



Boomtown 1905

Take a step back in time and visit The Old West!



Boomtown 1905

Boomtown 1905 is a historic recreation of a streetscape in Las Vegas during 1905- 1920. This was a special time in our city's history as the new railway brought in many residents and travelers. Here you will find the train station, along with the cottages the railway employees and their families lived in. You will also find replicas of businesses that represent this time period. Explore the town while "hunting" for artifacts.

artifact- an object used or made by a human for their own use. Artifacts can teach us what life was like during the time period which it was made

Why would people want to move to Las Vegas during this time period? Circle all that apply.

1. To live near a water source (a spring)
2. To start a business that didn't exist there yet
3. To work for the railroad
4. To mine

Answer: ALL OF THE ABOVE!

First Stop: Train Station

You have arrived in Las Vegas! This station is a recreation of the ACTUAL train station, built at 2/3 it's size. It was where The Plaza Hotel is in downtown now. Trains communicated with stations using Morse Code. That is a code of short and long sounds, represented in print as dots and dashes.

Artifact to find: Morse Code Machine

On the lines below, write out the code for the word, "Train".

Do you think that was harder or easier than texting?



Second Stop: The Railway Homes

These homes are the real railway worker's cottages from the original downtown area! They were moved here to be saved from demolition! Go inside the third house with the brown trim to see what life was like living in them. In one bedroom, you will find a video about how they moved them to The Springs Preserve. Back then, you could rent a home like this for \$18 per month!

Artifact to find: Dust Beater hint: it is hanging on the wall in the kitchen!

Why would a family in 1905 need a dust beater? What can you infer about their living conditions?

Third Stop: The Lincoln Hotel

Travelers needed somewhere to rest their heads! The Lincoln Hotel provided that. The hotel rooms in this hotel did not have bathrooms inside them. Many guests had to use chamber pots! They also did not have closets (look at that suitcase though!)

Artifact to find: Calendar Clock

What do you notice that is different about this clock? It has days of the month on it! Why do you think this type of clock is not typically used anymore?



Fourth Stop: Majestic Theater

Families often came to watch short films of the day in theaters like this. Many movies did not have sound, but were often accompanied by a piano player or a band. Each film reel was approximately 9 minutes long. The indoor version of this theater was where The Golden Nugget is today!

Artifact to find: film projector

Compare and contrast movies then and now.

Fifth Stop: Arizona Club

This is where railway workers and travelers often came to relax and gamble. It was known as the "Queen of Block 16". Block 16 was the area of town designated for entertainment.

Artifact to find: a piano

A piano is played by pushing "keys". Can you think of any other instruments that are played this way?



Sixth Stop: Las Vegas Mercantile

This is what a general store looked like; where you could buy everything from food to books to clothing. Look at all the original packaging on the products. Some of these are 100 years old! The book on the counter is a Sears Catalog. Sears was a department store that offered deliveries from a warehouse. You could order almost anything to be delivered. It was like Amazon before there was an Amazon!

Artifact to find: Antique Cash Register

Does this artifact use electricity? How do you know it does/doesn't?

Seventh Stop: First State Bank

Before the original building was built in 1912, First State Bank operated out of a tent! Can you believe it? This building was considered one of the finest of its time.

Artifact to find: Assay Scale

When this bank was open, credit cards were not invented yet. People used gold, silver, or money. Read the description on the assay scale. How was this used in banks?
