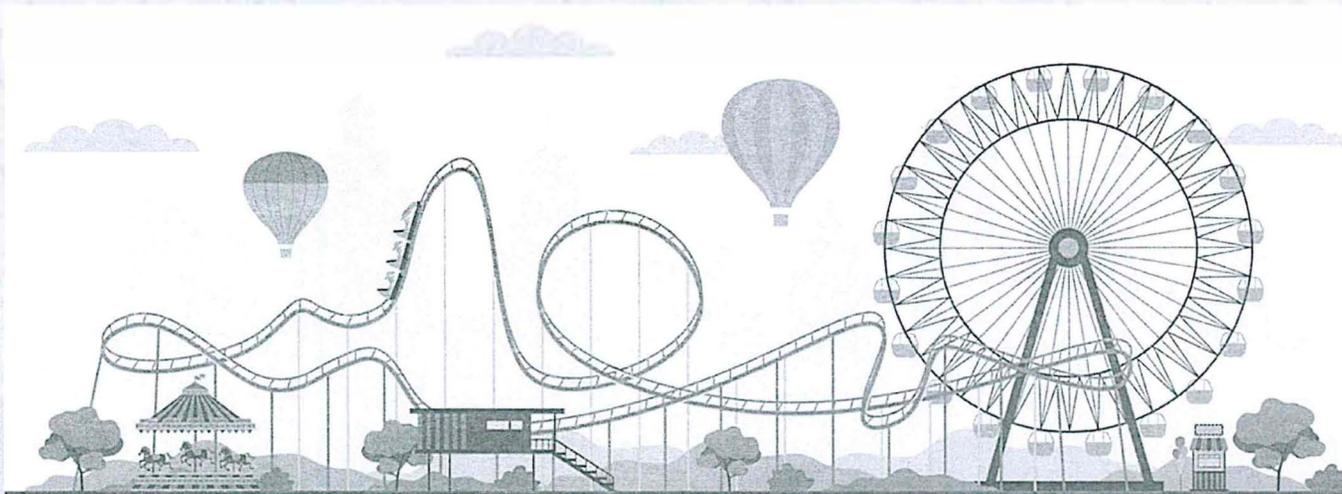




VISITOR EXPERIENCE

# ATTENDANCE QUESTION

What rides or games do you like to play or ride at a fair or carnival? What's your favorite carnival food? (Think of the tilt-a-whirl, roller coaster, haunted house, giant slide, ring toss, funnel cakes, cotton candy)





# VISITING THE EXPOSITION

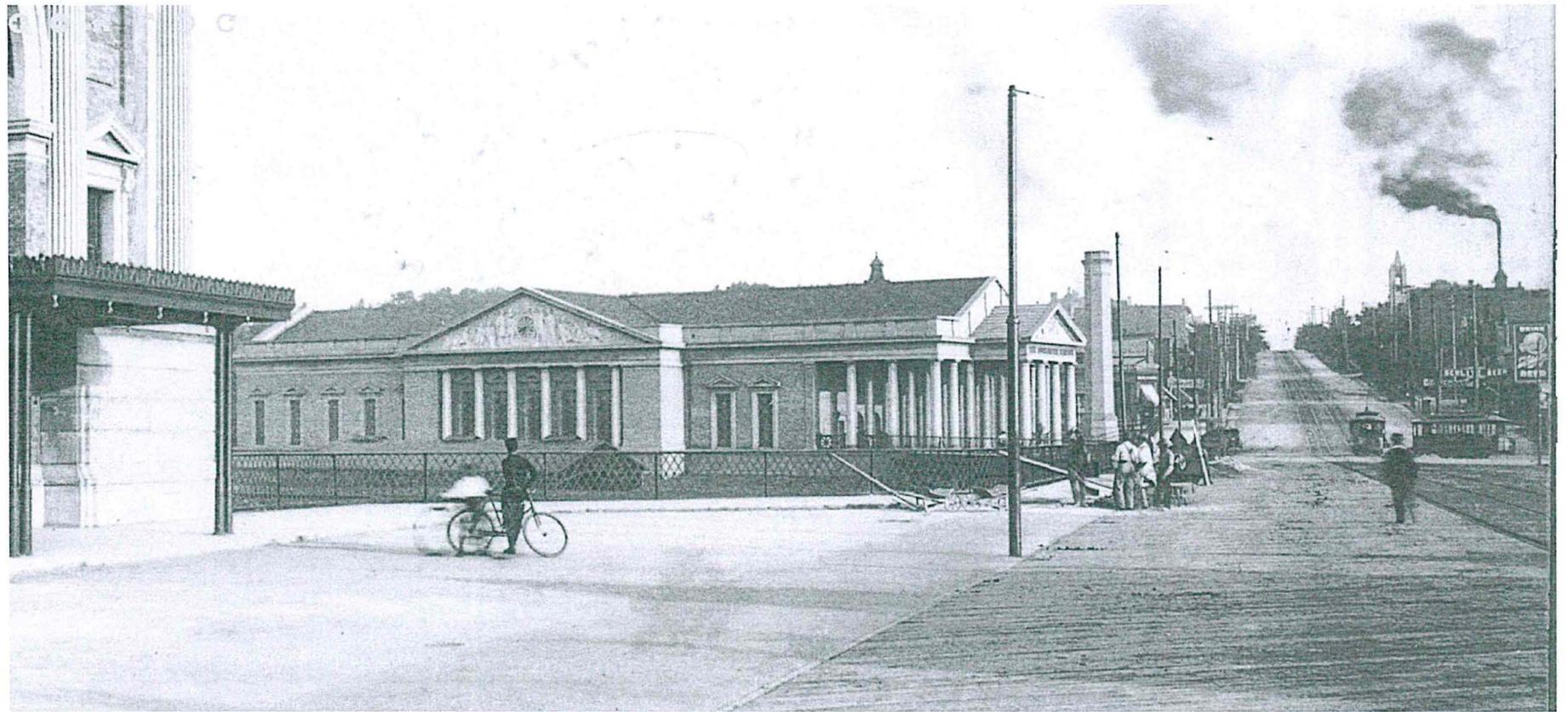
Imagine it's 1898. You're in Omaha, Nebraska, and you've come to visit the Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

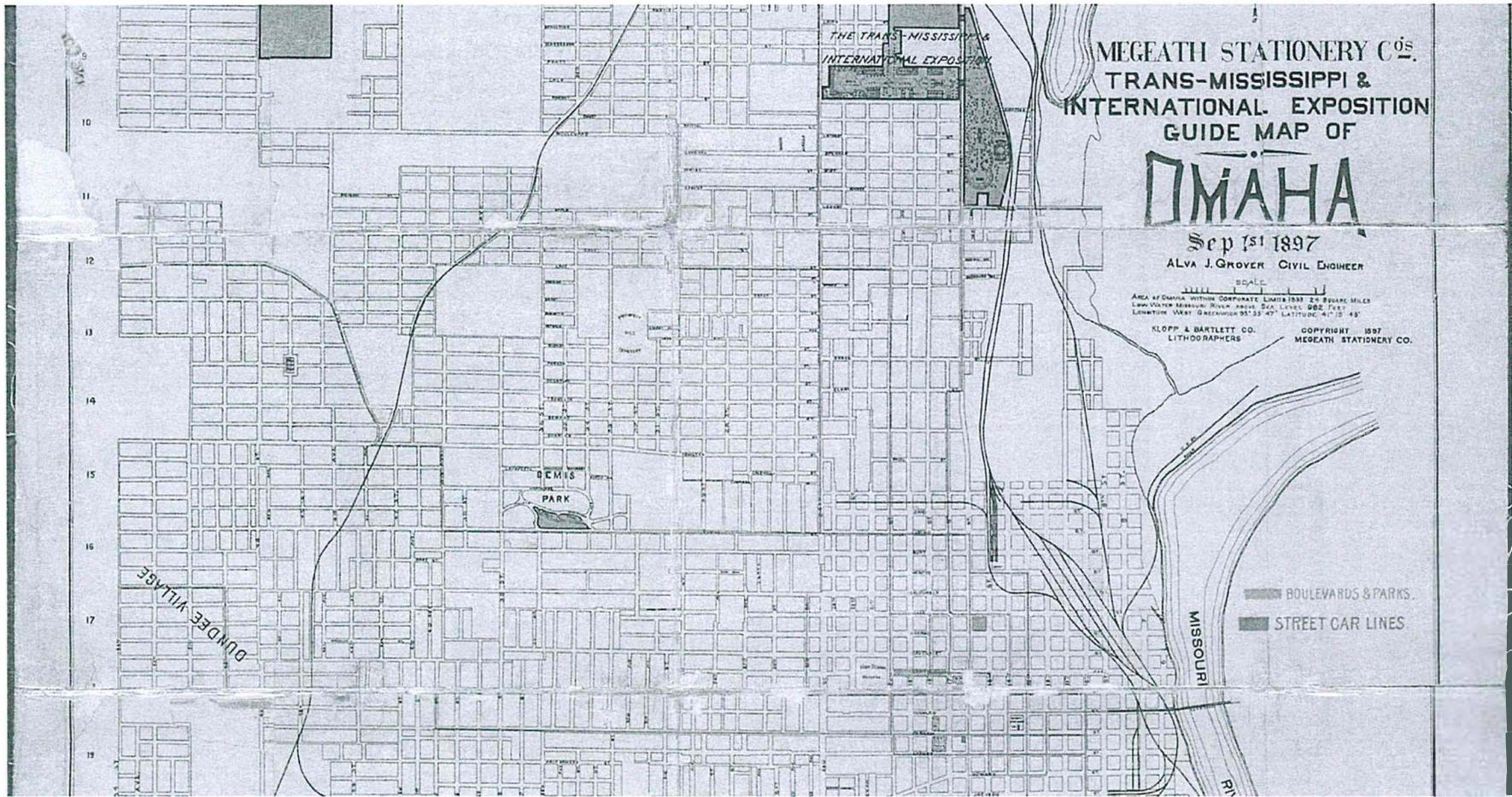
How would you have gotten to Omaha and to the Exposition grounds?

Where would you have stayed?

What would you expect to see, hear, and experience?







MEGEATH STATIONERY CO'S.  
TRANS-MISSISSIPPI &  
INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION  
GUIDE MAP OF

# OMAHA

Sep 1st 1897

ALVA J. GROVER CIVIL ENGINEER

SCALE  
AREA OF OMAHA WITHIN CORPORATE LIMITS 1898 24 SQUARE MILES  
LOW WATER MEANING RIVER ABOVE SEA LEVEL 988 FEET  
LONGITUDE WEST 96° 53' 47" LATITUDE 41° 15' 45"

KLOPP & BARTLETT CO. LITHOGRAPHERS  
COPYRIGHT 1897  
MEGEATH STATIONERY CO.

BOULEVARDS & PARKS.  
STREET CAR LINES



# Millard Hotel 13<sup>th</sup> and Douglas and the Paxton Hotel at 14<sup>th</sup> and Farnam Streets





COPYRIGHT 1898 BY F. A. RINEHART.

SCENE ON NORTH MIDWAY.

REG. 1-15.

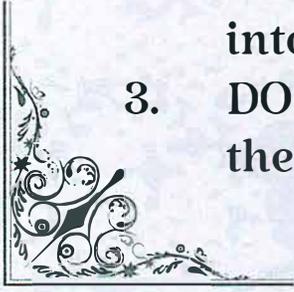


# VISITOR EXPERIENCES

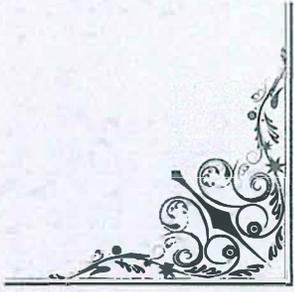


More than 2.6 million people came through the doors of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Visitors could explore many different shows, restaurants, rides, and other experiences.

1. Read the card with your experience on it and look at the picture
2. Then, look at the categories on your notes. Notice which category your experience fits into – it might fit into more than one!
3. DON'T write anything down yet! Just become the expert on your experience.



03:00





# VISITOR EXPERIENCES MEET & GREET



**GOAL:** Collect experiences in each category

**MOVEMENT:** Move around the room at your own pace. When you're done talking to someone, move on to another person – don't just stand around!

**VOICE:** We shouldn't be able to hear you from across the room, but you should speak loud enough for your partner to hear you

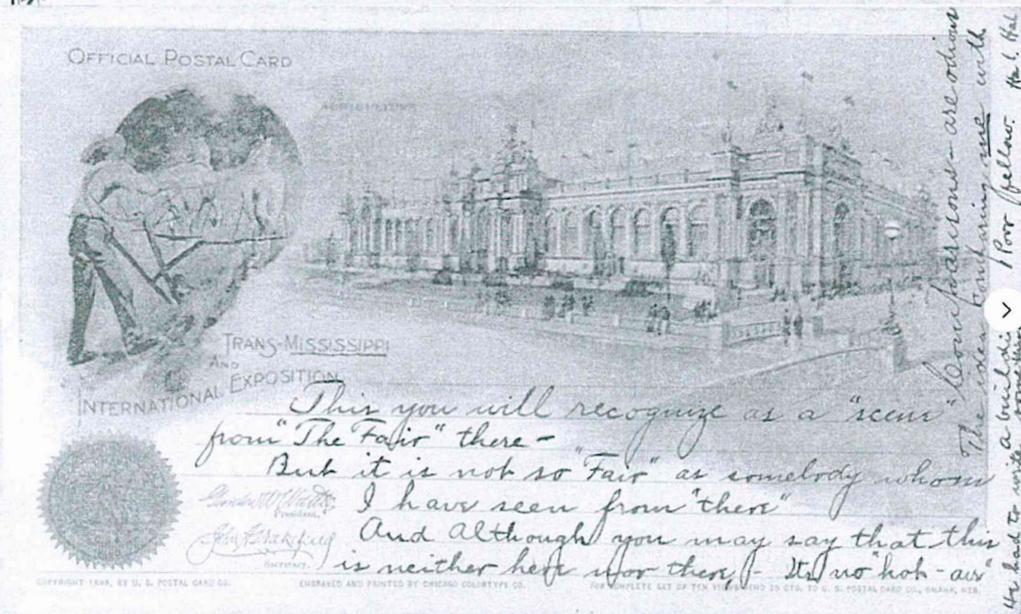


**PARTICIPATION:** Find people whose experiences fit into each category. **NO REPEATS!** For each experience category, answer all the questions.



**10:00**

# TRANS-MISS POSTCARD



# WRITE YOUR OWN POSTCARD

Use everything you learned today to write a postcard to a friend or family member bragging about the AMAZING experience you're having at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition!

Read instructions on your notes carefully!

OFFICIAL POSTAL CARD



HORTICULTURE



TRANS-MISSISSIPPI  
AND INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION



*Andrew W. Martin*  
President,  
*John H. Baker*  
Secretary.

## Day 6 Visitor Experiences

DIRECTIONS: Each person in class will get a picture of an attraction or ticket for something visitors could experience while at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Find someone in each category. Write down the name of their experience and describe it.

Find someone whose attraction...	What is the name of this experience?	Describe it – what would people do, feel, see, and hear during this experience?
involves animals		
helps you learn about another country or culture		
is something you ride		
Involves weapons of some kind		
Is some kind of show or speech you'd watch		
Is something you'd buy or collect		

### REFLECTION

Imagine you are writing a postcard to your family or best friend to brag about the AMAZING time you're having at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Include the following in your message:

1. *One show you watched*
2. *One new culture or country you learned about*
3. *How these new experiences make you feel, or how you feel about being at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition*
4. *Transition words like first, then, later*
5. *A greeting and sign-off (Dear \_\_\_\_\_, Love \_\_\_\_\_)*

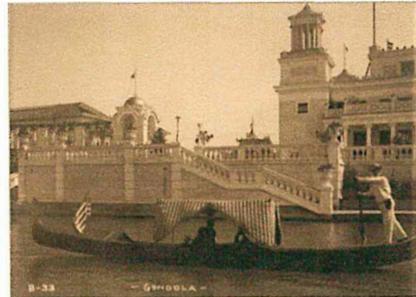
### Giant See-Saw

The first and only of its kind, the tower is 100 feet tall and the see-saw is 200 feet long. A machine in the middle moves the seesaw up and down. When the riders are 200 feet in the air, they can see amazing views of the city and the Missouri River.



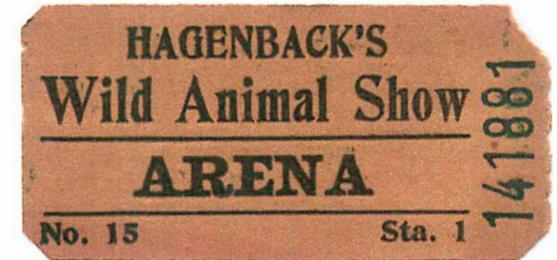
### Gondola

Visitors could pay to ride a gondola up and down the lagoon at the center of the Grand Court. Gondolas are native to Venice, Italy, and the gondoliers (who steer the gondola) were dressed in traditional clothing for an authentic experience.



### Wild Animal Show

Hagenback's Wild Animal Show had one of the largest buildings on the Midway and the shows lasted from morning until night. There were more than 500 rare animals, including baby lions and baby monkeys.



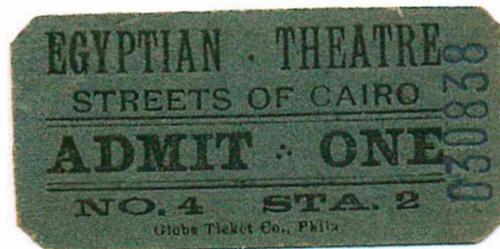
### Chamber of Horrors

The Chamber of Horrors was like a haunted house. The official guidebook to the Trans-Mississippi Exposition said it contained "vivid and startling scenes illustrating crimes and cruelties," as well as exhibits like the "Devil's Cave," "Glimpse into Hades," and "Ride on the Razor."



### Egyptian Theatre

The Egyptian Theatre was on the "Streets of Cairo" section of the Midway. Performers like a juggler, dancers, and a man pretending to be an Islamic priest would entertain visitors during a show set to traditional Egyptian music.



### Streets of Cairo

The "Streets of Cairo" section of the Midway was a reproduction of a street in Cairo, Egypt, complete with food stands and open-air markets. Visitors could also ride a camel or donkey.



### Wild West Show

In a large outdoor arena, visitors watched the famous Buffalo Bill's Wild West show. This included Mexican cowboys (vaqueros) on bucking broncos, women doing acrobatics while riding horses, and a staged battle between cowboys and Native people in which the Native people are killed.



### Sham Battle

One popular part of the Indian Congress were the sham battles, which were realistic reenactments of battles between Native people and the US Army as the Native people fought to defend their land and heritage. The sham battles were very exciting and full of action.



### Japanese Tea Garden

Visitors could sip tea imported from Japan – considered some of the finest in the world – in open-air restaurants designed in the Japanese style. In the 1890s, many Americans were fascinated with Japan, as it had recently become a major trading partner with the U.S.



### Life Saving Service

Members of the US Navy's life-saving service gave a daily demonstration of their procedure for saving sailors whose boats had capsized and how they save drowning sailors. It was a very popular show.



### War Dance

One popular entertainment option that was part of the Indian Congress were the war dances shown by the Apache tribe. Visitors to the Exposition wanted to experience the culture of Native people who were being forced off their lands by the US government.



### Old Plantation

12 log cabins from the South were brought to Omaha and reconstructed, while Black people lived and worked in this reimagining of a plantation. The guidebook said the plantation was designed to make Black people look "quaint" and "simple," which were other words for stupid in the 1890s.



## Night Events

Some evenings, the Exposition was open late for special programs with dancing, music, floats on the lagoon, and fireworks.



## Shooting the Chutes

Shooting the Chutes was a popular carnival ride in the 1890s. A platform 108 feet in the air held "chutes," like small elevator cars. They traveled down the hill in six and a half seconds, splashing into the lake at the bottom. The chute would hop over the water, making sure the passengers did not get wet!



## Concessions

Visitors had many options for food at the Exposition, from full fancy restaurants in the German and Chinese villages to snacks like Hot Waffles. The restaurants and cafes highlighted the different cultures on display. Visitors could also use these tickets to buy treats like fruit, candy, popcorn, and peanuts.



## Exposition Medals

The US Mint (which prints all our country's coins) had an exhibit in the government building. Part of their exhibit was an electric coin press, which created souvenir medals for everyone involved in planning the Exposition. These medals were very special to those who received them, as no one had seen the process the Mint used to create coins.



## President McKinley's Visit

On October 12, President McKinley visited the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. Soldiers gave military exercises, the Marine band played, and the president spoke.



## Exposition Stamps

The publisher of a local newspaper, the Omaha Daily Bee, convinced the postmaster of the US to create a set of nine stamps to commemorate the Trans-Mississippi Exposition. They cost between 1 cent and \$2 each. While they could be used to mail letters, many visitors collected them as souvenirs.

