



NASHVILLE

SITES

Lesson Plan for Gulch Highlights Tour

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Grade Level: Upper Elementary/Middle School

State Standards:

5.01 Explain the need for the South's move towards industrialization after the Civil War

5.22 Examine the growth of the U.S. as a consumer and entertainment society after WWII including, suburbs, interstate highway system, increased access to automobiles, television, radio and movie theatres.

SSP.03 Organize data from a variety of sources in order to: Compare and contrast multiple sources; Recognize differences between multiple accounts; Frame appropriate questions for further investigation

SSP.06 Develop geographic awareness by: Determining relationships among people, resources, and ideas based on geographic location (local, national, global); Determining the use of diverse types of maps based on the purpose; Analyzing the spatial relationships between people, circumstances, and resources; Analyzing interaction between humans and the physical environment; Examining how geographic regions and perceptions of the regions change over time

Learning Objectives:

Students will be able to explain the rise and fall of railroads for the transport of good and people.

Students will be able to discuss the role of geography, business, race, and music in the Gulch.

Students will give examples of how buildings from the past have been repurposed for today's economy.

Students will be able to discuss the role art plays in Nashville today as seen on and within some of the buildings in the Gulch.

Essential Questions:

What considerations should be taken into account when re-purposing a building rather than razing it for a new one?

What role does art and music play in the Gulch and how has the function of the neighborhood changed in the last 100 years?

How has transportation influenced this area and how have former train and commercial-related buildings been repurposed? Is this a good thing?

Why do neighborhoods and buildings go through periods of decline and revitalization?

Materials:

Web and internet access (<http://nashvillesites.org>)

Smart phones for in-person walking tours

Laptop, tablet, desktop for virtual tours

Earbuds (optional)

Additional Resources:

Christine Kreyling, Civic Design Center Policy Brief, "Nashville and its Neighborhoods: Fanning the Flames of Place," 2005.

http://www.sitemason.com/files/glQn2E/PON_Neighborhoods_Gulch.pdf

Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/environment/remediation/documents/successstories/middle-tn-success-stories/rem_success_nashville-gulch.pdf

The Gulch Business Improvement District: <https://explorethegulch.com/about>

The Cultural Landscape Foundation: <https://tclf.org/gulch?destination=search-results>

Nashville Then and Now by Karina McDaniel, Pavilion Books, 2014.

Lesson Plan:

To access the tour via Nashville Sites, go to <http://nashvillesites.org>. Scroll down and select "View All Tours." Select the tour from the alphabetized list. Read and accept the Terms of Use. Read and listen to the introduction.

Select "Take Tour" for in-person walking tour (and when prompted allow Nashville Sites to access your location to turn on GPS mapping directions). Select "Take Tour Virtually" to take tour from home or classroom.

Before lesson planning, check out the Teacher Tips at the end of the document as you adapt the lesson and tour to best meet your class's needs.

1. BEFORE THE TOUR

Important vocabulary: gulch, beau, Art Deco, Romanesque Revival, Colonial Revival, commercial, commuter, remnants, mural, urban, bluegrass, repurpose, commissioned, boutique shop, industrial, ambrosia, conjoined, cannery, adaptive-reuse, restoration, preservation, and jukebox.

2. DURING TOUR

Tag [@NashvilleSites](#) on social media and take photos along the tour and include [#NashvilleGulch](#)

Stop 1 and 2: Union Station and Train Shed – Mercury, the Roman God of commerce, travelers and luck, sits atop Union Station and overlooked the train shed and surrounding area. What other sites in Nashville also have connections to Greek and Roman mythology and culture?

Why did Union Station close? What happened to the once magnificent train shed?

What do you make of the story of Abigail during World War II? Look at the image below (also in the image carousel for the tour stop). Analyze the photograph using this chart:

https://www.archives.gov/files/education/lessons/worksheets/photo_analysis_worksheet_novice.pdf



A crowd gathers in the train yard to see off a train full of men and women leaving for World War II. Image courtesy of MarketStreet Enterprises.

Stop 3: First Art Museum – The outer design of this building follows a classical style while the inside is all Art-Deco, a popular architectural style of the 1920s and 1930s. Union Station was designed in the Romanesque Revival style. Look at many examples and become familiar with these architectural designs. The Frist was designed to represent the values of stability, order and strength. Which style do you like better and why? Create a Venn Diagram that shows similarities and differences between Romanesque Revival and Art Deco architecture.

Stop 4 and 5: Jason Woodside and Ian Ross Murals/#WhatLiftsYouWings –

Kelsey Montague said, "My murals specifically invite people into a piece and then invite people to share their experience online. I believe that art should not be separated from the human experience. Instead the human experience should have a hand in creating art itself." After viewing these murals, and pondering Montague's words, sketch a mural that speaks of your experience as a human. Take a picture with #WhatLiftsYouWings and post to @NashvilleSites on social media with a statement about what or who "lifts" you in life.

Stop 6: Station Inn – Station Inn was established by blue grass singers and today features this genre of music as well as others. What is blue grass music? What is its history? What characteristics does this genre possess? What do you like or not like about bluegrass? Watch this 4- minute video that describes bluegrass music and plays several samples:

<https://youtu.be/Ebkjs4Ftlp4>

Stop 7: Javanco and Farber Building – These two connected buildings are perhaps the greatest example of the shift of the Gulch from an industrial center to an entertainment and retail area. What were these buildings originally used for and what businesses have occupied these spaces? What about today?

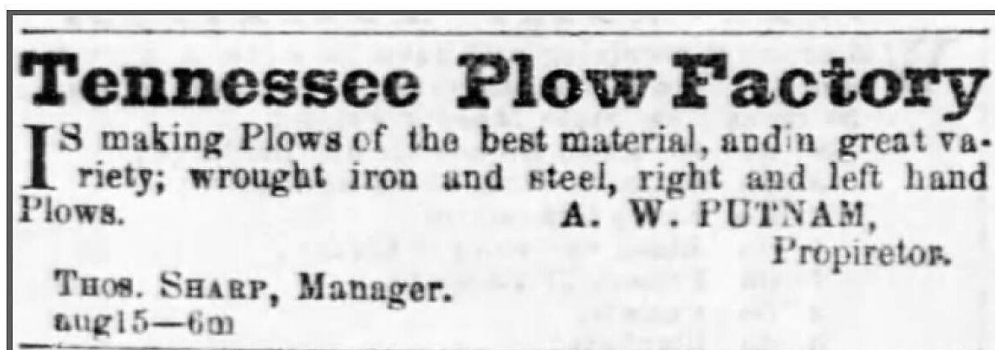
After listening to this stop, you will learn something that has not changed in this area. It has always been a place where people have lived, but how have the types of people that lived here changed?

Stop 8: Kayne Switchyard and Clement Landport – Trains have been a major part of Nashville's history and have been the main feature of the Gulch since the late 1800s. Even though passenger trains no longer run through Union Station, there are still several active tracks operated by CSX. So what's in a name? What does CSX stand for? Read the content on these two websites and talk about the history and evolution of CSX, which remains one of the largest train shipment companies in the United States.

<https://www.american-rails.com/csx.html>

<https://www.csx.com/index.cfm/about-us/history-evolution/>

Stop 9: Cannery Row – This music venue is one of the hottest spots in town to watch a show, but for the past nearly-150 years this complex produced a wide range of goods. Read or listen to the entry, then view the pictures in the image carousel, also displayed below. Be sure to click on them to read the captions. What surprised you and what did you learn that you did not know? Create a list of trivia questions based on this entry.





Fun Fact: Save the image of the original Nashville Mill Co. 1883 sign. Open it and enlarge it, can you read the inscription? What does it say, what does it mean? Find the answer below the last stop to see if you are correct!

Stop 10: Filming Station – The Filming Station has been called, “The Swiss Army Knife” of event spaces. Does this description aptly apply to all the buildings on this stop and/or the Gulch in general? How has the Filming Station maintained its original purpose and why do you think it won a preservation award? Discuss this with your group.

Stop 11: Cummins Station – Cummins Station is no longer connection to the transportation industry, but when it was, one of its biggest clients was the Cheek-Neal Coffee Company. What was the most famous product and brand this company produced?

Cummins Station was built in the architectural style know as Colonial Revival. How does this style differ from Union Station and the Frist Art Museum? How is it similar to Cannery Row and the Javanco-Farber building?

Answer for Fun Fact from Stop 9: Labor as wide as the earth, Finds its summit in heaven.

3. AFTER THE TOUR

Evaluate-

Option #1: The theme of this tour could be stated as "Decline and Renewal." Many of the sites you visited were once filled with vibrant activity that eventually declined and were abandoned. They have since come back to life or been revitalized and repurposed.

Look up the terms adaptable reuse, restoration, and preservation to better understand how they overlap and differ. Write an essay and provide as many examples from the tour as possible.

Option #2: Have a class discussion about the past, present, and future role of railroads and transportation in Nashville and in the U.S. Devise a plan to make trains an affordable and attractive option for travel again.

Option #3: Choose a bluegrass artist or visual artist, complete outside research, and present your findings to the class about your chosen artist. Use music and art samples of their work.

Alternate Assessments-

Post highlights and photos to social media ([tag @NashvilleSites](#) and [#Gulch Highlights](#))

Plan a train trip based on the NC&St.L train routes

Create a game and gameboard using places on the Gulch Highlights tour

Create an advertisement for one of the former businesses or brands

Fill in a Venn diagram comparing different architectural styles on the tour

Create a trivia game

Create a pamphlet of what to do in the Gulch in 1920 and another for 2020

Write a persuasive letter to stop any further demolition of historic buildings.

Write a period newspaper article that describes events in Nashville in the early 1900s

Create a bumper sticker that captures the "motto" of today's Gulch

Create a timeline for major events related to the Gulch

Teacher Tips:

1. Test the tour first to check for possible construction, sidewalk closures, etc.
2. This is a fairly short tour, but it is a heavy traffic area so be mindful of street crossings, and keep your group together.
3. Stops 5 and 11 provide places/opportunities for breaks. The last stop, Cummins Station, relax and find a place to eat after the tour.
4. Many of the sites on this tour can be entered and have incredible interiors. If possible, consider entering the following stops: Union Station, Frist Museum, Station Inn, Cannery Row, Filming Station and Cummins Station. You should call ahead in order to arrange for group entrance and possible informal tour by staff.
5. Below the narrative for each stop, find the option that reads "Full Record." Click on the record to gain basic information for each stop as well as a "copy citation" option for students' use in papers, essays, projects, or other assessments.
6. Consider making a small donation to NashvilleSites.org so that we can continue to create new tours and lesson plans! (Click "[Donate Now](#)" button on website.)