

**DO  
YOU  
KNOW  
MO**





**STATE CAPITOL**  
201 WEST CAPITOL AVE  
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101-6806  
*house.mo.gov*

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. We 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. We 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](http://www.house.mo.gov)**.

We 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

**pgs. 6-7:** 1. State Departments, 2. pardons, 3. vetoes, 4. Commander-in-Chief, 5. MO National Guard, 6. Persident Pro Tem, 7. writes, 8. members, 9. bicameral, 10. Representatives, 11. Court of Appeals, 12. interprets, 13. constitutionality, 14. criminal  
**pg. 11:** Down - 1. Washington, 3. Hubble, 4. Elias; Across - 2. Langhorne, 5. Truman, 6. Ingalls, 7. Stanley, 8. Scott  
**pg. 13:** 1. 118°, 2. 1953, 3. 56.90 inches, 4. 42 minutes, 5. -40°

## *Present*



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

# *Our Capitol Building*

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.



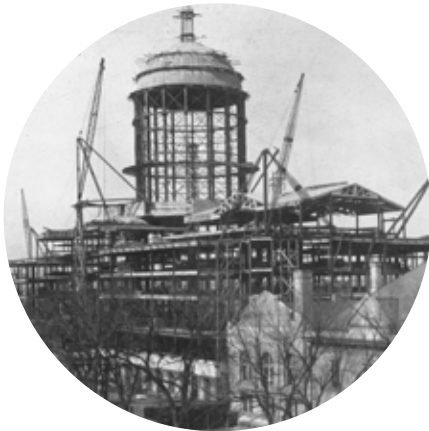
1840

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.

1911



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



1913-1917

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.

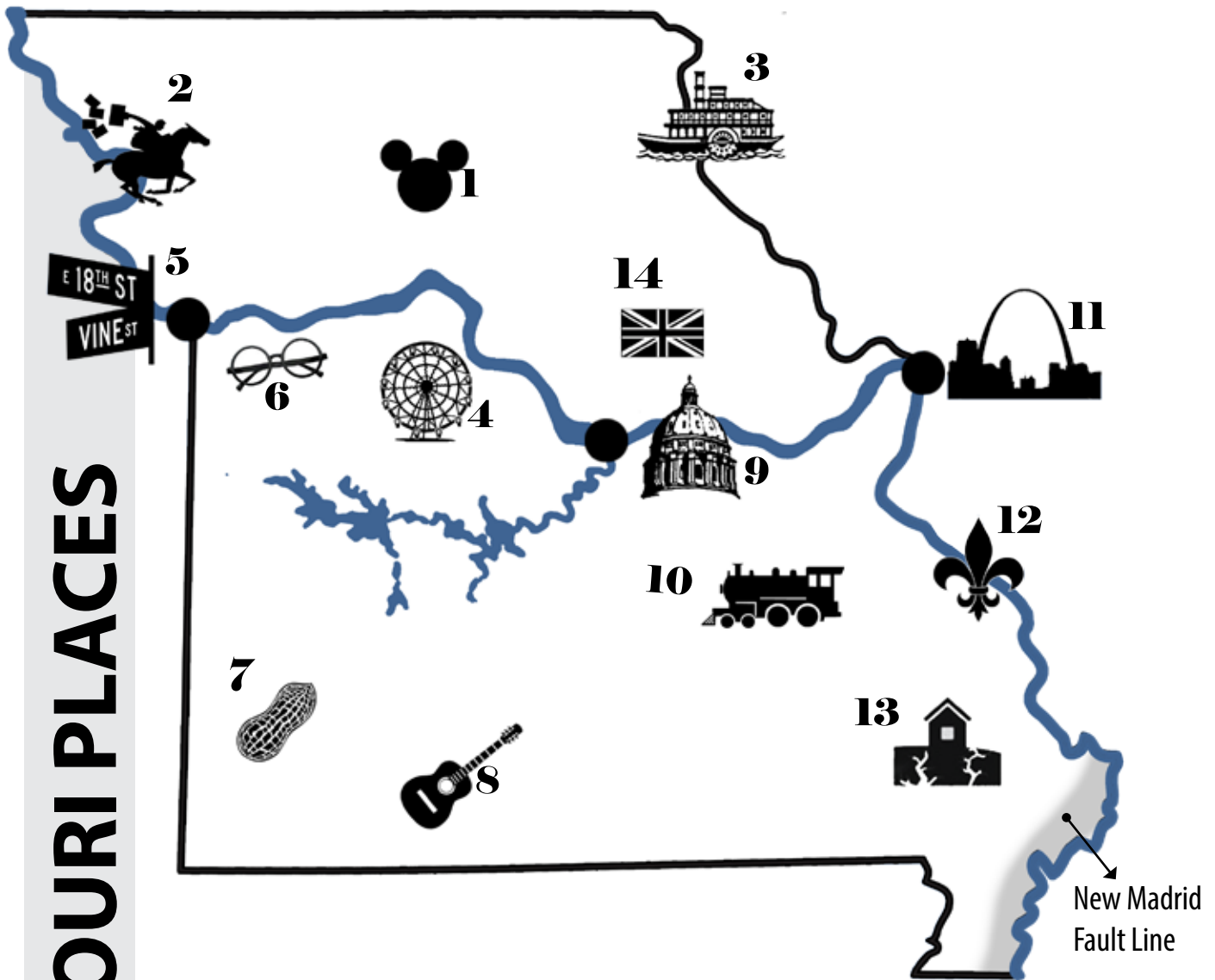
## *Artwork in the Capitol*

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



- |          |  |           |   |
|----------|--|-----------|---|
| <b>1</b> | MARCELINE<br><i>Walt Disney Family Farm</i>                | <b>8</b>  | BRANSON<br><i>Live Music Capital</i>                                |
| <b>2</b> | ST. JOSEPH<br><i>Pony Express</i>                          | <b>9</b>  | JEFFERSON CITY<br><i>Capital of Missouri</i>                        |
| <b>3</b> | HANNIBAL<br><i>Home of Mark Twain<br/>(Samuel Clemens)</i> | <b>10</b> | GADS HILL<br><i>First Train Robbery by the<br/>Jesse James Gang</i> |
| <b>4</b> | SEDALIA<br><i>First Missouri State Fair</i>                | <b>11</b> | ST. LOUIS<br><i>The Gateway Arch</i>                                |
| <b>5</b> | KANSAS CITY<br><i>18th and Vine</i>                        | <b>12</b> | STE. GENEVIEVE<br><i>First Permanent Settlement</i>                 |
| <b>6</b> | INDEPENDENCE<br><i>Home of Harry S. Truman</i>             | <b>13</b> | NEW MADRID<br><i>Worst Earthquake<br/>in U.S. History</i>           |
| <b>7</b> | DIAMOND<br><i>Home of George<br/>Washington Carver</i>     | <b>14</b> | FULTON<br><i>"Iron Curtain" Speech<br/>by Winston Churchill</i>     |



# 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.

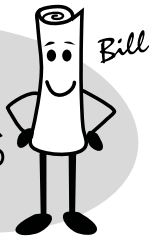
### **Legislative Committees**

### *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.

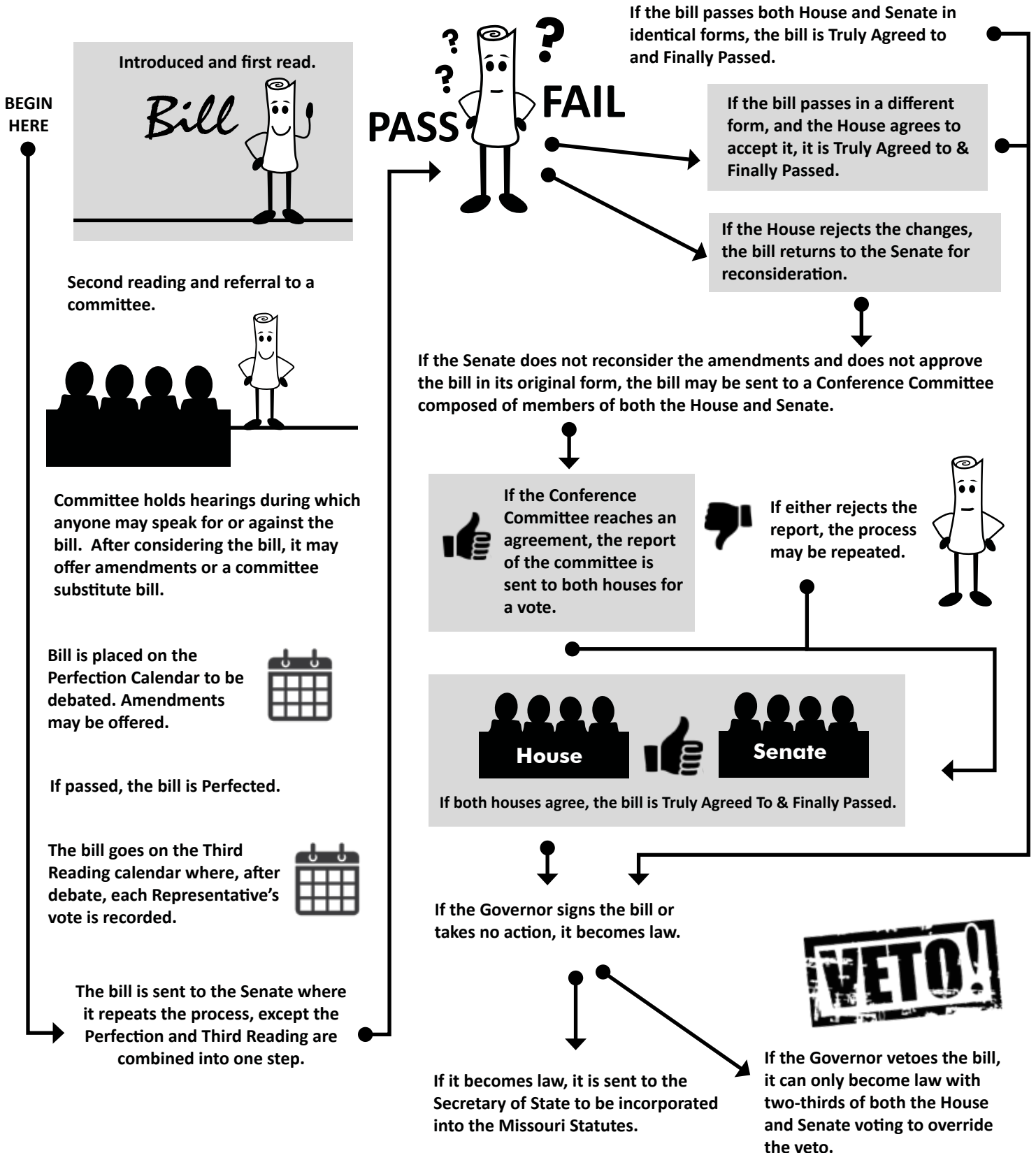
The judicial branch decides if the laws are unconstitutional. It deals in two areas: criminal, cases that cause injury to the state or society; and civil, cases of disagreement between persons over the law.

# 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.



# MISSOURI GOVERNMENT QUIZ

## EXECUTIVE

### GOVERNOR

Elected  
Officials

1. \_\_\_\_\_



Photo Credit: missourimansion.org

### The governor:

2. issues \_\_\_\_\_
3. signs or \_\_\_\_\_ bills
4. is the \_\_\_\_\_
5. of the \_\_\_\_\_



### SENATE

6. \_\_\_\_\_

SENATORS 10. \_\_\_\_\_

### The General Assembly:

7. \_\_\_\_\_ bills
8. has 197 \_\_\_\_\_
9. is \_\_\_\_\_





# JUDICIAL

## SUPREME COURT



11. \_\_\_\_\_



Circuit Courts



Associate Circuit Courts



## HOUSE



Speaker of  
the House



### This branch:

12. \_\_\_\_\_ laws

13. decides \_\_\_\_\_

14. has civil and \_\_\_\_\_ areas

# LEGISLATIVE



Write the correct term  
on each line.

## Terms

bicameral  
Commander-in-Chief  
constitutionality  
Court of Appeals  
criminal

interprets  
members  
MO National Guard  
pardons  
President Pro Tem

Representatives  
State Departments  
vetoes  
writes



# Federal Government

## Voices of the American People

### Congressional Representatives

Missouri, like all other states, selects citizens who travel to Washington, D.C., to represent the state in the United States Congress.



UNITED STATES  
**HOUSE** of  
REPRESENTATIVES

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.

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.

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.



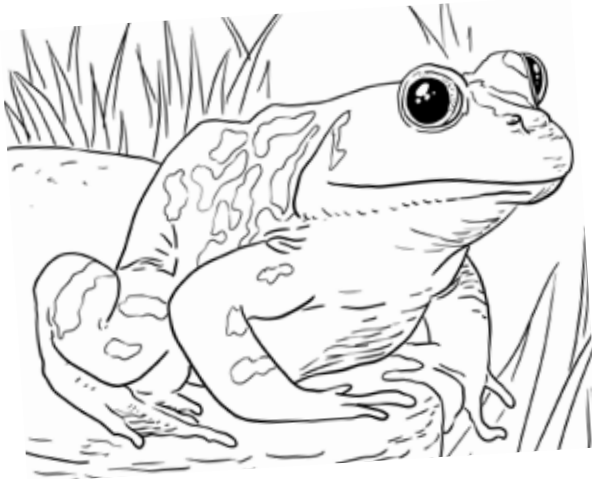
Members of the House of Representatives must be at least 25 years old, have been citizens of the United States for seven years, and be residents of the state in which they are elected.

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

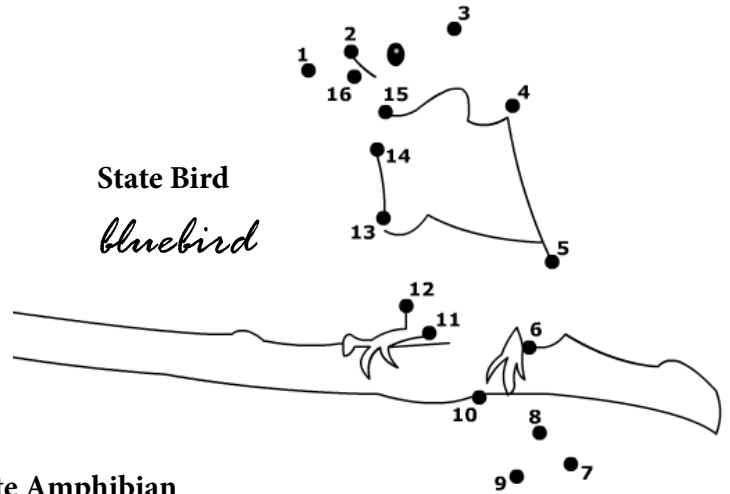


Throughout the years, state lawmakers have designated a variety of items to portray Missouri. The following are a small number of the symbols that represent the Show-Me State.



State Bird

*bluebird*



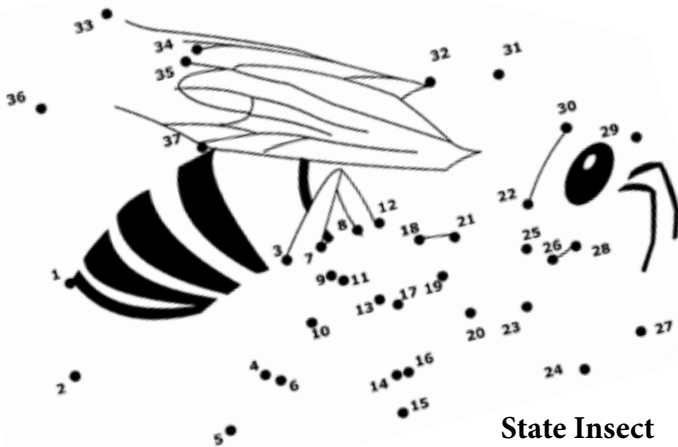
State Amphibian

*american bullfrog*

To learn more about these symbols and others, visit the Secretary of State's website at [sos.mo.gov](http://sos.mo.gov).

State Reptile

*three-toed box turtle*



State Insect

*honeybee*

Illustrations from [sos.mo.gov](http://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.

## **Stanley 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)**

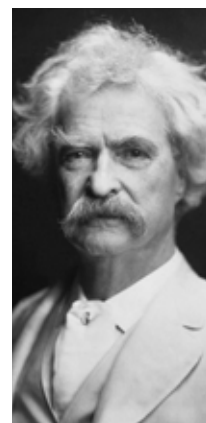
Laura Ingalls Wilder used her childhood and adolescent experiences on the American frontier to write autobiographical novels beloved by children and adults alike. She wrote the "Little House" books such as *Little House in the Big Woods* and *Little House on the Prairie*. Wilder's work has remained continuously 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.

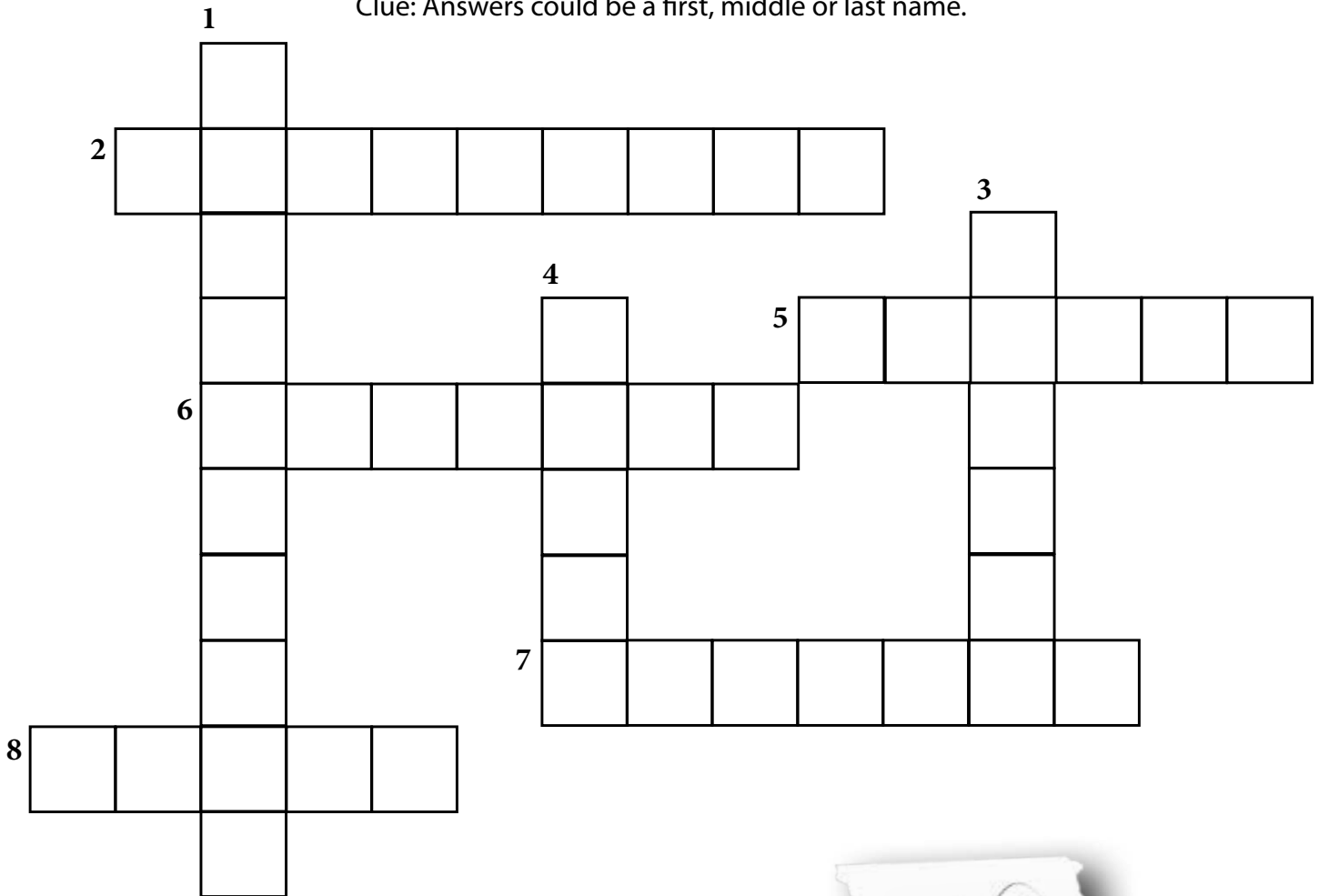


For a complete list of Famous Missourians, go to [house.mo.gov](http://house.mo.gov).

# 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](http://shs.umsystem.edu) and click on **Education**.



# Your Role in Government

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](http://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.

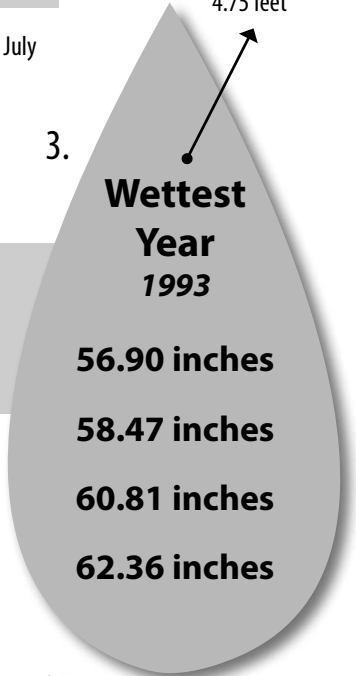
**Hottest Temperature**  
*July 14, 1954*

116°	120°
118°	122°

Clue 1: 28 degrees hotter than the July average high temperature of 90°

3.

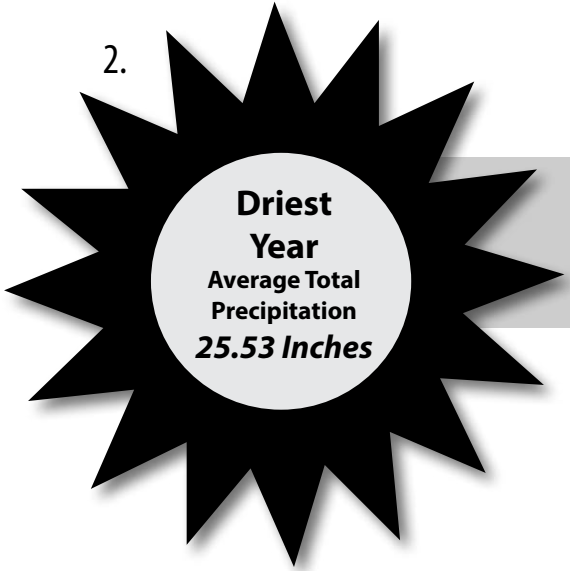
Clue 3: Approximately 4.75 feet



**Wettest Year**  
*1993*

56.90 inches
58.47 inches
60.81 inches
62.36 inches

2.



**Driest Year**  
 Average Total Precipitation  
**25.53 Inches**

1953	1973
1963	1983

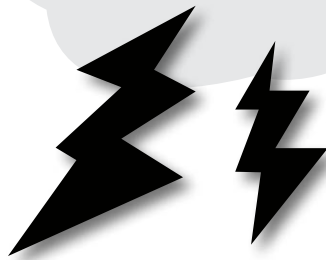
Clue 2: The year after Harry S Truman left the President's office

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



# MO WEATHER

For even more interesting and significant weather events, visit [climate.missouri.edu/sigwxmo.php](http://climate.missouri.edu/sigwxmo.php).

Information from the University of Missouri's Climate Center



## **Find Us Online**

House

**[www.house.mo.gov](http://www.house.mo.gov)**

Senate

**[www.senate.mo.gov](http://www.senate.mo.gov)**

General Assembly

**[www.moga.mo.gov](http://www.moga.mo.gov)**

Have an idea for us? Feedback is always welcome!

**[housepb@house.mo.gov](mailto:housepb@house.mo.gov)**