

What Was the Trans-Mississippi Exposition?

DIRECTIONS: Answer the questions below using the video we watch together in class.

<https://youtu.be/KPOEZadMJ5Y?si=KhqzKzEc50mDiiV3>

1. WHO: How many people visited the Trans-Miss?
2. WHAT: What types of events, rides, games, or exhibits did visitors see and experience?
3. WHEN: When did the Trans-Miss take place? Use month, day, and year.
4. WHERE: Where within Omaha did the exposition take place?
5. WHY: What was the point of having the exposition? What did the organizers want people to learn or see?

DIRECTIONS: Read the passages below. After you read each passage, answer the questions on the right.

Reading Passages	Questions for Understanding
<p style="text-align: center;">SECTION 1</p> <p>The tradition of World's Fairs began in the mid-1800s with the Great Exhibition of 1851 in London. Since then, these gatherings have continued to change. The United States has hosted more than two dozen expositions since its first in 1876 in Philadelphia. Throughout their history, these huge events have not only been platforms to display architectural marvels and technological advancement but have also served as opportunities for cultural exchange.</p> <p>The United States uses Expos to promote American innovation, culture, and values. Expos facilitate people-to-people diplomacy while showcasing the latest American innovations that can help address global challenges and change the way we live.</p>	<p>Based on what you read, what is one goal of expositions and world's fairs?</p>

SECTION 2

The decades before Omaha hosted the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition were tumultuous. In the 1880s, Omaha's population had tripled thanks to the creation of the Union Pacific railroad lines that began in Omaha and branched across the West. Omaha's economy thrived, and the city embraced new services for its residents, like a grand public library, a sewage system, and a streetcar service that eventually expanded across the city. However, in the early 1890s, Nebraska suffered from a long drought. Farmers struggled to grow and sell their crops, bringing business to a halt – even in the city of Omaha. So many immigrants had moved to Nebraska in the 1880s that the state's population had doubled; however, Nebraska became home to hardly any immigrants in the early 1890s, and many who had moved to the state in years earlier had to give up their farms and move away.

1. Based on the information that comes next, what do you think **tumultuous** means?
2. Based on what you read in this section, why might the planners of the Trans-Miss have wanted to host the exposition in Omaha? How might it help the city?

SECTION 3

Hopes for the city lifted when Omaha was officially selected to host the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Chicago had hosted an exposition in 1893. It was very grand and successful, but citizens of newer American states in the West felt that they had been forgotten. Omaha sold itself as the “gateway to the wonders of the West,” and hoped that the Trans-Mississippi Exposition would draw people from across the country to learn about the culture and technology in western states. The exposition was a huge success, attracting more than two million visitors between June and September of 1898. Omaha's economy was revived, and the organizers achieved their goals of highlighting innovations, like the “horseless carriage,” and unique aspects of western life, through events like the Indian Congress held in August.

1. Why did Nebraska and other states want to host the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, even though Chicago had just hosted an exposition a few years earlier?
2. What made the Trans-Mississippi Exposition a success?

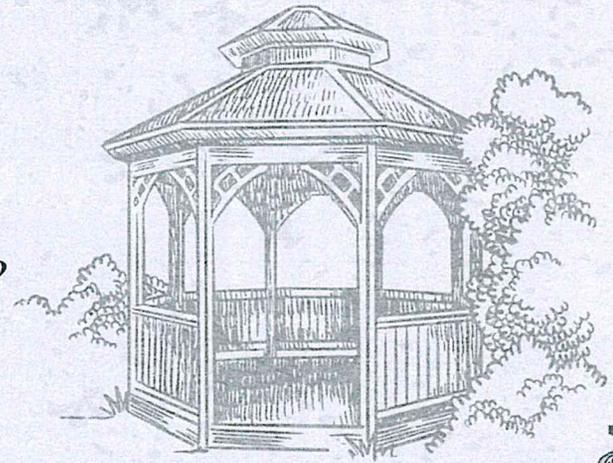
A decorative scroll with a central banner containing the text. The scroll has ornate flourishes at the top and bottom, and is set against a light blue background with decorative corner pieces.

WHAT WAS THE
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION?

WHAT WAS THE TRANS-MISS?

GOAL: Infer what visitors to the Trans-Miss might have experienced

- Together, we are going to watch a video introducing us to the Trans-Miss. The video will play **twice** so you have time to take notes!
- As we watch, answer the 5W questions in your notes:
 - **WHO:** How many people visited the Trans-Miss?
 - **WHAT:** What did visitors see or experience?
 - **WHEN:** When did the Trans-Miss take place?
 - **WHERE:** Where within Omaha did the fair take place?
 - **WHY:** Why was the fair important? What new technology or important people were involved?





<https://youtu.be/KPOEZadMJ5Y?si=KhqzKzEc50mDliV3>

UNDERSTANDING THE TRANS-MISS



EAST END OF GRAND COURT

GOAL: Read to understand the goals and impacts of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition

- Read the question for Section 1. Then, read Section 1. When you find information that relates to the question, **STOP!** Answer the question! Then keep reading.
- Repeat the process for Section 2 and Section 3

10:00