



GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



REAL PLACES. REAL STORIES

What Is a Capitol?

Everybody lives someplace. Even the government has a home. In Kansas the state government's home is in Topeka. The word "capitol" means "building." The grand building with the dome in Topeka is full of offices and meeting rooms. Sometimes people call the Capitol a "statehouse" because the "offices of state" are there.

Officials elected by Kansans to run state government meet and work in the Capitol. The governor has an office on the second floor. The Kansas House of Representatives has a large meeting hall in the west wing, and the Kansas Senate has one in the east wing. It is in these chambers, halls, and smaller meeting rooms at the Capitol that Kansas legislators debate and pass laws. Each legislator has an office in the Capitol.

Not everyone who runs state government can fit into one building. Many state officials have their offices in buildings near the capitol. Kansas government lives in more than one building!

Fun Fact: In a Cage!

The oldest elevator in the Capitol still works. This cage elevator was put into the Capitol in 1923. It is the only one that requires an operator, because it is not automatic.



What's on Top?

What sits on top of the capitol dome in Topeka? Before 2002 there was a 750 watt light bulb on the dome. Now a statue called *Ad Astra* sits on top. The statue is designed to look like a Kansa warrior who is aiming his bow and arrow toward the North Star.

- The Kansa people lived in this place we call Kansas when explorers first visited. The state of Kansas is named for these American Indians.

- The North Star helped travelers find their way. It appears to stay in the same place in the sky while other stars seem to move around. Once travelers located the star, they knew which way was north.
- The statue's name, *Ad Astra*, is a Latin phrase. These are the first two words of the Kansas state motto. *Ad Astra per Aspera* means "To the stars through difficulties."

GO FIGURE How Big Is the Statue?

1. The statue on the Capitol dome weighs 4,420 pounds. A ton is 2,000 pounds. About how many tons does the statue weigh? (Hint: Your answer will have a remainder. Round the remainder to a fraction.)
2. If an average student weighs 85 pounds, how many students would it take to equal the weight of the statue?
3. The statue on the capitol dome is 22 feet 2 inches tall. How many inches tall is the statue?
4. If an average student is 44 inches tall to his shoulders and if several students stood on each other's shoulders, how many students would it take to reach the top of the statue? (Hint: The top student can reach her hand out a bit to touch the top.)

Fun Fact: Six Flags over Kansas!

Six nations or states claimed part or all of the place we call Kansas before we became a state. Their flags hang in the Capitol rotunda. Kansas was once a part of England, the French monarchy, the French Republic, Mexico, Spain, and Texas.

1. 4,420 pounds divided by 2,000 pounds = 2 and $1/4$ tons
2. 4,420 pounds divided by 85 pounds per student = 52 students
3. 22 feet times 12 inches (per foot) plus 2 inches = 266 inches
4. 266 inches divided by 44 inches for each student = 6 students

What's in a Name?

No one knows who first suggested the name Kansas. In 1726 French explorer Jacques Marquette visited people living near a river that emptied into the Missouri River. He asked the people what they called the river. He wrote down the answer he heard, which was the name of the people who lived along the river. Those people were known as the "People of the South Wind." Over time the pronunciation and spelling changed. Here are a few of the spellings.

| | | |
|-------------|----------|---------|
| Acansis | Kances | Kantha |
| Akansa | Kancez | Kanza |
| Can | Ka Anjou | Kaw |
| Canzas | Ka-anzou | Keniser |
| Caugh | Kanissi | Koln-Za |
| Caw | Kansa | Konza |
| Escansques | Kansas | Okanis |
| Escanzaques | Kansau | Quans |
| Excanjaques | Kansies | Ukasas |

Can you find the names in this puzzle on the following page?

Fun Fact: Bath Time!

In the 1890s a number of bathtubs were put into the Capitol. Officials and legislators who traveled to Topeka came by horse or train. The dust of the road and the smoke from burning coal trains got them quite dirty as they traveled. When they got to Topeka they could take a bath in the Capitol! The last bathtub was taken out of the Capitol in 1935. One marble washbasin is still in the Secretary of State's Ceremonial Office on second floor north.



What's in a Name Word Search

K A S Z Q K A N S A S K A
C A W A U S Q U C A E O K
A N O K A N I S A S X L A
U K A A N J O U C E C N N
G U K A S A S O A S A Z C
H K A S N K A K N C N A E
K A N T H A S A S A J S S
O N S I E N K A I N A Z E
N S I S E S A N S S Q Z E
Z A E S C A N Z A Q U E S
A U S T A Y C O L U E K N
C A N S N A E U T E S N K
S K A N Z A Z E N S Q U A
N S A K A W K E N I S E R
K A N I S S I K A N S A D

Fun Fact: Windy Way!

Before the center part of the capitol was completed the east and west wings were connected by a wooden tunnel known as the "Cave of the Winds."

Fun Fact: It's a "Hot Time" in the Capitol!

There are 11 fireplaces on the second floor of the Capitol. They were used to heat the offices long ago.



What Do You Know?

The state of Kansas takes its name from the Kansa.

List three things you know about the Kansa people:

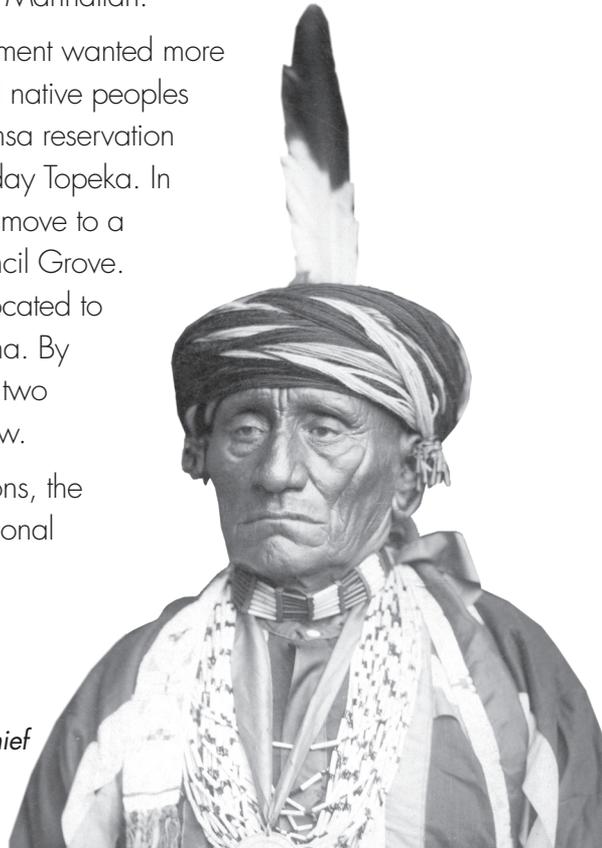
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Who Are the Kansa?

Long ago, before the United States was a country, the Kansa lived on the land we call Kansas. By the time the United States bought the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Kansa lived in a large village near present-day Manhattan.

In the 1830s the U.S. government wanted more land for settlers so they moved native peoples onto reservations. The first Kansa reservation was an area west of present-day Topeka. In 1848 the tribe was forced to move to a second reservation near Council Grove. By 1872 the Kansa were relocated to Indian Territory, now Oklahoma. By that time they were known by two names: the Kansa and the Kaw.

Before they lived on reservations, the Kansa had two types of traditional homes.



Washunga, Kansa chief

Their permanent home was built of a circular frame of wooden poles stuck into the ground at one end and tied together in an arch at the top. Over the frame was placed a thin cover of animal skins, tree bark, and woven grass mats. Two families, who were related to each other, would live in the house.

The Kansa lived in tipis when they traveled from place to place on a hunt. A tipi is a portable home

of wooden poles with a buffalo hide cover. The Kansa gathered food from the plants near where they lived. They also grew corn, beans, pumpkins, and melons in small gardens. For meat the Kansa liked buffalo, but also ate deer, rabbits, and other small animals and fish.

Long ago the Kansa made their clothes from animal hides. Kansa boys learned to be hunters and warriors by playing games. One game was to roll a wooden hoop along the ground and shoot an arrow through it as it moved. As they grew older they worked with men in the village to make decisions about where to move and when to hunt. Kansa girls helped their mothers prepare food, make clothing, and take care of babies. They made dolls of sticks and animal hide. Girls helped their mothers decorate clothes and tipi covers with brightly colored beads. An 11-year-old girl could carry a 100-pound load of firewood on her back for up to nine miles!



The Kansa had many celebrations and festivals. They would eat, sing, dance, and tell stories. Kansa children did not go to school. They learned about life by listening to adults tell stories. In this way, the traditions of the Kansa would continue.

Today the Kansa live all over the world and call themselves Kaw. The Kaw Nation has its tribal headquarters in Kaw, Oklahoma.



Kaw Mission State Historic Site in Council Grove marks the location of the Kansa Reservation after 1848 until the tribe's move to Oklahoma.

What Did You Learn?

List three things you have learned about the Kansa:

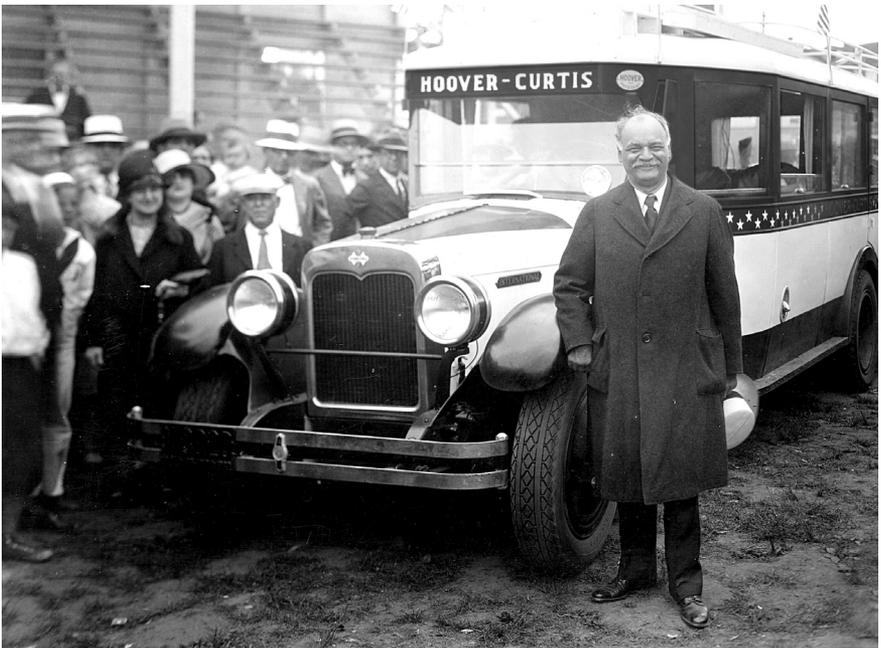
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

FAMOUS KANSAN Charles Curtis

Kansan Charles Curtis made history when he became vice president of the United States in 1929. He was the first person of American Indian heritage to be elected to our country's second-highest office.

Curtis was born in 1860 on land owned by his grandmother in North Topeka. Because she was half Kansa, Charles was a member of the Kansa tribe. When Charles was six years old he went to live with his Kansa grandmother. She lived on the Kaw Reservation near Council Grove. Charles was nine years old when he returned to Topeka to go to school.

Charles Curtis studied to be a lawyer. In 1892 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. In 1907 Curtis was elected to the U.S. Senate. In 1929 he became vice president to Herbert Hoover. They took office shortly before the stockmarket crash of October 1929, and were in office at the beginning of the Great Depression.



Capitol Murals

Artworks by many people decorate the Capitol. The most famous paintings are by John Steuart Curry. Curry painted large murals in the hallway of the east wing on the second floor. John Steuart Curry was born in Dunavant, Kansas, in 1897. He painted the Capitol murals in the 1940s. Curry was already a famous artist when he started his murals.

Some people were unhappy with Curry's work, believing he missed important details. How would you answer these criticisms?

- The Hereford bull is too red.
- John Brown is too large.
- The farm wife's skirt is too short.
- Pigs' tails won't curl when they eat.



Fun Fact:
Sign here,
please!

John Steuart Curry did not sign his murals because he did not consider them to be finished works of art.

Curry was to paint murals on the second floor. He asked the legislature to remove some marble from the walls to give him more room for his works. They refused, so Curry quit painting before he started the rotunda murals. Who would finish the Capitol murals?

The 1951 legislature asked David H. Overmyer of Topeka to paint the first floor rotunda murals. Overmyer finished the eight murals in 1953. In 1976 Lumen Martin Winter, a native Kansan, was asked to paint the second floor rotunda murals. Winter's eight murals were based on sketches John Stuart Curry had made.

What's in a Name Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| K | A | S | Z | Q | K | A | N | S | A | S | K | A |
| C | A | W | A | U | S | Q | U | C | A | E | O | K |
| A | N | O | K | A | N | I | S | A | S | X | L | A |
| U | K | A | A | N | J | O | U | C | E | C | N | N |
| G | U | K | A | S | A | S | O | A | S | A | Z | C |
| H | K | A | S | N | K | A | K | N | C | N | A | E |
| K | A | N | T | H | A | S | A | S | A | J | S | S |
| O | N | S | I | E | N | K | A | I | N | A | Z | E |
| N | S | I | S | E | S | A | N | S | S | Q | Z | E |
| Z | A | E | S | C | A | N | Z | A | Q | U | E | S |
| A | U | S | T | A | Y | C | O | L | U | E | K | N |
| C | A | N | S | N | A | E | U | T | E | S | N | K |
| S | K | A | N | Z | A | Z | E | N | S | Q | U | A |
| N | S | A | K | A | W | K | E | N | I | S | E | R |
| K | A | N | I | S | S | I | K | A | N | S | A | D |



Fun Fact: *Ad Astra*, the statue by Richard Bergen, was placed on the Capitol dome in 2002.

The State Motto

The language of Latin is no longer spoken in daily life. Latin is still used in law and science. John J. Ingalls learned Latin in school. He came to Kansas when he was 25 years old. Ingalls believed Kansas had a bright future. He helped write the state constitution. Ingalls first coined the phrase that became the Kansas motto. He believed Kansans could “realize the impossible.” He stated the motto in Latin to give it dignity.



Ad Astra per Aspera
"To the stars through difficulties"

If you could choose a new state motto for the 21st century, what phrase would you select and why?



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