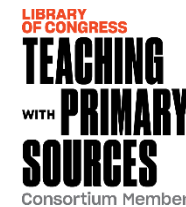


1. Title / Content Area:	Brown Palace Hotel
2. Historic Sites:	Brown Palace Hotel, Western Stock Show, Denver
3. Colorado Experience Episode:	<i>Rocky Mountain PBS Colorado Experience</i>
3. Developed by:	Laura Israelsen, Denver Public Schools Michelle Pearson, Adams 12 School District
4. Grade Level and Standards:	<i>Grade Level:</i> 6 th - HS <i>Standards:</i> Colorado Social Studies Standards 1-4 <i>Prepared Graduate Competencies:</i> Content in this Document Based Question (DBQ) link to Prepared Graduate Competencies in the Colorado Academic Standards 6 th : PGC 1-5, 7, 8 7 th : PGC 1-5, 7 8 th : PGC 1-5, 7 HS: PGC 1-5, 7, 8
5. Assessment Question:	What does the architecture of the Brown Palace tell us about the intentions of the builder and the role he believed it would play in the future of Denver? Other questions to consider: How has the unique design of the Brown Palace made the building stand out as a recognizable landmark in the city of Denver? What does the focus on animals tell us about their importance to the people in Colorado and their history? Why would these images be part of the architecture? Why would animals be invited into the most elegant buildings?
6. Contextual Paragraph	James Whitehouse was commissioned to create 26 medallions carved in sandstone on the Brown Palace Hotel. Each of the medallions depicts Colorado animals. The hotel's "silent



	<p>guests” can still be seen between the seventh floor windows on the hotel’s exterior. There are bears, mountain goats, deer, elk, mountain lions, buffalo, rabbits, sheep and many more. You never know what is going to be in the lobby of the Brown Palace Hotel. Believe it or not, every year the champion steer from the Western Stock show is brought into the lobby and shown. Try to imagine a 1500 pound steer standing right by the concierge desk complete with cowboys, wranglers and professionally dressed business people! 1945 was the first time a Champion Steer was a guest in the hotel lobby.</p>	
<p>7. Connection to Historic Preservation</p>	<p>The Brown Palace was, and continues to be, a defined historic landmark in the city of Denver. Placed in the National Register of Historic Places in April of 1970, the building was designed by Frank Edbrooke who also designed the Oxford Hotel in Denver. It was built of an iron and steel frame and constructed with both cement and sandstone from the Whitehouse & Wirgler Stone Company. Because of the design and materials used to build the hotel, it was one of Colorado’s first fireproof buildings. It was also the tallest in Denver when it was built. Preserving the building has been an ongoing work of “art” and can be challenging at times because of the nature of the materials in the building. With Colorado’s weather, freezing and thawing of water that seeps into the sandstone and concrete can cause damage to the foundation and other parts of the building. With regular historic preservation and maintenance efforts, ongoing damage to the building can be avoided.</p> <p>Historic preservation questions to consider:</p> <p>Why is it important to try to save buildings and architectural features even when they are created with difficult materials? Is it ever ok to change the materials? Should we try to save everything? Should we work to save these medallions? Why would it be important to show the Grand Champion Steer in the lobby of the Brown Palace? How does this help preserve the story of place or reflect the priorities of the community?</p>	

Document Based Question (DBQ)

Document Set

Colorado Animal Medallions on Brown Palace



GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why are these medallions included in the architecture on the Brown Palace Hotel?
2. Why were they created with sandstone?
3. What materials are used for the hotel construction?
4. What does the size of the building tell you?
5. Can you name any other unique architectural features on the hotel?

[*Whitehouse and Wirgler Sculptors and Carvers.*](#)
[*Photos courtesy of the Brown Palace*](#)

[*Colorado Experience: Brown Palace*](#)

Colorado Experience: Brown Palace

Brown Palace Exterior

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

[Click on this link](#) and use the + and - tools to look closely at the architectural features on the Brown Palace exterior.

1. What do you notice?
2. What materials were used to construct this building?
3. What do you notice about the location?
4. Where are the animal medallions located?
5. Why is this shape of building unique?
6. Why would a building of this importance be built in this area of Denver?



[Denver Public Library Digital Collection](#)

National Western Grand Champion Steer at the Brown Palace, since 1945



[Photo courtesy of the Brown Palace Hotel p.247 from the book Riding High Colorado Ranchers and 100 Years of the National Western Stock Show by Thomas J. Noel.](#)

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

1. Why are animals part of the Brown Palace both as architectural features and as guests?
2. What is concerning about bringing a champion steer into the hotel lobby?
3. How does this annual event contribute to the importance of this building?
4. How do stories and events help preserve historic locations?
5. What animal would you invite to the hotel and why?

Roundup at the Palace



by Kathleen Cook Waldron

Resources:

Roundup at the Palace by Kathleen Cook Waldron tells the story of the time the champion Western Stock Show Steer escaped and ran through the streets of Denver. There are questions and background knowledge in the appendix of the book and great discussion ideas.

Assessment Question

What does the architecture of the Brown Palace tell us about the intentions of the builder and the role he believed it would play in the future of Denver?

Response