DO YOU KNOW MO?
Dear Student,

On behalf of the Missouri House of Representatives, we hope you will find this publication a helpful resource. This book is full of information about our state and government.

It is important for every citizen, no matter how young or old, to become involved in the governmental process. The first step in participating is to understand how democracy works. I encourage you to take this opportunity to become active in our state government. You are the future leaders of Missouri.

The Missouri House of Representatives is in session from early January to mid-May. I hope you will have the opportunity to visit the Capitol during a legislative session and watch your government in action. If you are unable to come to Jefferson City, you can always listen to the live debate on the House Floor at www.house.mo.gov.

I hope you find this material informational and entertaining while learning more about Missouri's natural beauty, people, and government.

Thank you,

The Missouri House of Representatives
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**Answer Key**

- **pg. 13:** 1. 118°, 2. 1953, 3. 56.90 inches, 4. 42 minutes, 5. -40°
A hill overlooking the Missouri River was chosen as the site on which to construct a permanent Capitol, and there the City of Jefferson was established. The first Capitol was finished in 1826 but was consumed by a fire 11 years later. Legislators met in the Cole County courthouse until 1840, when a new Capitol was built for $350,000.

Our Capitol Building

The current State Capitol is as beautiful as it is important in Missouri's law-making process.

 nineteen forty

Although new, the structure became too small for legislative activities. It was remodeled in 1887 to become what some felt was a monstrosity with a disproportionate dome and was still unsuitable for state government activities.

nineteen eleven

In 1911, lightning struck the dome, and the resulting fire destroyed the building.

nineteen thirteen to nineteen seventeen

The present-day Capitol was built between 1913 and 1917 a bit farther south from the previous structure. The current four-story Capitol has 500,000 square feet of space – 10 times that of the previous one – and sits on nearly three acres.

Artwork in the Capitol

Remarkable paintings by Frank Brangwyn in the dome are awe inspiring, even from four stories below. The Senate Chamber is on the east side of the Capitol, and the House of Representatives Chamber is on the west side.

Missouri's heritage is portrayed in the glorious artwork lining the galleries and hallways. The most famous mural blankets the walls of the House Lounge. Muralist Thomas Hart Benton was able to convey a realistic interpretation of Missouri's social history. His Capitol work was the subject of much criticism at the time he painted the murals in 1936 because they were deemed too blunt.
FAMOUS MISSOURI PLACES

1. MARCELINE
   Walt Disney Family Farm

2. ST. JOSEPH
   Pony Express

3. HANNIBAL
   Home of Mark Twain
   (Samuel Clemens)

4. SEDALIA
   First Missouri State Fair

5. KANSAS CITY
   18th and Vine

6. INDEPENDENCE
   Home of Harry S. Truman

7. DIAMOND
   Home of George Washington Carver

8. BRANSON
   Live Music Capital

9. JEFFERSON CITY
   Capital of Missouri

10. GADS HILL
    First Train Robbery by the Jesse James Gang

11. ST. LOUIS
    The Gateway Arch

12. STE. GENEVIEVE
    First Permanent Settlement

13. NEW MADRID
    Worst Earthquake in U.S. History

14. FULTON
    “Iron Curtain” Speech by Winston Churchill
State Government

Voices of the Missouri People

Missouri’s state government has three branches: the legislative, the executive, and the judicial. These branches distribute powers equally among state officials, so the citizens are fairly represented.

Our federal and state governments are democracies, meaning the authority to govern lies with the people.

The Legislative Branch

The Capitol is home to the legislative branch. The legislative branch writes and passes our state laws. Our legislature is bicameral, meaning that it is made up of two chambers, the 163-member House of Representatives and the 34-member Senate. No one may serve more than eight years in either chamber. Together, they are known as the General Assembly. In both houses, the districts are divided according to population.

The General Assembly is required by our Constitution to meet, beginning in January, for four and one-half months for a regular session and then again in September for a veto session. The only other time the legislature meets is if the governor or General Assembly calls for a special session. These sessions only deal with specific legislation and can’t last more than 60 days.

Senate
Elected for four-year terms. Must be at least 30 years old, have been a qualified voter in the state for three years, and a resident of the district for one year.

House of Representatives
Elected for two-year terms. Must be at least 24 years old, have been a qualified voter in the state for at least two years, and a resident of the district for at least one year.

The Executive Branch

It is the duty of the executive branch to enforce and administer the laws. As the chief executive of the state, the governor is the leader of this branch. He is assisted by all elected officials and various departments.

Another important piece of the executive branch is that all six officers are elected individually and independently of one another, which means that the governor has no basic control over the five other executive officials.

Governor
Must be at least 30 years old, have been a U.S. citizen for the past 15 years, and a Missouri resident for the past 10 years. Can pardon people who have committed crimes. Has the power of commander-in-chief of the state militia. Has the power to veto a bill, which can stop it from becoming a law. No person can be in this office more than twice. The General Assembly has the power to override the veto, if they can get a two-thirds majority in both chambers.

House and Senate members work in specialized, bipartisan committees that consider the need for a particular bill. Committee chairs are appointed by the Speaker of the House, who presides over the House, and the President Pro Tem, who heads the Senate. The committees are set up by subject matter.

When a committee gets a bill, the members study it carefully and then hold public hearings. It is during these hearings that citizens have the opportunity to speak for or against a particular bill. Decisions concerning the bills are always reached by a majority vote.

Citizens can and should attend these hearings if they have an interest in a bill. After the bill has passed out of the committee, the citizen’s only option is to contact his or her state senator or representative.

The Judicial Branch

The third branch is the judicial. This branch is composed of the state court system, who interpret the laws. This branch is divided into three levels, from lowest to highest: the circuit and associate circuit courts, the court of appeals, and the Supreme Court.

The judicial branch decides if the laws are unconstitutional. It deals in two areas: criminal, cases that cause injury to the state or society; and civil, cases of disagreement between persons over the law.
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

Compliments of Your State Representative

This depiction follows a bill introduced in the House of Representatives. The Senate follows a similar process.

1. Introduced and first read.
2. Second reading and referral to a committee.
   - Committee holds hearings during which anyone may speak for or against the bill. After considering the bill, it may offer amendments or a committee substitute bill.
   - Bill is placed on the Perfection Calendar for full House Floor debate. Amendments may be offered.
   - If passed, the bill is known as a Perfected Bill.
   - The Perfected Bill goes on the Third Reading calendar where, after debate, each Representative’s vote is recorded.
   - If passed, the bill is sent to the Senate where it repeats the process, except the Perfection and Third Reading are combined into one step.

3. If the bill passes both House and Senate in identical forms, the bill is Truly Agreed to and Finally Passed.
4. If the bill passes in a different form, and the House agrees to accept it, it is Truly Agreed to & Finally Passed.
5. If the House rejects the changes, the bill returns to the Senate for reconsideration.
6. If the Senate does not reconsider the amendments and does not approve the bill in its original form, the bill may be sent to a Conference Committee composed of members of both the House and Senate.
7. If the Conference Committee reaches an agreement, the report of the committee is sent to both houses for a vote.
8. If either rejects the report, the process may be repeated.
9. If both houses agree, the bill is Truly Agreed To & Finally Passed.
10. If the Governor signs the bill or takes no action, it becomes law.
11. If the Governor vetoes the bill, it can only become law with two-thirds of both the House and Senate voting to override the veto.
12. If it becomes law, it is sent to the Secretary of State to be incorporated into the Missouri Statutes.
MISSOURI GOVERNMENT QUIZ

EXECUTIVE

GOVERNOR

1. ____________________

2. issues ____________________

3. signs or ____________________ bills

4. is the ____________________

5. of the ____________________

SENATE

6. ____________________

7. ____________________ bills

8. has 197 ____________________

9. is ____________________

The governor:

The General Assembly:
This branch:
12. ________________ laws
13. decides ________________
14. has civil and ________________ areas

Terms
bicameral  interprets  Representatives
Commander-in-Chief  members  State Departments
criminal  MO National Guard  vetoes
        Court of Appeals  pardons  writes
        President Pro Tem
Missouri, like all other states, selects citizens who travel to Washington, D.C., to represent the state in the United States Congress.

The United States Congress is the legislative branch of the federal government, and it works in conjunction with the country’s executive and judicial branches to exercise the sovereign power of the people of the United States. Congress is divided into two distinct branches which are called the Senate (Upper House) and the House of Representatives (Lower House). Its two-year sessions last from each odd-numbered year to the next odd-numbered year.

Missouri is represented in Washington by two senators who are elected to six-year terms. These officials provide a smaller body of more experienced lawmakers to counterbalance the workings of the shorter term (two-year) House members.

Senators must be at least 30 years old, have been citizens of the United States for at least nine years, and be residents of the state in which they are elected. The terms of one-third of the members of the Senate expire every two years.

Missourians who represent the state in the United States House of Representatives are elected to two-year terms from state districts that are drawn up according to population. More heavily populated states have more representatives, and a state’s representatives will increase or decrease in proportion to the state’s population after each census.

Members of the House of Representatives must be at least 25 years old, have been citizens of the United States for seven years, and be residents of the state in which they are elected.

Because members of the House are elected for shorter terms than are senators, they are intended to be the true “voice of the people” in Congress. Their actions generally reflect the wishes of their constituents more directly than do those of senators.
Symbols of Missouri

Throughout the years, state lawmakers have designated a variety of items to portray Missouri. The following are a small number of the symbols that represent the Show-Me State.

State Bird
bluebird

State Amphibian
american bullfrog

State Insect
honeybee

State Reptile
three-toed box turtle

To learn more about these symbols and others, visit the Secretary of State’s website at sos.mo.gov.

Illustrations from sos.mo.gov
HALL OF FAMOUS MISSOURIANS

These are a few of the members of the Hall of Famous Missourians.

Dred Scott (1795-1858)
Scott was born a slave in Virginia. While in Missouri, Scott sued for his freedom. A trial in 1850 resulted in a ruling from the St. Louis Circuit Court that Scott and his family were free. Two years later the Missouri Supreme Court stepped in and reversed the decision of the lower court. In 1857, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Scott with a majority opinion that stated all African Americans were not United States citizens and did not have the right to bring suit in a federal court.

Harry S. Truman (1884-1972)
He became our 33rd president upon the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1945. As chief executive, Truman led the nation through the end of World War II and guided our country through the Korean Conflict. He was also responsible for a major turning point in American policy, creating a set of principles of U.S. inland policy known as The Truman Doctrine.

Edwin Hubble (1889-1953)
Edwin Hubble was one of the leading astronomers of the twentieth century. His discovery in the 1920s of countless galaxies which exist beyond our own Milky Way galaxy revolutionized the understanding of the universe and our place within it. He created a system for classifying galaxies, a system called the Hubble tuning fork diagram. In 1990, NASA launched the Hubble Space Telescope to continue studying the Milky Way and other galaxies.

Samuel Frank Musial (1920-2013)
His Major League career, all with the Cardinals, lasted from 1941 through 1963. In 1968, a statue of Musial was dedicated at Busch Stadium. Musial was nicknamed “The Man” in 1946 after he returned from naval duty in World War II. At retirement, Musial held 17 Major League, 29 National League and 9 All Star Game records.

Walter Elias Disney (1901-1966)
Winner of a record 32 Academy Awards in his lifetime, Disney amassed a remarkable body of work. His major accomplishments include producing the first synchronized sound cartoon, Steamboat Willie (1928); initiating the use of the three-color process in animation for motion pictures; producing the first feature-length animated picture, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs (1937); creating the family theme park Disneyland; and characters such as Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

Laura Ingalls Wilder (1867-1957)
Laura Ingalls Wilder used her childhood and adolescent experiences on the American frontier to write autobiographical novels beloved by children and adults alike. She wrote the “Little House” books such as Little House in the Big Woods and Little House on the Prairie. Wilder’s work has remained continuously in print since the books first appeared in the 1930s and was the subject of a very successful television series.

George Washington Carver (1864-1943)
In the Reconstruction South, cotton depleted the soil, and in the early 20th century, the boll weevil destroyed much of the cotton crop. Carver’s work on peanuts was intended to provide an alternative crop. Through intensive research, he developed more than 300 by-products from the peanut and sweet potato. He is also known for his work in the fields of soil fertilization and crop diversification.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens (1835-1910)
He is best known for his two classic novels of boyhood life on the Mississippi River, Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn. His childhood home of Hannibal, Missouri inspired many of his literary creations. Clemens took the writing pseudonym, Mark Twain, from riverboat jargon he learned during his years of piloting steamboats on the Mississippi.

For a complete list of Famous Missourians, go to house.mo.gov.
Name that Famous Missourian!

Fill in the name of the Famous Missourian for each clue.
Clue: Answers could be a first, middle or last name.

**Down**
1. Work on peanuts was intended to provide an alternative crop.
3. Revolutionized the understanding of the universe.
4. Winner of a record 32 Academy Awards in his/her lifetime.

**Across**
2. Literary creations were inspired by Hannibal, Missouri.
5. Led the nation through the end of World War II.
6. Work has remained continuously in print since the books first appeared in the 1930s.
7. Had a statue dedicated at Busch Stadium.
8. Sued for freedom while in Missouri.

For more information on historic Missourians, go to shs.umsystem.edu and click on Education.
Although not everyone can be involved in politics by holding public office, there are a number of effective ways for citizens to make their views known. Opinions about our government may be passed on to political leaders through traditional avenues established by custom or through legally established means.

A group of citizens may draft a proposed law and require that it be submitted to the people for passage through an “initiative,” a process in which advocates collect signatures from registered voters on petitions. Occasionally, through a “referendum,” the legislature submits a proposal to the people for approval or disapproval.

These legal actions, although provided for by law, occur infrequently. A frequently used means by which citizens may express their opinions is to write a letter to their elected representatives. Members of the General Assembly and state officials pay close attention to their mail, particularly when a piece of controversial legislation is at hand.

Looking at the structure of our government, a simple fact emerges: Everything depends on our use of the vote. It is the basic tool of democracy. If a few citizens don’t use it, democracy falters; if no one uses it, there is no democracy.

Future Voter: What Can You Do Now?

- Write a letter or email to your representative
- Find your representative online at house.mo.gov
- Talk to your parents about voting
- Visit the Capitol
Follow the clues to find the answers to the Missouri weather game.

1. Hottest Temperature
   July 14, 1954
   116°  120°
   118°  122°
   Clue 1: 28 degrees hotter than the July average high temperature of 90°

2. Driest Year
   Average Total Precipitation
   1953 1973
   1963 1983
   25.53 Inches
   Clue 2: The year after Harry S Truman left the President’s office

3. Wettest Year
   1993
   56.90 inches
   58.47 inches
   60.81 inches
   62.36 inches
   Clue 3: Approximately 4.75 feet

4. World Record Rainfall
   12 inches of rain in:
   42 minutes 50 minutes
   46 minutes 54 minutes
   Clue 4: Less than 3/4 of an hour

5. Coldest Temperature
   February 13, 1905
   -20°  -40°
   -30°  -50°
   Clue 5: Drop the first two figures from the year of the earliest Missouri capitol

For even more interesting and significant weather events, visit climate.missouri.edu/sigwxmo.php.

Information from the University of Missouri’s Climate Center