

Tempe: Distinct, Diverse, Dynamic

Building Tempe:

Problems and Solutions

Fifth Grade Program of the Tempe History Museum

Introducing Tempe

1

People living with others in a city can have problems. We can have problems with getting along with one another.

In building our city, residents in the past created roles like mayor, policeman and fireman to help manage our problems. They made rules (laws and regulations) and accepted the responsibility of living by those rules.



photo credit: Larry Mishler

On the following pages are groups of problems and solutions that Tempeans – and sometimes our national government – have made to make life good in Tempe.

In the following activities, see if you can figure out the order in which things happened. Use these questions to help organize your thoughts.

What was the problem, how was it solved?

What had to happen before something else could occur?

For example: The bridge needed to be built before it was destroyed by a flood.

After you've looked at how Tempe has grown and changed, what questions do you want to ask about how that happened, what else has happened to Tempe, or what will happen next?

Being a good historian you should start your research with a question you want answered. Write your questions on the Question Sheet and take them with you to the museum!

Tempe Begins

2

ACTIVITY *Number the items so they are in the order in which they must have happened.*

BEFORE TEMPE...

1863 President Lincoln makes Arizona a separate territory.
In 1863 only Native Americans lived in the Valley.

— Charles Trumbull Hayden opens businesses on the south side of the Salt River: the ferry across the river, the flour mill, the blacksmith shop and printing office. Anglo farmers start moving to the Tempe area.



— Fort McDowell is built northeast of Tempe. It gives the settlers in the Valley protection from raiding Apaches and Yavapai. It is safe to live in the Tempe area.



— The Swilling Irrigation and Canal Company digs the first canal connecting to the Salt River. Within a year, small farms run mostly by Hispanic farmers dot the landscape.



— The Territorial Normal School (now Arizona State University) opens in Tempe. Tempeans are pleased to get this teacher's college. The Territory needed lots of new teachers for the children moving to the area with their parents.



Tempe Becomes a Town in 1894

3

ACTIVITY *Number the items in each group so they are in the order in which they must have happened.*

Dr. Fenn J. Hart is named the first mayor of Tempe.

**The town grows from 240 residents in 1870 to 1,090 in 1901.
Merchants build their stores on Mill Avenue.**

FIRES

— The Tempe City Council passes Ordinance No. 67 creating a fire department.

— The Hayden Flour Mill burns for the first time; the Tempe Hotel and the Andre Building located on Mill Avenue are destroyed by fire. The Arlington Hotel and the adjoining Peter's Hall burn. The Birchett Grocery Store, on the east side of Mill Avenue, is leveled by fire.

— May 19, 1888 The Tempe News has the earliest mention of fire in the young town of Tempe.



FLOODS

— The 1905 flood causes the Maricopa, Phoenix and Salt River Railroad bridge to collapse.

— Former President Theodore Roosevelt speaks on the steps of Old Main at the Tempe Normal School. He is visiting Arizona to dedicate the Roosevelt Dam. Farmers in the area worked to have the dam built to control the flooding.

— The new Phoenix and Maricopa Railroad bridge links Tempe with Phoenix and the mainline at Maricopa. Farmers can now get their produce to market.



Arizona Becomes the 48th State in 1912

4

ACTIVITY *Number the items in each group so they are in the order in which they must have happened.*

Tempe begins constructing official buildings.

As the town continues to grow, transportation becomes an issue.

OFFICIAL BUILDINGS

— The Tempe City Hall and Jail are built.

Tempe grows from 1,090 people in 1901 to 1,500 in 1912. Marriages, births and deaths need to be recorded.

— Tempe begins to have crime such as robberies.



TRANSPORTATION

Automobiles appear on Mill Avenue. It is still a dirt road.

The City Council instructs the Mayor to buy a motorcycle for the Marshall to use in capturing “violators of the speed ordinance.”

Men and women drive their buggies into town to do their shopping.



The End of World War II in 1945

5

ACTIVITY *Number the items so they are in the order in which they must have happened.*

Because of the G.I. Bill, World War II veterans arrive in Tempe to attend Arizona State College.

Tempe's population grows as a result.
There are big changes in store for Tempe.

— New schools and shopping centers are built in southern Tempe.



— Many new homes are built for the new families.
— Tempe moves South to find land for all the new homes.



— As people move South, Mill Avenue becomes run-down. The city council decides to redevelop Old Town Tempe (the Mill Avenue area). They build the new City Hall complex including the iconic upside down pyramid just off Mill Avenue.



ACTIVITY *Number the items in each group so they are in the order in which they must have happened.*

Recreation is important for citizens.

It also attracts businesses that want good places for their employees to live. *Transportation is still an issue.*

TEMPE TOWN LAKE

Tempe Town Lake opens as 145,000 come to
— celebrate.

Tempe uses bonds (borrows money) to pay for
— Tempe Town Lake.

Phoenix and Tempe, using ideas from an ASU
student project, form committees to study the
— possibility of a lake in the dry Salt River bed.



TRANSPORTATION

The light rail transit system begins operation in
— Phoenix, Tempe and Mesa.

There are thousands of students attending ASU.
Tempe has grown to 160,000 people. There is not
— enough parking for all of the cars in the ASU area.

Tempe voters pass a sales tax (1/2 percent) to pay
— for busses and light rail.

