



MIDWAY

The image features a central white scroll with a decorative border. The scroll is unrolled in the middle, showing the word "MIDWAY" in a bold, black, serif font. The scroll's edges are shaded with fine lines to create a three-dimensional effect. The scroll is set against a light blue background with a subtle floral pattern. Four ornate, black-and-white corner decorations are positioned at the corners of the page, each featuring intricate scrollwork and floral motifs.



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F. A. FINEHART, OMAHA.

NORTH FROM ADMINISTRATION ARCH

No 351

**NORTH END**

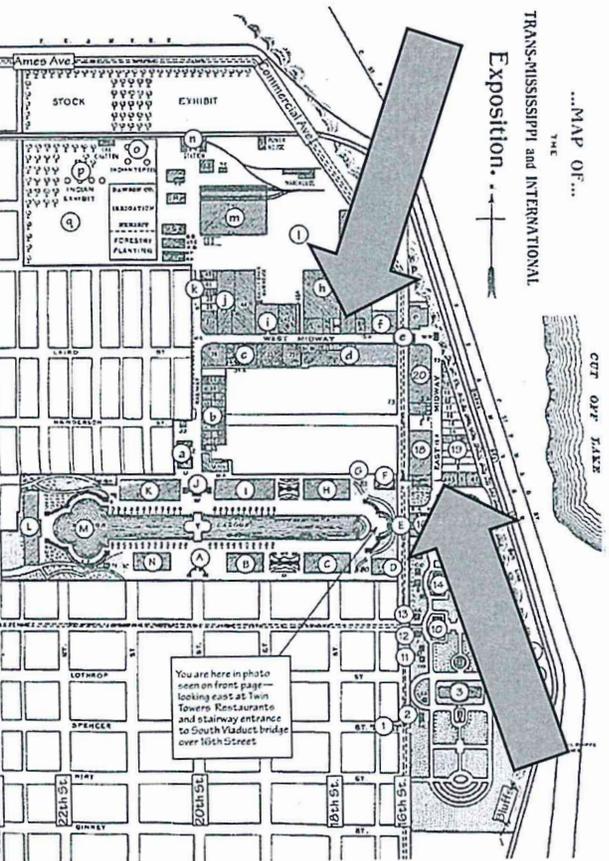
- a. Hospital, Press Building
- b. Baby Incubator, Food Court
- c. Heaven & Hell, U.S. vs Spain
- Haunted Swing, Dog Show, Chinese Village, Wild Animals
- d. Shooting the Chutes
- e. North Viaduct
- f. Giant See-Saw
- g. Scenic Railway
- h. Wild West Show of Omaha and Pabst Building
- i. Cyclorama
- j. Street of All Nations, Schlitz Building, Ice cream
- k. Union Pacific Miniature Railway
- l. Infantry Parade Grounds (former Omaha Driving Park)
- m. Transportation & Agricultural Implements Building
- n. Missouri Pacific Railroad Station
- o. Indian Tipi Camp
- p. Indian Exhibit
- q. Sham Battle Grounds

**GRAND COURT**

- A. Arch of States Entrance
- B. Liberal Arts Building
- C. Mines & Mining Building
- D. Auditorium Building
- E. South Viaduct
- F. Girls & Boys Building
- G. Rinehart Photo Studio
- H. Machinery & Electricity Building
- I. Manufacturers Building
- J. Administration Building
- K. Agricultural Building
- L. U.S. Government Building
- M. Fountain of Neptune
- N. Fine Arts Building

**Grand Court Boundaries:**

Pratt Street—North  
 Pinkney Street—South  
 Sherman Ave. (16th St.)—East  
 24th Street—West



...MAP OF...  
 THE  
**TRANS-MISSISSIPPI and INTERNATIONAL  
 Exposition.**

**BLUFFS TRACT—EAST END**

- |                               |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Horticulture Entrance      | 9. Nebraska Sod House         | 17. Grand Plaza          |
| 2. Georgia Building           | 10. Iowa Building             | 18. Moorish Village      |
| 3. Horticulture Building      | 11. Chinese Village & Exhibit | Dancing Girls            |
| 4. Council Bluffs RR Entrance | 12. Montana Building          | 19. Japanese Tea Garden, |
| 5. New York Building          | 13. Potawatamie Co. Wig Wam   | German Village           |
| 6. Kansas Building            | 14. Wisconsin Building        | 20. Streets of Cairo     |
| 7. Minnesota Building         | 15. Illinois Building         |                          |
| 8. Nebraska Building          | 16. Band Stand                |                          |

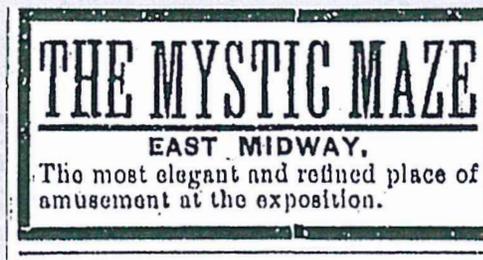
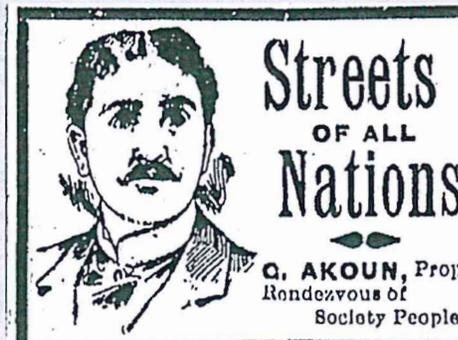
based on a map  
 produced for  
 Leonard Owen

# FIVE SENSES ON THE MIDWAY

GOAL: Predict what people saw, heard, smelled, and felt while walking down the Midway

1. Look at the pictures on the right. Pick **ONE** midway attraction to focus on
2. Imagine what it would be like to experience the attraction. In your notebook, fill in these sentences:

- I would see...
- I would hear...
- I would smell...
- I would feel...
- I would taste...

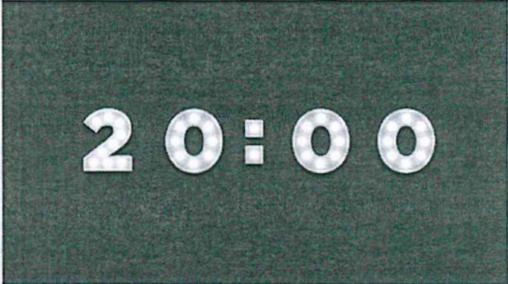


# RESEARCH AN ATTRACTION!

**GOAL:** Collaborate with a partner to find the most important details from a primary source and communicate your learning to others.

Spin for your Midway Topic: <https://wheelofnames.com/yqp-q2u>

1. With your partner, find and read the primary source about your Midway attraction
2. On your notes, fill in the three questions about your Midway attraction
  - What would you feel, hear, smell, taste, and feel at this attraction?
  - How does this show either progress/technology of 1898 OR the way marginalized groups –for example, people of different races or people with disabilities – were treated in the 1890s?
  - Do you think people want to visit this kind of attraction today? Why or why not?
3. Create a poster with the name of your attraction and the information you found. **You and your**

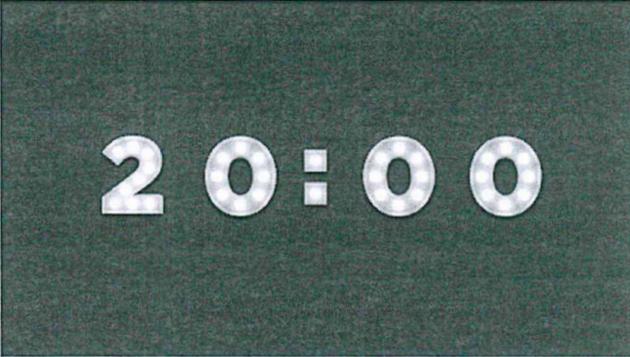


20:00

# MIDWAY GALLERY WALK

**GOAL:** Compare events that were included in the midway

- Pick three other Midway attractions around the room to take notes on
- Answer the questions on your notes about the attraction
- **MOVEMENT:** Move at your own pace. Try not to clump up around pictures – keep it moving!
- **VOICE:** We should not be able to hear you from across the room
- **PARTICIPATION:** Work by yourself or with one partner



20:00

Name:

## The Midway

**DIRECTIONS:** With your group, read the primary source about your midway attraction. Use the primary source to answer the questions below.

1. The name of our midway attraction is:
2. At this attraction, you would see:
3. At this attraction, you would hear:
4. At this attraction, you would smell:
5. At this attraction, you would taste:
6. At this attraction, you would feel:
7. People (would/wouldn't) want to visit this attraction today because...

Choose ONE of the two questions below to answer about your midway attraction. Think about which question applies best to your midway attraction.

8. This attraction shows the progress in technology in the 1890s because...
9. This attraction shows how people thought about and treated marginalized groups (like people of different races or people with disabilities) during the 1890s because...

Name of the Attraction	What would a visitor feel, hear, smell, taste, and/or feel?	Does this show progress/technology OR how people treated marginalized groups?	Do you think people would want to visit this attraction today? Why or why not?

REFLECTION QUESTION

How did the Midway at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition represent both progress AND old-fashioned, outdated ideas? Notice this is a two-part question. Answer both parts!

# Streets of All Nations



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SCENE IN STREETS OF ALL NATIONS.

Streets of All Nations held an attraction attempting to present many different races with camel-riding, fortune-telling, and knickknacks for sale.

The Streets of All nations included a mosque (an Islamic house of worship); Turkish dancers; camels and donkeys; a German restaurant; a Chinese village with bamboo mats and Chinese artwork for sale and a Chinese theatre with actors and magicians; a Filipino village with songs, buildings, and food; a Japanese Tea Garden; and a reproduction of the harbor in Havana, Cuba, where the USS Maine was blown up.



STREETS OF ALL NATIONS

# Old Plantation



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INTERIOR "OLD PLANTATION"—MIDWAY.

REC. 4-92

According to the official guidebook, the Old Plantation was an exact copy of the plantations of the South, including real cabins where enslaved people lived that were taken down and rebuilt on the grounds of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. The guidebook says the 12 cabins were “occupied by genuine darkies” (“darkie” is a very offensive term for Black people that is not ever used today) doing tasks that enslaved people would have performed, like weaving cotton cloth and using cotton gins.

The Old Plantation was one of the most popular shows at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Its demonstration of plantation life is not what made it popular. What drew crowds was its musical talent, including banjo players and singers, which the guidebook again called “a large company of darkies illustrating the dances of the colored people.” The guidebook also said that sadly, “this is one of the few entertainments which a new generation will not be able to produce.” Now, we can recognize the “Old Plantation” as offensive and racist. It reduced free Black people, many of whom were alive to fight for their freedom, to stereotypes of enslavement instead of recognizing their progress and accomplishments.

# California Gold Mining Tunnel



Gold had been discovered about 50 years before the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, leading to a rush of settlers in Western states like Nevada and California. Many settlers who intended to become gold miners stopped before they reached these states, instead creating homes in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming. Because the Gold Rush was so important to the history of the American West, organizers included a gold mining tunnel on the Midway so visitors could experience what it was like to go deep underground to search for gold.

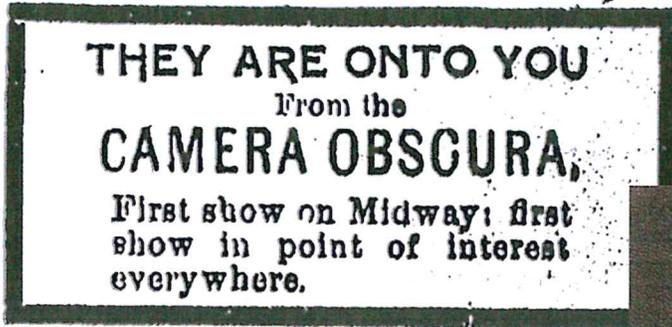
This demonstration took visitors 500 feet underground in a cage elevator, where they met with guides who helped them explore 800 feet of dark tunnels and trails. The guides explained the process of extracting the precious metal from the Earth. Many visitors flocked to this “unique form of entertainment,” as it was a real reproduction of the mines in California.

# Birth of Our Nation

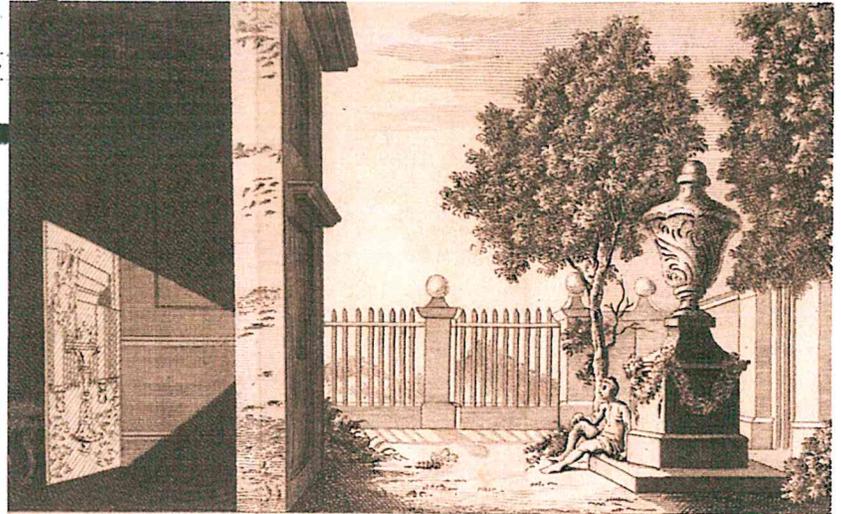


A building was constructed in the style of the Puritans, people you might think of as the Pilgrims who landed at Plymouth Rock in 1620 and celebrated the first Thanksgiving. Exhibits inside the building told the story of the Pilgrims as American heroes and the events of the early years of their settlement. Organizers of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition thought that this building might be especially important for young people who had only ever lived in the Midwest to visit, as they had not experienced life on the East Coast and didn't know as much about the founding of the United States.

# Camera Obscura



The camera obscura was a darkened room, tent, or building that had a tiny hole drilled into the wall, so the rays of light from the outside could be projected onto the wall. The projection would show an upside-down image of the view outside the tiny hole.



The camera obscura technology was developed into the first cameras in the decades before the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, so many people – especially children – had never seen original camera obscuras before attending the Exposition. The official guidebook notes that the camera obscura on the Exposition’s Midway was “a source of amusement to young and old...the little ones are especially delighted with the constantly changing picture, thrown on a large screen, and shout when the familiar face of a friend appears in the moving scene upon the screen...the performance is well-nigh continuous.” The camera obscura building also had electric fans, a new technology for 1898, so it was cool inside even on the hottest days. This made the camera obscura a very popular exhibit.

# Chinese Village



The Chinese village included several buildings, like a theater, a reception hall, a restaurant, a market, and a garden. The shows in the theater included “Chinese actresses with small feet” and the “usual acrobats,” according to the official Trans-Mississippi Exposition guidebook. The guidebook also says the village showed “the religious ceremonies of these strange people,” and visitors could stand and watch Chinese people eating with chopsticks; the restaurant serving white visitors was separate, and “curious” people could enjoy special dinners and Chinese tea. The guidebook cautioned people that “the little Chinese people play their pranks as if they were in the country from which they have been recently imported for this special attraction.” This description somewhat compares all Chinese people to children and considers them similar to items that can be imported.

# Chiquita



## CHIQUITA,

The Living Doll.  
Receptions daily at  
parlors on

## WestMidway

ADMISSION REDUCED TO 10 CENTS

In the official guidebook for the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, Chiquita is described as the “Cuban living doll.” It goes on to say, “This midget was born in the Cuban city of Matanzas a little over 28 years ago. Her height is but 26 inches (a little over 2 feet), though she is proportionally well-developed and has a sprightly, beautiful little face.”

Chiquita spoke with visitors about the “struggle for liberty” happening in her country, and part of her earnings from the Exposition were donated to Cuban soldiers fighting for independence.

The furniture inside Chiquita’s exhibition building was made to fit her. In her front yard, there was a miniature pony pulling a small carriage, which attracted the attention of visitors as they walked by.



# **Midway Attractions**

- 1. German Village**
- 2. Moorish Village containing Moorish Palace,  
Dancing Girls and Moorish Café**
- 3. Streets of Cairo**
- 4. Japanese Tea Garden**
- 5. Shooting the Chutes**
- 6. Chiquita-Cuban Living Doll**
- 7. Hagenback's Wild Animal Show**
- 8. Chinese Village**
- 9. Gaiety Theater-Heaven&Hell/California Gold  
Mining Tunnel**
- 10. Haunted Swing**
- 11. Schlitz Pavillion**

- 12. Streets of All Nations**
- 13. Old Plantation**
- 14. Cyclorama (Battle between Monitor and Merrimac)**
- 15. Ostrich Farm**
- 16. Pabst Pavillion-Vaudeville**
- 17. Wild West Show**
- 18. Scenic Railway**
- 19. Dragons Head-Idols of Art**
- 20. Giant See Saw**
- 21. Lagoon Rides – Gondola**

**Sources to Find Images and Info on Attractions:**

**Official Guidebook to the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition,  
Omaha, USA**

<https://trans-mississippi.unl.edu/texts/view/transmiss.book.guide.1898.html>

**Images**

**Digitized Scans from Omaha Public Library and UNL Collections**

<https://trans-mississippi.unl.edu>