



Teachers/Chaperones-  
look for tips for a more  
meaningful experience!  
For your students!

# Boomtown 1905

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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 made from a human that 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!

*Teacher Tip:*

*While standing in front of the East side of station, direct students to look East just to the right of Circa You can see the original site of the train station downtown!*

### 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?

\_\_\_answers vary\_\_\_\_\_



### 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 part of our exhibit! 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?

*\_\_\_ Families needed dust beaters for pounding out dust that settled into rugs and bedding. We can infer that living in the desert can be dry and dusty.*

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### 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. Guests had to share a bathroom! They also did not have closets (look at that suitcase though!) *Teacher Tip: Point out the water jug and bowl and ask, "What do you think this was used for?"*

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?

*\_\_\_ answers vary but could include "because we use the calendar on our phones" or "it says the date on our computer, TV, etc."*

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### Fourth Stop: Majestic Theater

Families often came to watch short films of the day in theaters like this. Many movies did not have sound. 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.

*answers vary but could include details about sound, length, color, etc.*

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### 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" which was the area of town in which it was built.

*\*\*Teachers Please Note: While not the main focus of this exhibit, The Arizona Club contains the mature themes of gambling, drinking, and sex work. Please tour at your discretion.*

Artifact to find: a piano

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

*Keyboards, an accordion, trumpet, etc*

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### 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. You could order almost anything to be delivered. It was like Amazon before there was an Amazon!

*Teacher tip: point out the poster on the back wall that features then/now.*

*The register keys, 5, 20, 50, and 60 will pop the drawer open. Have students make a line and give it a try!*

Artifact to find: Antique Cash Register

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

     *No. We can tell because there is no cord.*

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### 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.

*Teacher Tip: On the way to the bank, point out the horse hitch and discuss its purpose.*

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?

     *Assayers used it to determine how much money to pay the miners i.e. how much it is worth*

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