

# MADISON: VISION OF A CAPITAL CITY

## Historical Literacy Guide:



## *Geography*



Wisconsin Historical  
MUSEUM

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## **Object Literacy: *Learning from Objects***

The Wisconsin Historical Museum, as part of the Wisconsin Historical Society, has developed the following guide to assist in the teaching of standards for social studies. By focusing on objects, artifacts, maps, photographs and other primary sources from its collection, students will be able to redefine how they learn from objects and from history.

### **Object-based learning is**

- Using a variety of objects as central to the development of lesson concepts
- Utilizing objects through posing and investigating questions
- Utilizing well-thought-out initial questions to stimulate further critical thinking
- Using students' natural interest and inclination for question-posing to guide instruction in all subjects
- Leading students to their own answers by responding to open ended questions and/or returning the students' focus to the object
- Student-directed learning following paths created by the students

# Thinking Like a Historian: Rethinking History Instruction and Common Core State Standards Initiative

*Thinking Like a Historian: Rethinking History Instruction* by Nikki Mandell and Bobbie Malone is a teaching and learning framework that explains the essential elements of history and provides “how-to” examples for building historical literacy in classrooms at all grade levels. With practical examples, engaging and effective lessons and classroom activities that tie to essential questions, *Thinking Like a Historian* provides a framework to enhance and improve teaching and learning history.

## Thinking Like a Historian: Rethinking History Instruction

(TLH) **inquiry-based educational theory** provides a common language for educators and students. The theory allows for the educational process to be combined with categories of inquiry which promote historical literacy.

It is the intent of the Wisconsin Historical Museum that this guide serves educators and students in providing object-based lessons to be used after visiting and experiencing the museum on a field trip. Our field trips support *Common Core English Language Arts Standards* for Reading: Informational Text and Speaking & Listening standards as well as CCSS for English Language Arts & Literacy in History/Social Studies.

Educators should use this guide as a post-museum visit activity. It will continue to challenge students to “Think Like a Historian” by encouraging them to think critically, make personal connections with history, and to evaluate information by asking “why”, “how”, and most importantly, “How do you know?”

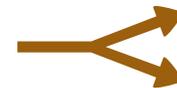
## TLH CATEGORIES



CAUSE AND EFFECT



CHANGE AND CONTINUITY



TURNING POINTS



USING THE PAST



THROUGH THEIR EYES

## Background Information

Land speculator James Duane Doty was largely responsible for the selection of Madison as the capital of Wisconsin. Born in Salem, New York, in 1799, Doty studied law and came west to Detroit in 1818. As a protégé of Michigan Governor Lewis Cass, Doty served as secretary to Governor Cass on an exploratory expedition to Wisconsin in 1820.

Doty served as a member of the Michigan Territorial Council from 1833 to 1835, where he began petitioning Congress for the division of Michigan into two parts. He argued that the growing number of residents in Wisconsin was not adequately served by the territorial government in Detroit. In 1836, the Wisconsin Territory was officially created. Doty had hoped to be appointed governor, but President Andrew Jackson appointed Doty's rival, Henry Dodge, instead. Dodge picked Belmont to be the territorial capital because it was in the lead-mining district, yet many lawmakers thought Belmont was too far from Green Bay and Milwaukee. Doty agreed and wanted to find a more central location.

Doty dreamed of building cities. He bought land between two of the four lakes in south-central Wisconsin. Then he had a surveyor diagram a city, which he named "Madison." In November of 1836, Doty successfully lobbied the territorial Legislature, meeting in Belmont, Wisconsin, to select his proposed city as the capital and to name him its building commissioner—even though at the time, there was no city there at all!

Later as territorial governor, Doty tried and failed four separate times to get public support for statehood. When his term ended in 1844, Doty moved to Neenah and promoted the town site of Menasha. He returned to politics again in 1846 as a delegate to Wisconsin's Constitutional Convention, and after Wisconsin achieved statehood on May 29, 1848, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. There Doty worked to get government aid for the construction of railroads in Wisconsin. He lost his seat in 1853 and returned to his home on an island between Neenah and Menasha.

## Images for the Classroom



**Original Madison Plat Map, July 1, 1836** (WHi Image ID: 38589). Original plat map of the town of Madison on the four lakes.

## Student Activity

Resources:

**Wisconsin Magazine of History Archives Volume 34, number 4, summer 1951**

<http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/u/?wmh,18768>

**Dictionary of Wisconsin History: Dodge, Henry 1782 - 1867**

[www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/index.asp?action=view&term\\_id=2380](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/index.asp?action=view&term_id=2380)

Share with students the Dictionary of Wisconsin History excerpt on Henry Dodge, then have students participate in a shared reading of the Wisconsin Magazine of History Archives article on James Duane Doty. Ask students to review the **Original Madison Plat Map** (WHi Image ID: 38589), brainstorm, and discuss what they are looking at. Call on groups of students to share with the class their observations. Give students plenty of time to consider the image and articles before introducing the discussion questions.

## Dictionary Entries

**Term: Dodge, Henry 1782–1867**

**Definition:** Frontiersman, soldier, politician, territorial governor, U.S. Senator, b. Vincennes, Ind. He spent his boyhood in Kentucky. In 1796 he moved westward with his family to the present Ste. Genevieve, Mo., where he engaged in lead mining, farming, and trading. In 1806 he made an effort to join the abortive Aaron Burr expedition to the Southwest, but turned back upon hearing of Burr's arrest. He served as sheriff of Ste. Genevieve County (1805-1821). During the War of 1812 he served with the Missouri militia, and rose to the rank of brigadier general. In 1827 he moved with his family of 9 children and his slaves to the lead-mining region of the Upper Mississippi. He settled first at Galena, Ill., and then on the lands of the Winnebago Indians, near Dodgeville. Quickly rising to leadership on the rough mining frontier, he took the initiative in pressing the miners' claims to the land against both the Indians and the federal government. He gained prominence during the Black Hawk War in 1832, when, as Colonel of the Iowa County militia, his leadership and tactics turned the tide against the retreating Sauk and Fox Indians. From 1833 to 1836 he commanded a contingent of U.S. dragoons to protect the U.S. frontier against the Indians, and made several expeditions to the western plains. Dodge was interested in territorial politics from his arrival in the area, and, with the solid support of the lead-mining Democracy of southwestern Wisconsin and the aid of interested Missouri Democrats, he was able to secure the appointment as first territorial governor in 1836. During his first term, the problem of locating a permanent site for the capital of Wisconsin dominated all other issues. Dodge's temporary location at Belmont was rejected in favor of Madison. The decision was largely the result of the smooth political maneuvering of Dodge's primary antagonist in Wisconsin politics, James D. Doty (q.v.). Although reappointed governor in 1839, he was removed from office when the Whigs came to power in 1841. But in the same year he was elected territorial delegate to Congress. In 1845, with the Democrats back in power, Dodge again became territorial governor. In 1848, when Wisconsin became a state, he was elected U.S. Senator, and in 1851 was re-elected to a full term. His senatorial career was not particularly impressive; largely, it reflected the twilight years of the Democratic party's power in Wisconsin. In 1857 he retired from public life and moved to Burlington, Ia. Dict. Amer. Biog.; L. Pelzer, H. Dodge (Iowa City, 1911); J. Schafer, Wis. Lead Region (Madison, 1932); WPA MS.

## Teacher-led Student Inquiry and Analysis Questions



1. How might present-day life in Wisconsin be different if Madison was not the state capital?



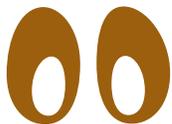
2. Who do you think benefited the most from the capital moving from Belmont to Madison? Who do you think benefited the least?



3. After reading the Dictionary of Wisconsin History entry on Henry Dodge, how did President Jackson's appointment of Henry Dodge as the first territorial governor shape the early history of our state?



4. Looking at the 1836 original plat map of Madison and after the museum visit, reflect on which ways Doty's vision of the city of Madison were fulfilled. Which ideas of his never came to be?



5. Why is a state capital so important to the citizens of the State of Wisconsin?

## Bibliography and Additional Resources

Images and objects shared in this document can be found on the following Wisconsin Historical Society webpages:

**Wisconsin Historical Images** [www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/whi/)

**Curators' Favorites** [www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum/artifacts/](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/museum/artifacts/)

Additional information can be found at:

**Wisconsin Magazine of History Archives Volume 34, Number 4, Summer 1951**

**Dictionary of Wisconsin History Dodge, Henry 1782—1867**

## Reflection

The Wisconsin Historical Museum is interested in hearing memories of favorite experiences or exhibits. Have students use the next page to illustrate and describe what they enjoyed most. Please return to:

### **Museum Education**

**Wisconsin Historical Museum**

**30 N Carroll Street**

**Madison, WI 53703**

