

**Chase County Courthouse
Third Grade**

**Developed for
Library of Congress Midwest Region
“It’s Elementary: Teaching with Primary Sources” 2011**

**By Carrie Riggs
Chase County Elementary, USD 284
Strong City, KS**

Overview: This lesson is designed to help students identify and understand why a site is a landmark in their community. The Chase County Courthouse is an example of a landmark in Cottonwood Falls, Kansas. Students will read an expository text looking for main idea and supporting detail. They will use a graphic organizer to compile these details. The students will then use this graphic organizer to write a summary of the text. This lesson is designed to take three class periods.

Standards

History (2004)

Benchmark 3, Indicator 2: The student will locate and explain the importance of landmarks and historical sites within the community in his/her region of Kansas.

Kansas Standards for History, Government and Social Studies (2013)

Standard #1 Choices have consequences

Benchmark 1.1: The student will recognize and evaluate significant choices made by individuals, communities, states, and nations that have impacted our lives and futures.

Kansas College and Career Readiness Reading Standards for Informational Text

RI 3.2: The student will determine the main idea of a text; recount the key and explain how they support the main idea.

RI 3.4: The student will determine the meaning of general academic and domain-specific words and phrases in a text relevant to a *grade 3 topic or subject area*.

Objectives**Content:**

- The student will identify the main idea and three details from an informational text that explains why a site is designated a landmark.

Skill:

- The student will select the correct meaning of definition for vocabulary associated with an expository text.
- The student will summarize the main idea and supporting idea in paragraph form.

Essential Questions

- What is a landmark?
- Why do people name some building as landmarks?
- Why is the Chase County Courthouse a landmark?

Resource Table

Image	description	citation	url
	<p>Photo #1 An early view of the Chase County Courthouse, It was constructed between 1871 and 1873.</p>	<p>Kansas Historical Society <i>Kansas Memory</i> Item Number: 210328</p>	<p>http://www.kansasmemory.org/item/210328/page/1</p>
	<p>Photo #3 The spiral staircase in the Chase County Courthouse.</p>	<p>“Chase County Courthouse Restored” CJ Online Posted: Sunday, November 02, 2008 By Jan Biles</p>	<p>http://cjonline.com/stories/110208/loc_350910433.shtml</p>
	<p>Photo #2 A modern painting of the mansard red roof with filigree ironwork.</p>	<p>“Chase County Attractions” rivercityassoc@sbcglobal.net</p>	<p>http://www.chasecountys.org/attractions/chasecountycourthouse.htm</p>
	<p>Text adapted from; Chase County Courthouse; “A Promise to Preserve” Campaign</p>	<p>Draft September 2003 Case Statement Chase County Courthouse Preservation Committee</p>	
	<p>Text adapted from “8 Wonders of Kansas Architecture”</p>	<p>Maci Penner</p>	<p>http://www.kansassampler.org/8wonders/architectureresults.php</p>

Day 1--Vocabulary Memory Game Activity—Whole Class Activity

1. Make one set of vocabulary words (see **For the Teacher**) on one color of notecards with the definition on the other color of notecards.
2. Preview the list of vocabulary words and their meaning with the class.
3. Lay the two colors of cards face down on the floor in front of the class or on a table. The students are going to match the vocabulary word with its definition.
4. Choose one student to take a turn choosing a vocabulary card and reads it aloud. They then turn over one of the definition cards, also reading it aloud to the class. If they match, they take another turn following the same procedure. If the cards don't match, both are laid face down again, and a different student from the class is chosen to take a turn.
5. Follow this procedure until all vocabulary and definitions are matched. It is important to read the vocabulary word and definition aloud each time to include all students in the activity. (This activity can also be set up digitally on a smart board.)

Day 2--Reading Activity

1. For today's lessons, you will need copies of the three photographs, a copy of the text, graphic organizer and summary sheet for each student. You will also be using the vocabulary cards. The students will need a pencil, red and blue crayon.
2. Review the vocabulary words and their definitions.
3. Open the lesson with the essential questions. Write down their responses on a board and discuss.
 - What is a landmark?
 - Why do people name some building as landmarks?
4. Hand out the copies of the text and have the students read aloud "**The Chase County Courthouse**".
5. Now you will need three photographs for discussion. Show the black and white **Photo #1** to illustrate the general architecture of the French Renaissance.
6. Use **Photo #2** to illustrate the red mansard roof and the ironwork filigree.
7. Finally use **Photo # 3** to show the spiral staircase and the interior wood work.
8. Then have the students take a red crayon and circle the main idea of the article.

9. Now using their blue crayons, they are to circle the supporting details as the teacher reads the article one more time.
10. Use the main idea and the supporting ideas to fill in the **Graphic Organizer the Chase County Courthouse**.
11. Use the graphic organizer to write a summary of the article. (This summary could also be used as a narration of the photos on a power point.)

Day 3—Tour the Courthouse

1. Contact the Chase Country Chamber of Commerce at 620-273-8469 to set up a tour of the courthouse.
2. The students will be need a clip board and pencil with the skill sheet **“Key to the Chase Country Courthouse.”**
3. Have the students prepared to look for the architectural details by reviewing them before leaving for the courthouse.
4. After the tour is over, give the students some time to complete the skill sheet and hand it in.

Assessment

- Evaluate the student’s ability to identify the main idea and supporting details from the article **“The Chase County Courthouse”** on the **Chase County Courthouse Graphic Organizer**. Total points possible—10. Four points for main idea and one point for each supporting detail.
- Evaluate the student’s ability to write a summary. Total points possible—10. Five points for correct summary and five points for correct sentence structure.
 - The Chase County Courthouse is a landmark. It is unique both inside and out. It stands 113 feet tall with French Renaissance style, a mansard roof with filigree ironwork. It was built of limestone with a walnut spiral staircase.
 - Evaluate the student’s ability to complete the fieldtrip worksheet **Keys to the Courthouse**. Total points possible—4. One point for each correct answer and one point for correct sentence structure.

For the Teacher

Materials Needed

- Two sets of different colored note cards

- One with vocabulary words
- One with definitions
- Clipboards and pencils
- Red crayons and blue crayons.
- Copies of photographs
- Copies of summary page
- Copies of the text “Chase Courty Courthouse”
- Copies of “Keys to the Courthouse”
- Copies of graphic organizer

Vocabulary Words

- Landmark-- a building or other place that is of outstanding historical or cultural importance.
- French Renaissance—described as an artistic movement in France from the late 17th century.
- Mansard—a four sided roof characterized by two slopes on each side.
- Filigree –delicate ornamental work with metal wires
- Ironworks—things casted(made) from iron
- photographed – to take a photo of some things
- Continuous— uninterrupted in time.
- Recognizable—something seen before
- Architect—a person who designs building
- Spiral—coiling around a single point

Answer Key

Chase County Courthouse Graphic Organizer

- Main Idea: The courthouse has unique features both inside and outside that set it apart from other buildings in the county.
- Supporting Details:
 - Standing 113-feet tall
 - French Renaissance style
 - red mansard roof
 - filigree ironwork
 - local limestone,
 - three-story spiral staircase made from walnut trees.

Summary with 10 points—

Keys to the Courthouse with 4 points – 1 point for each correct answer and 1 point for correct sentence structure.

The Chase County Courthouse

One of the most popular landmarks in Chase County is the courthouse. Both inside and outside it has unique features that set it apart from other buildings in the county. It is one of the most recognizable, and according to the Kansas State Historical Society, it is one of the most photographed buildings in Kansas!

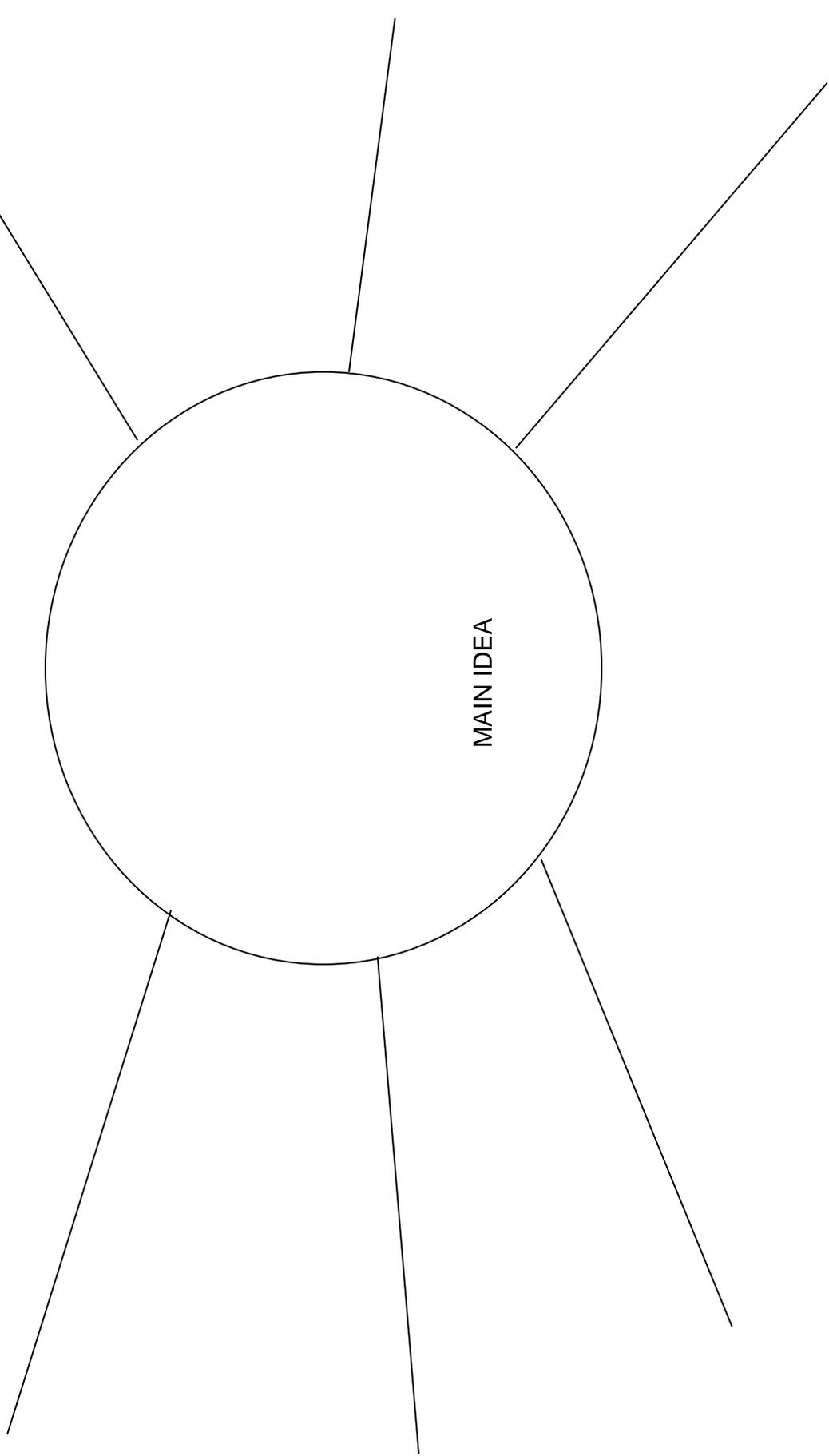
Standing 113-feet tall, you can see the courthouse and its striking French Renaissance style with a red mansard roof edged with filigree ironwork from points throughout the country. The French Renaissance style is characterized by this unusual shape of the roof. This structure is built of local limestone and has a three-story spiral staircase made from walnut trees from the Cottonwood River Valley.

Completed in 1873, it's the oldest county courthouse still in use in Kansas and the second oldest in continuous use west of the Mississippi River.

The courthouse was designed by noted Kansas architect John G. Haskell of Lawrence. He was the first architect of the Kansas statehouse and designed many other important early Kansas buildings.

Name _____

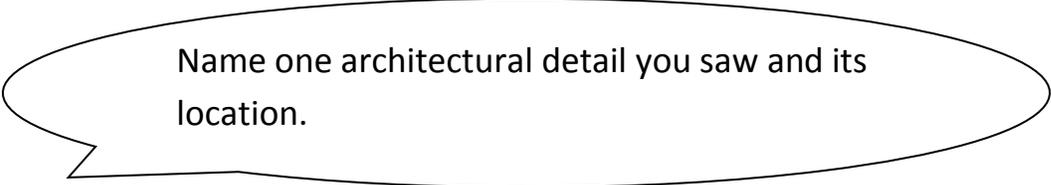
**Chase County Courthouse
Graphic Organizer**



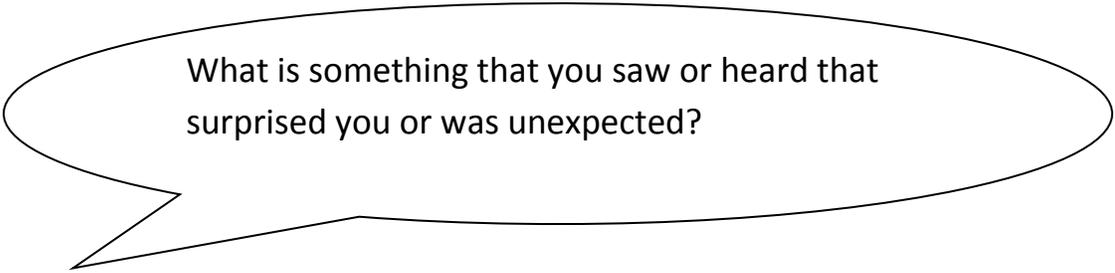
Name _____

Keys to the Courthouse

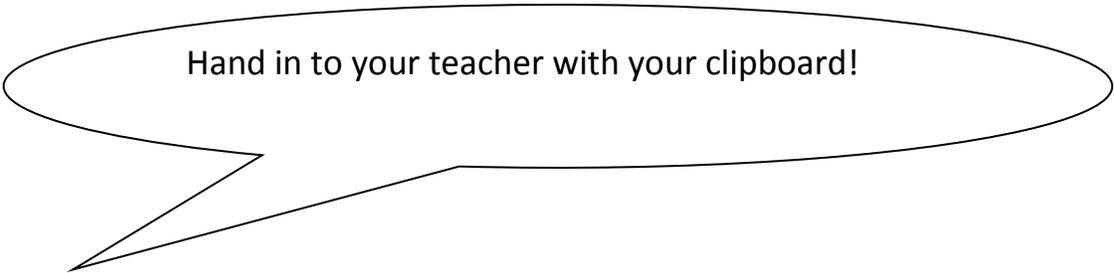
Students the “key” to enjoying your field trip today is answering the following two questions.



Name one architectural detail you saw and its location.



What is something that you saw or heard that surprised you or was unexpected?



Hand in to your teacher with your clipboard!