

History Scavenger Hunt. Answer Key.

GRPM Collections Database.

Grand Rapids History

The area of Grand Rapids is part of the ancestral territory of the People of the Three Fires, the Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi, who were here before the city's settlement. Grand Rapids was officially established as a U.S. city in 1850.

1. A combination of a successful logging industry, hydroelectric power on the Grand River and innovative design led to Grand Rapids becoming known as "Furniture City" in the late 1800s. Discover how designs have changed over the years in the [Furniture Highlights](#) Gallery.

- a. Identify the designer/maker of each piece of furniture



Frank Lloyd Wright



Berkey & Gay Furniture Co.



William "Deacon" Haldane



Johnson Furniture Company

2. Before Grand Rapids was known as “Furniture City” another industry ran the city: gypsum mining.

a. What materials was [gypsum](#) used to create? **Drywall and plaster**

b. Read the backstory on this [Miners’ Lamp](#) from 1915.

i This style lamp was only used for a few years because it was so dangerous. Why were these lamps so dangerous?

Lamps of this style though were dangerous because of their open flame that could ignite methane gas and cause an explosion.

ii It was common for several generations of one family to work in the mining industry. How many generations of the Apted family worked for the same company?

3 generations

Michigan History

Modern-day history in Michigan focuses on the automobile industry, tourism and agriculture. Take a step back into Michigan’s history before assembly lines and automation were common.

3. Explore the [Great Lakes Fur Traders Exhibit Gallery](#). Fur trade between the Europeans and Native Americans was a 250-year industry in this area that began long before Michigan became a state.

a. Which animal was largely over-hunted to create fur top hats?

Beaver

b. Find the artifact that Rix Robinson owned.
Where was his trading post located?

Ada

United States History

In its short history (less than 250 years!), the United States has experienced many significant events. Explore artifacts with connections to influential leaders, life-changing conflicts and the immigrants who built the foundation of this country.

5. Explore the [Presidential Mementos](#) Gallery. Here you’ll find a variety of presidential mementos, some with interesting connections to Grand Rapids.

a. Which president is shown in this [1936 photograph](#)?

Franklin D. Roosevelt

b. What was the name of President Herbert Hoover’s pet dog shown in this [signed photograph](#)?

King Tut

7. Explore the [WWI & WWII Propaganda](#) Teacher Gallery. In recognition of these important events in history, the GRPM has selected posters from its Collections that demonstrate important issues at the heart of the war efforts.

a. Soldiers in Europe struggled with starvation and food shortages, so food was shipped over from the United States. To support this effort and make sure the supply of food was strong, all Americans were asked to reduce their personal food consumption, especially meat, wheat, and fatty foods that could be shipped overseas easily.

b. The importance of conserving food was communicated in many World War propaganda posters. **Search through the gallery and find examples of 3 different kinds of food shown in the posters.**

Many correct answers, including grain, corn, bananas, grapes, cauliflower, radishes, carrots, fish, donuts, pie, bread, peaches, corn syrup, corn starch, corn oil, soup, potatoes, tomatoes, peas

- c. These posters were also designed to inspire patriotism. Patriotism is defined as strong support for your country. **Find 3 examples of American patriotism symbolized in these posters.** *Hint: Look for colors and images that symbolize America, such as our flag.*

Many correct answers, including: Red/white/blue colors used in posters, Uncle Sam's hat with blue/white stars, American flags, bald eagle, Liberty, Statue of liberty, liberty bell

9. Examine this [Suit of Armor](#) with Chain Mail and Sword made around 500 years ago!

In which European country was this artifact created?

Germany

How heavy was this full suit of armor?

50 pounds

10. Look at this [lava medallion](#) artifact.

The lava in this medallion came from which famous volcano?

Mount Vesuvius, Italy

b. What was the date of this volcano's last eruption?

1944, during World War II

11. Check out the [Berlin Wall](#) section (accession #1991.16.1) which is located near the entrance of the GRPM.

The Berlin Wall divided the city of Berlin into two sections: East and West Berlin.

The Berlin Wall stood for _____ years.

c. 28

Who purchased this section of the Berlin Wall and donated it to the GRPM?

Fred Meijer