

# The Ohio Statehouse

“When Mr. Lincoln Came to Town”

Lesson 17

## Lesson Stats:

Grade Level	3
Unit	When Mr. Lincoln Came to Town
Time Range	Flexible
Ohio Standards/ 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	History – Benchmark C.1.b; People in Societies – Benchmark 2; Social Studies Skills and Methods – Benchmark B and C

## Resources

Two useful websites for this lesson plan are <http://www.ohiostatehouse.org> and [http://www.ohiochannel.org/your\\_state/ohio\\_statehouse/information/statehouse\\_floor\\_plans.cfm](http://www.ohiochannel.org/your_state/ohio_statehouse/information/statehouse_floor_plans.cfm). The latter provides a virtual tour of the Statehouse and floor plans for each level. A free booklet is available from the Capitol Square Review and Advisory Board entitled “The Ohio Statehouse” which provides information about its history and function. Important rooms are highlighted and statues on the grounds are described. Call 614-728-9797 for copies. Finally, the Office of the Secretary of State of Ohio publishes a free booklet “Profile Ohio” which provides an introduction to aspects of State government. Call 614-466-3613 for copies.

Free tours of the Statehouse are available every day. However, tours for more than ten people require a special reservation. Tours for school children can be enriched with costumed figures who portray historical figures in Ohio history.

## Teacher Introduction

An important part of the story of Nathaniel Johnson is the fact that he and his father are waiting for Abraham Lincoln at the newly completed Ohio Statehouse in 1861 which still stands in the center of downtown Columbus today. It is difficult to consider the history of Columbus without considering the influence that State government has had on the city. Not only is the State a major employer in the city today, but the fact that Columbus has been the State capital has meant that people with new ideas and ways of doing things have come to the capital in Columbus to put them forward. State government

has made Columbus a “cross roads” in many different ways. A former mayor of Columbus, James Rhodes, eventually became the Governor of the State. Several State governors have gone on to play roles in national politics. Both Rutherford B. Hayes and William McKinley became President after serving as Governor. Third graders are not required to learn about State or national history, but this lesson plan will provide an introduction to both by focusing on the Ohio Statehouse building and comparing and contrasting it to other government buildings throughout the U.S.



The Ohio Statehouse Today

Source: [http://www.ohiochannel.org/content\\_files\\_user/102199/scaled\\_images/450x300/102581.jpg](http://www.ohiochannel.org/content_files_user/102199/scaled_images/450x300/102581.jpg)

## Sample Achievement Test Items

Consult the following website for sample achievement test items in third grade History, People in Societies, and Social Studies Skills and Methods.

<http://www.ode.state.oh.us/GD/Templates/Pages/ODE/ODEDetail.aspx?Page=3&TopicRelationID=240&Content=52063>

## Historical Background

When the State legislature agreed to make Columbus the State capital in 1812, the original owners of the land that made up Columbus were four “proprietors”: Lyne Starling (brother of Sarah Starling Sullivant), John Kerr, Alexander McLaughlin, and James Johnson. This group agreed to give the State of Ohio, among other things, two 10 acre plots of land if Columbus was made the Capital. One of these would be used for the Statehouse and the other would be used for a State penitentiary which was originally located south of the Statehouse grounds approximately where the Cultural Arts Center is located today. A new penitentiary was built west of the city in 1834, but the grounds at Broad and High Street have remained the location of the Capitol Building.

From 1812 until 1816, the State capital remained in Chillicothe while a Statehouse was built. The original building was located at High and State Streets and was a modest red brick structure. Recall that the bricks used in that building had been made, in part, from clay taken from an Indian mound near the site. The building was opened in 1816, but soon became too small for the different government functions located there. At that time, just as today, Ohio had a Governor and two legislative branches: the Senate and House of Representatives.

On January 26, 1838, the legislature voted to build a new State Capitol building, and architects were invited to compete to develop the best design. Before the competition was completed, parts of the foundation were excavated and the cornerstone was laid on July 4, 1839. There would eventually be nine architects involved in the Statehouse project! The first three were the initial winners of the competition. However, lawmakers could not agree on a final design and tried to consolidate the three winning designs into one. A fourth architect provided a blended design but his plan was rejected as too expensive. Finally, Henry Walter, the original winner of the competition, was asked to try again, and his plan was eventually approved. His design was for a simple Greek Revival style building surrounded on all sides Doric style columns. A covered porch was at the entry. Inside, a central Rotunda was placed between two stairways leading to the Senate Chamber (on the north side of the building) and the House of Representatives Chamber (on the south side).

During the design controversy, however, the General Assembly voted to repeal the Statehouse Act! Columbus’ charter as the state capital had expired, and several other cities had come forward and asked to be reconsidered as the Capital of the State. Work stopped on the project and the excavation was filled in while this controversy continued. For a time, the open land of the site was used as pasture land for cattle.

In February of 1848, the General Assembly had agreed that Columbus would remain the capital and work was resumed on the Statehouse. Two new architects were hired to propose a plan. William Russell West and J.O. Sawyer, both of Cincinnati, provided a plan that included the original and added the unique drum-shaped cupola that the Statehouse has.

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## Historical Background, continued

Money was appropriated and work began again in May of 1848. State prisoners condemned to hard labor were assigned to the task and were supervised by a group of masons. A fence was built around the project to keep the prisoners from escaping. Throughout the time that the Statehouse was being built, workers were subject to periodic bouts with cholera (caused by sewage tainted water), and construction had to be halted. Work was also suspended during winter months.

In 1852, the original brick Statehouse burned to the ground. Many suspected arson, but the loss of that building made the completion of the new Statehouse critical. Government offices were relocated to buildings around Columbus while work continued. In 1857, the seventh architect for the project was hired. This was Nathan B. Kelley, who had completed two prior state projects: the Lunatic Asylum and the State School for the Blind. Kelley was hired to complete the interior of the building but soon discovered that no provision had been made for heating and ventilation in the new building. He designed a steam heating system that sent heated air through brick ducts in the building, and then devoted himself to embellishing the interior of the Capitol with many details. Kelley is responsible for the elaborate and symbolic floor patterns in the Rotunda and rosette designs throughout the building. However, members of the General Assembly felt that his interiors were not in keeping with the Greek Revival style of the exterior of the building, and Kelley was eventually fired.

On January 7, 1857, the Statehouse opened amid a large celebration. The General Assembly held its first meeting there a few days later. However, the Rotunda was not finished. An eighth architect, Isaiah Rogers, was hired to complete the job. He used the West and Sawyer model for the cupola and substituted a low, conical roof for a dome. Many said that his design resembled “a Chinese hat”! The Statehouse was finally declared complete in May of 1861, several months after Abraham Lincoln had visited it on his way to Washington, D.C. Its final cost was more than \$1.3 million, which would be more than \$90 million today.

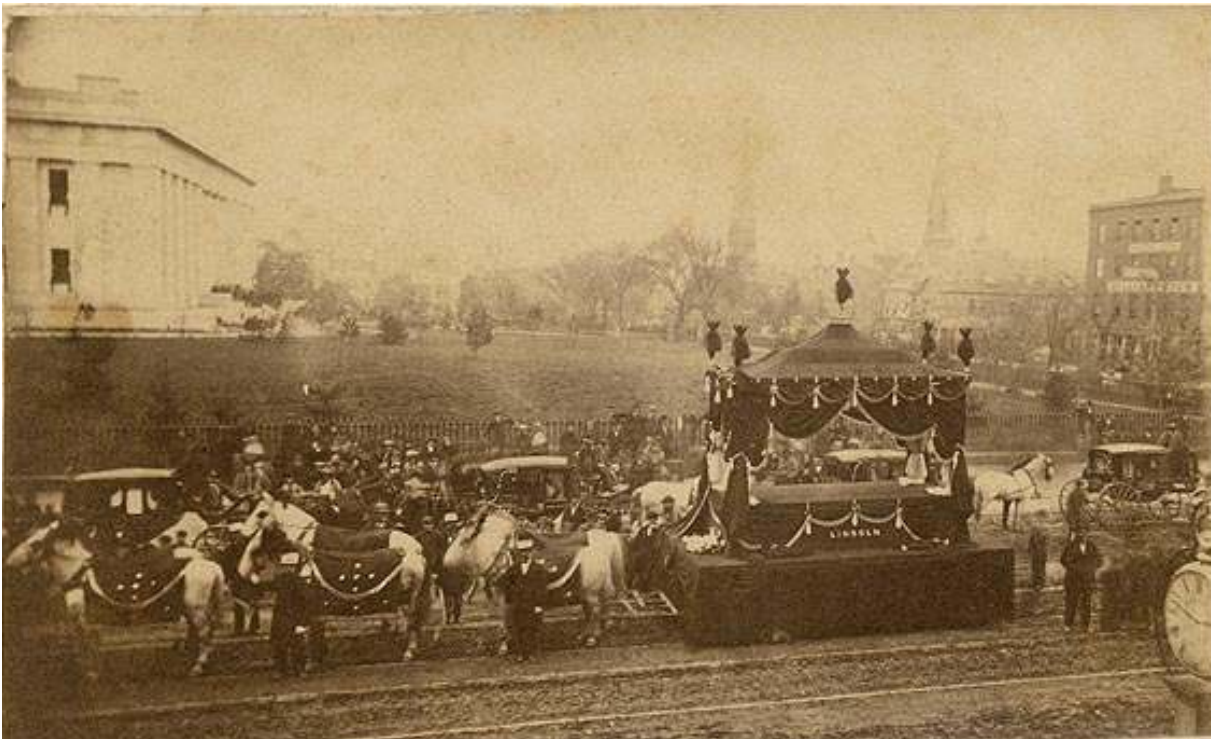
The original Statehouse had 53 rooms and was based on the designs for two prominent ancient Greek buildings: the Temple to Athena (the Parthenon) in Athens and the Temple to Apollo (the Tholos) at Delphi. After the building was opened, further changes were made. Electricity was introduced in the late 1880s and a telephone system was installed in the early 1890s. Governor William McKinley is said to have campaigned for the presidency in 1896 from his office using a telephone. In 1960, the Statehouse was wired for television and broadcasts were made from the General Assembly. Additional rooms were added to meet the needs of expanding state government. Larger rooms were subdivided and several stories of offices were built in what had been air and ventilation shafts. At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a final architect was hired to design an Annex to the Statehouse for the Ohio Supreme Court. This was finished in 1901.

By 1989, the Statehouse contained 317 rooms and its original design and beauty had been compromised. To add to the problems of the building, an underground parking garage had been built in the 1970s which required that the many stately trees surrounding the building be cut down. Members of the General Assembly realized that the Statehouse would have to be restored and renovated. Once again, state offices were relocated to buildings around the city and the Statehouse was redone. It was rededicated on July 7, 1996, and now appears as it did during Lincoln’s time. The building houses the offices of the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and the ceremonial offices of the Treasurer and Auditor of State. The Senate and House of Representatives now meet in restored rooms. The former Supreme Court Annex is now a Senate Office Building. Outside, the grounds have been re-landscaped and new trees planted.

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## Historical Background, continued

Abraham Lincoln spoke at the Statehouse twice. In 1859, the first time he visited as a supporter of the newly formed Republican Party, he spoke at the eastern entrance to a crowd of about 50. In February of 1861, the crowd that gathered was estimated to be more than 5,000. After his death, his body was transported from Washington, D.C. to his home in Springfield, Illinois. All along the route, stops were made so that crowds could pay their respects. His casket was placed in the Rotunda where it laid for eight hours on April 29, 1865. The Statehouse was draped in black. It is estimated that more than 50,000 people waited in line to view the casket during that time. On April 29, 2008, that scene was recreated at the Statehouse to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln's memory. A bust of Lincoln is in the Statehouse Rotunda.



Lincoln's Funeral Procession in Columbus – April 29, 1865

Source: <http://www.photographymuseum.com/Lincoln1002.JPG>



## Teaching Strategies/Activities

- 1) If possible, arrange for a field trip to the Statehouse to tour it and view other buildings associated with the history of Columbus such as Old Franklinton, German Village, and the site where the Feeder to the Ohio and Erie Canal was located. If a real tour is not possible, and a computer lab is available to students, take a “virtual tour” using the website mentioned in the Teacher Resources section.
- 2) The architecture of the Ohio Statehouse is somewhat unique. Many State Capitol Buildings are based on the design of the U.S. Capitol, but Ohio is different in several important ways. As students examine the photo of the Statehouse and compare it to the U.S. Capitol. Both utilize “classic” architecture. How is the Ohio Statehouse similar to the U.S. Capitol and how is it different?
- 3) Students can gain an understanding of the different types of State Capitals by using the computer to research images of the various designs that states have used for their own buildings. Using the table provided, go through the images of the 50 State Capitols to determine which ones are similar to the U.S. Capitol and which ones are not. This could be done in a computer lab with teams assigned to find 8 to 10 of the buildings or the teacher could provide pictures of the 50 state capitals for students to examine. Total up the two groups and create a pictograph that shows the total that are similar and the total that are different.
- 4) A handout is provided that shows several of the “different” state capitol buildings. Ask students to consider why these states have the buildings that they do.
- 5) Ask students to think about what a state capital building should look like today [2008]. Have them draw a picture of their idea and share it with the class, explaining why they have designed it the way they have.
- 6) Continuing the Classroom Time Line.
  - a. Examine the important dates [below](#). Place each on a card. Discuss the importance of each. Then, mix up the cards and ask students to place them on the class time line in the correct position.
  - b. Students can begin their own personal time line by selecting one of the dates which appeals to them and make a drawing of it which they can save for their final personal time line collection.

# Student Handout

## Unit 6: When Mr. Lincoln Came to Town

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## Lesson 17: The Ohio Statehouse

### Timeline Dates of Importance

- February, 1812 – Columbus is voted the capital of Ohio
- 1816 – The original Statehouse opens; Ohio state government moves to Columbus
- January 26, 1838 – The General Assembly votes to build a new Statehouse
- July 4, 1839 – The cornerstone of the new Statehouse is laid
- 1840 – Work is suspended on the new Statehouse
- February, 1848 – Work resumes on the new Statehouse
- 1852 – The original Statehouse burns down
- January 7, 1857 – The new Statehouse opens, but is incomplete
- February 13, 1861 – Abraham Lincoln stops in Columbus, addresses the Ohio General Assembly, and greets a crowd of well wishers
- April 29, 1865 – The body of Abraham Lincoln lies in state at the Ohio Statehouse
- 1901 – A Supreme Court Annex is added to the Statehouse
- 1989 – The General Assembly votes to restore the Statehouse
- July 7, 1996 – The restored Statehouse is rededicated

### Vocabulary Words:

- ✓ Statehouse
- ✓ Penitentiary
- ✓ Governor
- ✓ General Assembly
- ✓ Capital (= a place)
- ✓ Capitol (= a building)
- ✓ U.S. Capitol Building
- ✓ Greek architecture
- ✓ Greek Revival architecture
- ✓ Doric style columns
- ✓ Rotunda
- ✓ Cupola
- ✓ Dome

# Student Handout

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## Unit 6: When Mr. Lincoln Came to Town

### Lesson 17: The Ohio Statehouse



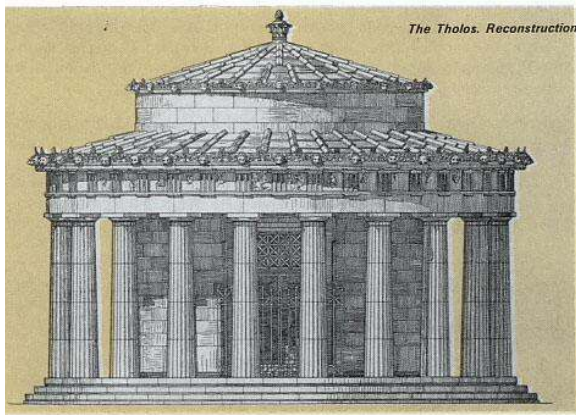
The Parthenon (Temple of Athena) – The Acropolis in Athens, Greece

Source: <http://stevengharms.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/parthenon-and-the-acropolis-landmark-1.jpg>



An example of a Doric Column

Source: [http://college.holycross.edu/projects/worcester/growth/greek\\_revival/fullsize/SalisHouseCol.JPG](http://college.holycross.edu/projects/worcester/growth/greek_revival/fullsize/SalisHouseCol.JPG)



The Tholos (Temple to Apollo) – Delphi, Greece – A Reconstruction Drawing

Source: [http://www.goddess-athena.org/Museum/Temples/Delphi/Tholos\\_reconstruction\\_S.jpg](http://www.goddess-athena.org/Museum/Temples/Delphi/Tholos_reconstruction_S.jpg)



The Tholos (Temple to Apollo) – Delphi, Greece – Modern Day Ruins

Source: <http://cache.eb.com/eb/image?id=83457&rendTypeId=4>



The Ohio Statehouse (c. 1865) – An Example of Greek Revival Architecture

Source: <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/ohiopix/Image.cfm?criteria=Ohio%20Statehouse&start=31&ID=277>



# Student Handout

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The State Capitol of Alaska

Source: [http://lh4.ggpht.com/\\_vw9Uv49Jq4w/RNa0gXhsABI/AAAAAAAAABNo/nCLcHBbp8s/A-IMG\\_1800.JPG](http://lh4.ggpht.com/_vw9Uv49Jq4w/RNa0gXhsABI/AAAAAAAAABNo/nCLcHBbp8s/A-IMG_1800.JPG)



The State Capitol of Connecticut

Source: [http://farm1.static.flickr.com/217/475050577\\_0b4d210088.jpg?v=0](http://farm1.static.flickr.com/217/475050577_0b4d210088.jpg?v=0)



The State Capitol of Delaware

Source: [http://www.delivery.superstock.com/WI/223/2021/PreviewComp/SuperStock\\_2021-597323.jpg](http://www.delivery.superstock.com/WI/223/2021/PreviewComp/SuperStock_2021-597323.jpg)



The State Capitol of Hawaii

Source: <http://www.worldofstock.com/slides/TAH1247.jpg>



State Capitol of Iowa

Source: [http://www.traveliowa.com/images/galleryhires/C006\\_State\\_Capitol\\_Des\\_Moines.gif](http://www.traveliowa.com/images/galleryhires/C006_State_Capitol_Des_Moines.gif)



State Capitol of New Mexico

Source: [http://www.weblo.com/asset\\_gallery/469221/1/New\\_Mexico\\_State\\_Capitol/](http://www.weblo.com/asset_gallery/469221/1/New_Mexico_State_Capitol/)



The State Capitol of New York

Source: [http://farm1.static.flickr.com/109/266586265\\_a32effd78d.jpg?v=0](http://farm1.static.flickr.com/109/266586265_a32effd78d.jpg?v=0)



The State Capitol of North Dakota

Source: <http://www.realnd.com/images/capitolbuildingpano2.jpg>



The State Capitol of Oregon

Source: [http://static.zoomr.com/images/4341934\\_bc2f34b18c.jpg](http://static.zoomr.com/images/4341934_bc2f34b18c.jpg)



# Student Handout

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## Unit 6: When Mr. Lincoln Came to Town

### Lesson 17: The Ohio Statehouse

STATE	CAPITAL	LIKE THE U.S. CAPITOL?	DIFFERENT FROM THE U.S. CAPITOL?
Alabama	Montgomery		
Alaska	Juneau		
Arizona	Phoenix		
Arkansas	Littlerock		
California	Sacramento		
Colorado	Denver		
Connecticut	Hartford		
Delaware	Dover		
Florida	Tallahassee		
Georgia	Atlanta		
Hawaii	Honolulu		
Idaho	Boise		
Illinois	Springfield		
Indiana	Indianapolis		
Iowa	Des Moines		
Kansas	Topeka		
Kentucky	Frankfort		
Louisiana	Baton Rouge		
Maine	Augusta		
Maryland	Annapolis		
Massachusetts	Boston		
Michigan	Lansing		
Minnesota	St. Paul		
Mississippi	Jackson		
Missouri	Jefferson City		
Montana	Helena		
Nebraska	Lincoln		
Nevada	Carson City		

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STATE	CAPITAL	LIKE THE U.S. CAPITOL?	DIFFERENT FROM THE U.S. CAPITOL?
New Hampshire	Concord		
New Jersey	Trenton		
New Mexico	Santa Fe		
New York	Albany		
North Carolina	Raleigh		
North Dakota	Bismarck		
<b>Ohio</b>	<b>Columbus</b>		
Oklahoma	Oklahoma City		
Oregon	Salem		
Pennsylvania	Harrisburg		
Rhode Island	Providence		
South Carolina	Columbia		
South Dakota	Pierre		
Tennessee	Nashville		
Texas	Austin		
Utah	Salt Lake City		
Vermont	Montpelier		
Virginia	Richmond		
Washington	Olympia		
West Virginia	Charleston		
Wisconsin	Madison		
Wyoming	Cheyenne		
<b>TOTALS</b>			