center of the building in the open space surrounded by columns.*

18. Look up the definitions of **MARBLE** and **TERRAZZO**.

a. Are these materials used on the first floor? *Yes*

b. If so, where? *Floors, baseboards*

19. Look along the ceiling above you. Circle the kind of molding you see:



20. You have seen three different types of stone used in the construction of the Capitol. Which stone would be classified by **GEOLOGISTS** as:

IGNEOUS? *Granite*

METAMORPHIC? *Marble*

SEDIMENTARY? *Limestone*

21. The **MARBLE** in the Capitol came from three different states — Vermont, Colorado and Alabama. Name their capital cities:

Vermont *Montpelier*

Colorado *Denver*

Alabama *Montgomery*

22. On the diagram below:

a. Circle the type of **COLUMNS** you see on the first floor.

b. Draw a square around the type of columns you see on the second floor.

Compass Time!

Find NORTH, then go up the stairs at the NORTH end of the First Floor. At the top of the stairs, **pause to listen** for more clues from your group leader.

Read the next two paragraphs BEFORE entering the Governor's Reception Room.

Second Floor

History

Many of the rooms on the second floor were completed and in use before the official 1915 completion date. The Governor's Reception Room was first used in 1911, and the Old **SUPREME COURT** Chamber was first used in 1912. Most of the constitutional offices are located on this floor and were first used between 1912-1914.

Architecture

On this floor, you can see examples of the architectural details used throughout the building. The original brass **HARDWARE** on the doors is embossed with the state seal, and most **LIGHT FIXTURES** in the **PUBLIC ROOMS** are original. The finishes in the rotunda and hallways, Old Supreme Court Chamber and Governor's Reception Room have been restored to their original appearance.

Now enter the Governor's Reception Room and gather around the table in the center of the room.

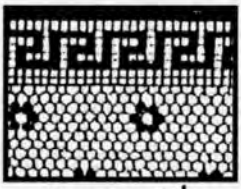
Governor's Reception Room

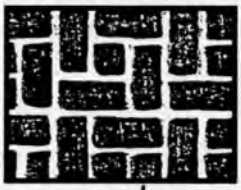
History & Architecture

This room is used as a meeting room for the Governor and has been restored to its original appearance. The walls are made out of **QUARTER-SAWN** oak paneling and the **PARQUET** floor contains five different kinds of wood. The **FAUX GRAINING** and **STENCILING** on the walls and ceiling beams reproduce the original patterns (which were painted over sometime between 1919 and 1930). All light fixtures except the **CHANDELIER** in the entry are original to this room. The mantels on the **FIREPLACES** are made out of limestone. The fireplaces were originally gas (not wood-burning) and are not used today. The doors on the east and west walls (use your compass!) lead to staff offices and the governor's private office (northeast door).

23. Circle the style of **FLOOR** that you see in this room:

Parquet


Hexagon Tile


Brick

24. How many **COLUMNS** can you see in this room? *None*

25. What is the paint design on the **CEILING** and along the walls called? *Stenciling/Faux Graining*

26. In the space below, draw the ceiling design:

Teacher's Hint Students may sketch any part of the ceiling design – beams, stencil details, etc. – that they find interesting. One of the objectives of this section is for the students to notice different details of the room. Allow about 5 minutes to complete this task.

27. Look at the **WINDOWS** in this room. Are these windows different from the windows in your house? *Yes*

How are they the same or different? *Large, all one piece, open to the balcony as doors*

Teacher's Hint Ask a student to read the center table plaque for clues to Questions 28 & 29.

28. What kind of wood was used to make the table in the center of the room? *Walnut*

29. Why was the table made of this type of wood?

Walnut is native to the state and it came from a tree on Governor Donaghey's father's farm.

30. Find the large **CHANDELIER**, **CANDELABRAS** and **SCONCES**.

From what metal are they made? *Silver (plate)*

31. Where are the carved faces of the Europeans and the Native Americans in this room? *Fireplace Mantels*

32. Why do you think their faces were placed here?

To honor the Native Americans, who were the state's first inhabitants, and the French, who were the first explorers to establish a colony here.

Teacher's Hint Native Americans are on the east fireplace; French are on the west fireplace.

Compass Time!

Find SOUTH, then walk in that direction through the EAST hallway. As you walk down the hall, write down the number of the Secretary of State's office: 256 .

Enter the **ROTUNDA** and go to the marble rail around the hole in the center of the room.

The Rotunda

History & Architecture

The word **ROTUNDA** means "a round place." Rotundas are common architectural features of large public buildings like this one, especially those that have **DOMES**. The "**RIBS**" that you see up inside the dome are made from molded **PLASTER**. Many of the **CORNICES** are also made of plaster, some are made from wood.

The **ARCHES**, **BALCONIES**, **RAILINGS** and **GALLERIES** you see in this area are repeated in other places in the building. Here in the center of the room, the marble rail surrounds what is known as the "oculus" or eye of the rotunda. In 2002 the rotunda was restored, including a top-to-bottom cleaning of the marble for the first time since the Capitol was completed. Above the rotunda hangs a massive brass chandelier made by the Mitchell-Vance Company of New York and installed in 1913. It was restored as part of the general rotunda restoration. To the west is the office of the State Treasurer.

33. How many **ARCHES** do you see in the rotunda? 4

34. How many **BALCONIES** do you see in the **ROTUNDA**? 4

35. How many **GALLERIES** do you see in the **ROTUNDA**? 4

36. How many glass globes or bowls are in the outer ring of the **CHANDELIER**? 16

Teacher's Hint The Galleries are on the third floor; the balconies are on the fourth floor.

Compass Time!

Find the EAST side of the rotunda. Gather in the area by the bronze doors, which were created by the Tiffany Company of New York.

37. The front doors are made of what metal? (circle one)

a) gold b) brass *c) bronze* d) copper

38. Why would there be a **REVOLVING DOOR** here?

Bronze doors are heavy; the revolving door is easy to open; keeps out bad weather and conserves heat and air-conditioning.

Compass Time!

Go back to the rotunda. Find SOUTH and go down the EAST hallway to the Old Supreme Court Chamber. Which constitutional office do you pass on the way? *Lieutenant Governor*

Enter the Supreme Court Chamber and sit on the WEST side of the room.

Old Supreme Court Chamber

History & Architecture

This room was used as a **COURTROOM** from 1912-1958. The Supreme Court moved to a new building next to the Capitol in 1958. This chamber has been restored to its original appearance and is now used as a meeting room for legislative committees and special seminars. The chamber still has many of its original features, including the mahogany rail, painted pine bench, justices' chairs and light fixtures.

(Page 9 of the "Explorer's Log")

39. How many **COLUMNS** are in this room? 4

40. Circle the type of column that you see:

41. How many **PILASTERS** are in this room?

8, plus the 4 corners for a total of 12

The corners count as one column.

The chamber's ceiling has special **DECORATIVE PLASTER** and wooden decorations. The molded plaster symbols along the top of the walls include an orange lamp (enlightenment or knowledge), a plain green shield (protection, defense or faith), and a blue-gray shield with anchor (hope or sureness) and dolphins (charity or swiftness). Other designs include circles, dowels and diamonds, which are common decorations in the **DORIC** architectural style.

42. Look at the **DECORATIVE PLASTER** moldings along the *top of the walls*. How many different symbolic designs can you see?

3: plain shield, anchor shield, lamp

43. What does the lamp shape represent? *Enlightenment or Knowledge*

44. What does the plain shield represent? *Faith, Defense or Protection*

45. How many **JUSTICES** serve on the court at one time? (Hint — look behind the bench.) *7*

46. How many **DOORS** does this room have? *5*

You may need to review the definition of Pediment for questions 47 & 48.

47. What is the name for the triangle shapes above the doors? *Pediments*

48. Which **DOORS** have this feature? (Use your compass!) *Doors on the East and West walls*

Compass Time!

As you leave the Supreme Court Chamber, stay on this floor and walk NORTH down the hallway. Find the marble stairs that go UP to the Third Floor. Go up those stairs, then walk down the EAST hallway. Turn right and find the iron-and-marble stairs that go UP to the Fourth Floor. **Notice the tile floor at the bottom of the stairway.** Go up these stairs and into the Senate Gallery and sit down. Check your directions — if you've kept track, you'll be sitting in the EAST Gallery.

Fourth Floor

Arkansas Senate

History & Architecture

Visitors sit in this room, called the Senate Gallery, to listen to what the senators are saying in the room below, known as the Senate Chamber. The chamber has served as the meeting room for the Arkansas Senate since 1911. This is one of the two rooms where our state laws are made. There are 35 elected senators for our state. Each senator represents about 76,000 people. The Lieutenant Governor, one of our state's constitutional officers, presides over the meetings. He sits in the chair behind the marble desk on the south side of the chamber.

(Page 11 of the "Explorer's Log)

49. What happens in this room? *The Senate meets here; makes laws*

50. Who presides over the meetings in this room? *Lieutenant Governor*

51. Where does that person sit? *Behind marble desk*

52. How many Senators sit in the chairs that face the south front of the chamber? *35*

Many changes and additions have been made since 1911, but many features remain original or have been restored. The chandelier, stained glass skylight, marble desk and hand-painted Great Seal of Arkansas all are original to this room. From the very first session of the **LEGISLATURE** held in here, complaints were made about the acoustics of this room and the House Chamber at the north end of the Capitol. The walls were eventually covered with red fabric panels to reduce echoes. Those panels were replaced in 2001 with the curtains you see draped from the skylight today and also serve to reduce echos. The stained glass was installed in 1914 to reduce light levels in the room — it was too bright!

53. How many globes or bowls are in the **CHANDELIER'S** outer ring? *6*

54. Who sits in the **GALLERIES** under the **ARCHES** on the Fourth Floor? *General Public*

Compass Time!

Stay on the FOURTH FLOOR. Find NORTH and walk past the iron-and-marble stairs to a large corridor. Turn right and walk down the EAST hallway. Stop in the hallway where you will see "composites," or groups of portraits of past Arkansas legislators.

Teacher's Hint Read the titles of the composites carefully for the correct answers.

55. How many composites do you count in this hallway? *13*

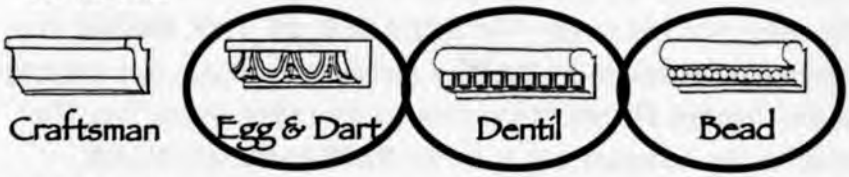
56. How many are of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**? *5*

57. How many are of the **SENATE**? *6*

58. Are there any composites of groups other than the House and Senate? *Yes*

59. If so, of whom? *Constitutional Conventions of 1917-1918 and 1979-80*

60. Stop at the **BALCONY** midway down the hallway on your left. Circle the kinds of moldings you see above the balcony and in the rotunda:



61. Where is the eagle on the big **ROTUNDA CHANDELIER**? *In the Center, on top*

Compass Time!

Find NORTH again and continue down the EAST hallway. When you reach the end of the hall, turn left, then turn right down the first hallway you find. Check your location at the end of the hallway — you should be standing in front of the door to the EAST House Gallery. Go into the Gallery to the center section of red chairs and sit down.

House of Representatives

History & Architecture

The room you see below you is the Arkansas House of Representatives' chamber. As in the Senate, visitors to the Capitol may sit in this gallery to watch and listen to what happens in the chamber during the legislative session. Together, the bodies of the House and Senate are known as the state legislature. There are 100 elected **REPRESENTATIVES** for our state. Each representative's district includes about 26,000 people. The **LEGISLATURE** meets every two years. The state **CONSTITUTION** requires that they "convene" (or begin the meeting) on the second Monday in January in odd-numbered years. They must meet for at least 60 days, although they can vote for the session to last longer. The **SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE** is a representative chosen by the other members to preside over meetings in the chamber. He sits in the chair by the United States flag. The chair by the Arkansas flag is for the **PARLIAMENTARIAN**.

Many changes have also been made in this room to meet the needs of a modern legislature, but many of the decorations resemble the original designs. The **CHANDELIER**, stained glass **SKYLIGHT** and **COLUMNS** are all original to this room. Of particular interest are the **SCAGLIOLA** (pronounced "skahl-YO-luh") columns; in George Mann's original plans for the Capitol, most columns were to be finished with this imitation marble because it was much less expensive than real marble. Later in the construction, Cass Gilbert was able to use marble in other areas of the building when more money became available. However, the scagliola columns remained in the House Chamber, giving visitors an idea of what would have been seen throughout the Capitol.

62. Are the **COLUMNS** made of marble or made to look like marble? *Look like marble*

63. Circle the style of **COLUMNS** you see in this room:

64. How many **COLUMNS** are in this room? *12*

65. How many **PILASTERS** are in this room? *4*

66. What is this room used for? *Legislative sessions, where Representatives meet to make laws*

67. Is there another room that is used for the same purpose as this one? *Yes*

68. If so, what is the name of the other room? *Arkansas Senate*

69. Why does this **GALLERY** have the clear divider in front of it? *Helps block noise and other distractions from the crowd*

Teacher's Hint The barrier is NOT bullet-proof.

70. Why do you think the **SKYLIGHT**, or glass ceiling, was made of stained glass? *To reduce glare, as in the Senate chamber.*

71. Why do you think the curtains are there? *To deaden echoes and improve acoustics*

Compass Time!

As you leave the gallery, head SOUTH down the hall to the iron-and-marble stairs. Stop at the top of the stairs and look at the floor design.

72. What material was used for this floor? *Tile (hexagonal)*

73. Is this type of floor used anywhere else in the building? *Yes*

If so, where? *Bottom of stairs on the 3rd floor, north end on the way to the Senate Chamber*

Compass Time!

Go down the stairs to the Third Floor. Turn right and then turn right again and walk NORTH toward the House Chamber. Stop halfway down the hall and stop at the **RAILING** overlooking the marble stairs. Look up at the **MURALS** in the ends of the **BARREL VAULT**

74. Using your compass, which direction is the mural that represents War? *North*

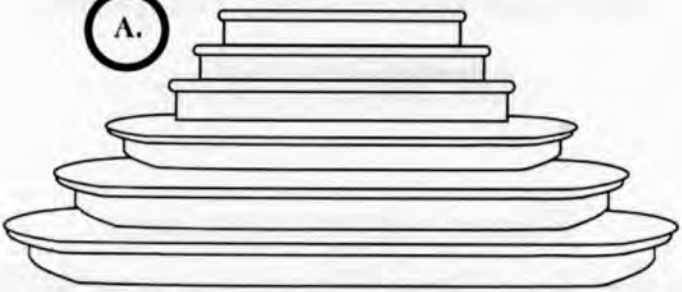
75. What is one symbol for War used in the mural? *Armor, Sword*

Compass Time!

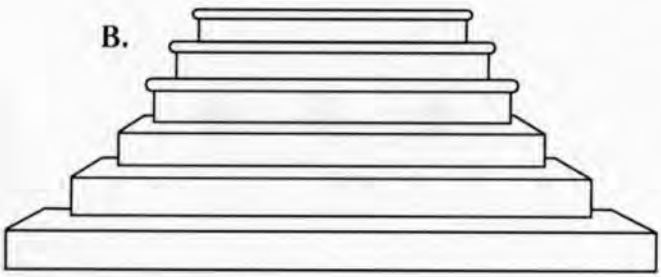
Continue walking NORTH down the hallway and turn left. If the House of Representatives chamber doors are open, you can pause to look inside. Walk down the grand marble **STAIRCASE** and stop at the bottom. Turn around and look back at the stairs.

76. Circle the letter of the stairs below that look most like the staircase before you:

A.



B.



Compass Time!

Walk NORTH down the EAST hallway toward the Governor's Office. Go down the stairs to the first floor. Stop and gather your group by the information center.

Congratulations!!!
You have successfully completed Capitol Quest!

Please return compasses to the Tour Desk. Thanks for exploring the Arkansas State Capitol!

Thank you once again for giving your students the opportunity to explore their State Capitol. We hope it was a fun, unique experience that has helped your students learn a new way to think about the design and craftsmanship of the buildings around them.

In addition to Capitol Quest, the Arkansas Secretary of State is pleased to offer a number of classroom resources at no charge to teachers. Arkansas history, voting education, and State Capitol construction are just a few of the topics covered. To find out more, visit our education website:

www.soskids.arkansas.gov

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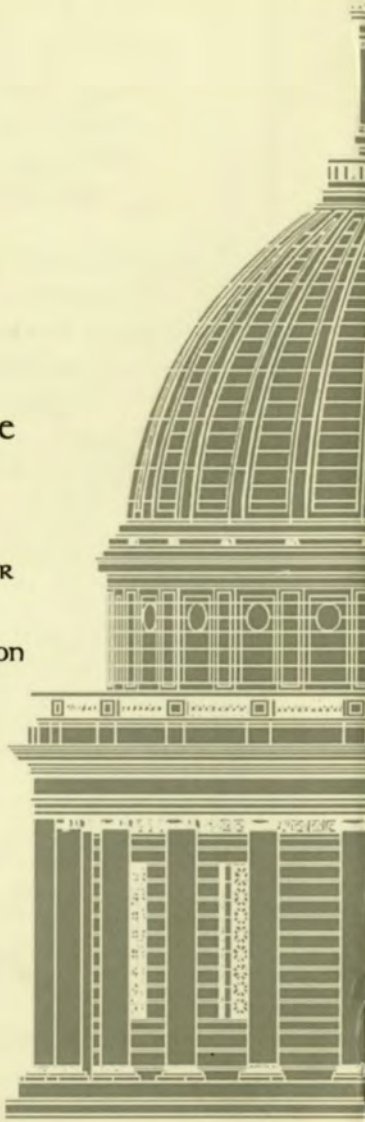

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