

Mississippi State Capitol Post-Tour Quiz – High School Level – Answer Key

Multiple choice section: circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. The Mississippi State Capitol cost a total of how much?
 - a. \$5,000,000
 - b. **\$1,093,641**
 - c. \$1,603,941
 - d. \$2,000,000

2. The eagle atop the dome, which is 8 feet tall and has a 15-foot wingspan, is covered with how many ounces of gold leaf?
 - a. 2 oz.
 - b. 3.5 oz.
 - c. **3 oz.**
 - d. 4 oz.

3. When did the Capitol undergo a major restoration?
 - a. 1911-1915
 - b. 1933-1934
 - c. **1979-1982**
 - d. 2010-2014

4. What style of architecture is the Capitol?
 - a. **Beaux Arts**
 - b. Greek Revival
 - c. Victorian
 - d. Tudor

5. Imitation marble, sometimes called art marble or faux marble, is also known by this name:
 - a. Cupola
 - b. Loggia
 - c. Palazzo
 - d. **Scagliola**

Fill-in-the-blank section: fill in the blank with the answer.

6. Governor Andrew H. Longino, Governor from 1900-1904, was the chairman of the State House Commission overseeing the construction of the Capitol, which took 28 months to complete.

7. The Speaker of the House presides over the House of Representatives which has 122 members, while the President of the Senate, who is also the Lieutenant Governor, presides over the Senate which has 52 members.

8. The stained glass in the Capitol was created by Louis Millet of Chicago, Illinois.

9. The architect of the Capitol, who was originally from Germany, was Theodore Link of St. Louis, Missouri.

10. In the dome of the Senate there are words that read: “The People’s Government, Made for the People, made by the People, and Answerable to the People.”

Short answer: Answer in 3 to 5 sentences.

11. Explain why Mississippi needed a new Capitol.

Students must mention foundational problems of the Old Capitol and how the Old Capitol came to have foundational problems and why.

For example: **The Old Capitol, built in 1839, had foundational issues due to an insufficient foundation. The first architect laid the foundation, but they didn’t know about our difficult soil (Yazoo Clay). When William Nichols, the second architect, completed the building, he was unaware of the foundation problems. So, by the 1870s, the Old Capitol was falling apart, and the people of Mississippi called for a new Capitol to be constructed.**

12. How was the architect of the Capitol chosen?

Students must mention the State House Commission, how they held the architectural contest, how many plans were submitted, Bernard Green, and how Link was chosen.

For example: **In 1900, the State House Commission advertised an architectural contest in newspapers in five cities in the United States, including in Jackson, Mississippi. Fourteen architects submitted their plans. The State House Commission hired Bernard Green, who worked on the Library of Congress, to judge the plans. The plans were numbered one through fourteen and Bernard Green chose plan number five, which was the plan submitted by Theodore Link.**

13. How do bills become laws?

Students must mention how bills start in one house and go to the other as well as how bills must pass both houses before being submitted to the Governor to be signed into law.

For example: **A bill starts in the House or the Senate, and then it goes to committee. After committee, the bill goes to the House or Senate floor for debate. If it is a House Bill and it passes the House, then it goes to the Senate; if it is a Senate Bill and it passes the Senate, then it goes to the House. If the bill passes in the second house, then it goes to the Governor to be signed into law.**

14. Why did the original signage in the Capitol have a “v” where a “u” should be?

Students must mention the architecture of the building being influenced by Classical architecture, they must mention the Latin Alphabet, and how the Latin alphabet is thematic to the Capitol, and they must mention at least one specific sign that prominently displays a v instead of a u.

For example: In the Capitol, a “v” is used in signs in place of the “u” because the Latin Alphabet was used, and the Latin Alphabet does not have the “u”. The closest substitute for the “u” was “v”. The Latin Alphabet was used because the architecture of the Capitol, Beaux Arts, was influenced by Classical architecture. You can see it displayed above the Old Supreme Court entrance as well as above the House of Representatives entrance.

15. Why was scagliola used in addition to marble?

Students must mention the budget of the Capitol, why we didn’t use all marble, how scagliola was more economical at the time, what scagliola is, and how you can tell the differences between the two.

For example: Due to the Capitol having a budget of \$1,000,000, they had to use cost-saving measures. Marble was used in the Capitol, prominently seen in the rotunda, but it was more expensive to import at the time. To save money, scagliola was used in place of marble in some areas of the Capitol. Scagliola is plaster or plaster-like material that is created to look like marble, and since it is not stone, it cracks over time.

Bonus questions:

16. Mississippi’s state flower is the Magnolia Blossom.

17. The state motto is Virtute et Armis/By Valor and Arms.

18. The current Speaker of the House is Jason White.

19. The current Lieutenant Governor is Delbert Hosemann.

20. The current Governor is Tate Reeves.