

Tempe: Distinct, Diverse, Dynamic

Four Ways

To Look at Our City

Fifth Grade Program of the Tempe History Museum

Living in Tempe

1

How does living in Tempe affect your friends, the weather, your activities, your life?

Finding out more about Tempe and its history will help you find out more about yourself, your history and the history you are making today. *We are making history today because what we do today will be tomorrow's history.*

What happened to us in the past is history, and our history is affected by what happened before we were born.

When you go to the Tempe History Museum you will get to see objects and photographs that examine four themes (topics) about Tempe.

To really understand what is in the museum, you should act like a historian and have questions you want to answer by examining the displays.

The four museum themes are:

Surviving in the Desert

Living Together

Buidling Community

College Town

To help you decide what questions you want answered, we've selected photographs that show you how Tempe has grown and changed.

"Read" the photographs. Look at the people, the buildings, the surroundings. *See what they tell you about Tempe.*

Then decide what questions you want answered.

Write one question for each theme on the Question Sheet.



Surviving in the Desert

2

Tempe is part of the Sonoran Desert, which is a very dry place with very little precipitation (rain or snowfall).

Do you recognize this place?

Look at the photos below. How do you think they are related to Tempe Town Lake?



Above: Hayden's Ferry crossing the Salt River.



Above: Santa Fe Railroad Bridge and Flood of 1905.



Tempe is situated in a rather lush desert that has more water than most deserts, but it is fragile and can be changed, perhaps permanently by what humans build.



Has Tempe Town Lake changed our desert? Are the changes permanent? What else do we do that changes parts of our desert?

As a good historian you should start your research with a question on your Question Sheet about changes people have made to the desert and the problems this might cause.

Living Together

3

Ever since there have been people in the Tempe area it has been a diverse place.

What does diverse mean? Let's look at these photos.

Pre-1860s



1870s



1890s



1930s



2000s



Each photo represents the people living in the Tempe area at the time.

Who is in each photo?

Do they look alike or are there differences?

In the photo from 1870 are they men or women?

How are the people in the later photographs different?

How have the people living in Tempe changed over time?

What questions do you want to have answered about why Tempe is now such a diverse community and how we've learned to get along with one another?

As a good historian you should start your research with a question on your Question Sheet that you would like to ask about Tempe's diverse residents.

Building Community

4

Tempe has grown from very simple beginnings in the 1870s to become an All America City.

Look at these changes on Mill avenue:



1870s



1900s



1930s



2000s

How have the buildings changed?

Roads?

Transportation?

What questions do you have about what changes have occurred in Tempe and what Tempeans had to do to make a city?

As a good historian you should start your research with a question on your Question Sheet that you would like to ask about how or why Tempe has changed over time.

College Town: Tempe and ASU

5

Arizona State University is the largest public research university in the United States under one administration.

It is - and has long been - an important part of Tempe's special identity.

Look at these photos of ASU over the years:

1886



1928



1939



1984



How do you suppose Tempe became the home of ASU?

How do you suppose it grew from a one building school into ASU?

What do you think Tempe would be like without ASU?

Today

photo credit: Tom Story



As a good historian you should start your research with a question on your Question Sheet about the relationship between Tempe and ASU.