

## **Teacher Guide for COBBLESTONE, A Fair to Remember**

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Betty Lou Askin, a retired educator, who lives in Toronto Ontario, prepared this guide.

### **Emma at the Fair** (pages 2-5)

Questions to consider:

- What was the "White City"?
- Make a list of the things Emma saw on Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- What types of exhibits were displayed in the Manufacturers and Liberal Arts building?
- What marvels did Emma see on Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>?
- How was Columbus featured at the fair?
- Describe how they got real sea saltwater for the fish tanks.
- Describe some of the sights Emma saw on Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Creative Work:  
Ask the students to create a diary for Emma. Have them record the activities that Emma experienced each day of her visit. They might also include pictures with their written work.

### **A Turning Point** (pages 7-9)

Points for discussion:

- Why do you think that people throughout the ages have held fairs/expositions?
- What was the first modern fair?
- Why was the 1876 fair developed?
- Suggest ideas why the Columbian Exposition was such a great world-wide success.
- Write a passage describing 5 legacies that resulted from the Columbian Exposition.

### **Dreaming of the White City** (pages 10-12)

- Why was Chicago chosen as the site for the Columbian Exposition?
- Explain Burnham's saying, "Make no little plans."
- Why do you think that Olmsted chose Jackson Park as the site for the Columbian Exposition?
- What is Beau-Arts style?
- Write a paragraph explaining how the Columbian Exposition influenced other cities.

### **Public Spaces** (page 13)

- What added to Olmsted's vision of green spaces?
- What brought initial fame to Olmsted?
- Describe the landscape that Olmsted developed for the Columbian Exposition.
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### **An American Renaissance** (pages 14-17)

- Why do you think that David Burnham wanted the architects to work together?
- If you could have attended the Columbian Exposition, which building would have been your first choice to visit? Explain why it might have been your favorite.

### **Light Show** (page 18)

- In your opinion, why was the Electricity Building One of the most popular exhibits.
- Tell about the two competitors in the field of electricity.

### **Solving the Poop Problem** (pages 20-21)

- Describe each of the transportation creations provided for people at the Columbian Exposition. Where possible make a diagram to show the mode of transportation.

### **A Showcase for Women** (pages 22-23)

- Write a paragraph explaining why the Columbian Exposition marked a huge success for women.
- What types of displays were showcased in the Women's Building?

### **Down and Out in the Windy City** (pages 26-28)

Ideas for discussion:

- Who was Ray Stannard Baker?
- Why do you think that he chose to write about poverty?
- Why is the title of this article appropriate to the content?
- Explain the meaning of the editorial cartoon on page 28.
- Why was his writing important to society?

### **Left Out** (pages 28-29)

- What were black Americans wondering about the attitude of the organisers?
- Why was insult added to injury?
- What message did the pamphlet convey to the public?

### **Stroll Down the Midway** (pages 30-32)

Some ideas for use with this article-

- Describe the difference between Putnam's and Bloom's ideas regarding a midway.
- Where was the Midway Plaisance set up at the Exposition
- How were Americans exposed to far away places?
- What were some of the rides at the midway?
- What was provided for relaxation?
- Describe some of the new machines.
- In a paragraph explain why the Columbian Exposition could be considered a prototype.

### **Welcome to the Wild West!** (page 33)

- Why did the fair's organisers refuse to have the Wild West Show as part of the exposition?
- Explain why the separate location added to the success of Wild Bill's show.
- Describe who was part of the Wild West Show.

### **Ferris's Grand Idea** (pages 34-36)

- Explain why D. Burnham was "stumped".
- Describe the idea that Ferris drew on his napkin.
- Why do you think that the organisers said no to Ferris?
- Describe the design of the Ferris Wheel.

**Closing Day** (pages 37-39)

- Describe the fate of many of the Exposition's buildings.
- What happened to many of the statues?
- In a paragraph, write about the legacy of the Columbian Exposition.

**Seeing the World** (pages 40-41)

- Choose the exhibit that you would have liked to visit. Explain why it might be your favorite.

**Creative Work**

- Design an ad that could entice people to visit the Columbian Exposition.
- Pretend that you are visiting the Exposition. Send a postcard or a letter to a friend describing your experiences and the sights.
- Make pictures/drawings of the things that you see at the Exposition.
- Create a newspaper article (or a radio talk show) describing the fair.