

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site Educational Resource

This resource complements the TR VR 360 virtual tour of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (trsite.org) in Buffalo, NY. [Click here](#) for access to all of Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site educational resources.



Use and Copyright

This and all of the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site educational resources are licensed under the [Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International \(CC BY-NC 4.0\) license](#). You are free to share and adapt the material for your purposes as long as you appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may not use the material for commercial purposes.

We encourage educators to modify the resources for your own use to best meet the needs of your students. Follow these steps to create an editable version of this document:

1. Make sure you are signed into a Google account when you are on the resource.
2. Go to the "File" pull down menu in the upper left-hand corner and select "Make a Copy." This will give you a version of the document that you own and can modify.

OR

2. Go to the "File" pull down menu in the upper left-hand corner and select "Download" and choose the format you would like to work with the document in. Sometimes as a result of downloading and reopening the document formatting can change.



Lesson

Guiding

Questions:

What was the Pan-American Exposition? When and where did it take place? Why did people go? What was it like to be there?

Lesson

Objectives:

Identify where and when the Pan-American Exposition took place.

Describe what it was like to be there and the attractions that made people want to go.

NYS

Standards:

4.6 WESTWARD MOVEMENT AND INDUSTRIALIZATION: New York State played an important role in the growth of the United States. During the 1800s, people traveled west looking for opportunities. Economic activities in New York State are varied and have changed over time, with improvements in transportation and technology.
(Standards: 1, 3, 4; Themes: MOV, TCC, GEO, ECO, TECH)

Editable Images

The following images appear in this lesson and are presented here in an editable form for modification. After making a copy of this document, double-click on the image to modify it.



Play Icon

Works Cited

The citations refer to images, videos, and text in this lesson. Source information that is not relevant to the lesson objective has been moved here to limit extraneous information.

- [Car vector](#) created by studiogstock - www.freepik.com
- A birds-eye view of the Pan-American Exposition. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Photograph of a man using the Edison Kinetoscope, ca. 1895. [Image](#) is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Kinetoscope information adapted from David A. Cook and Robert Sklar, "[History of the Motion Picture.](#)" Encyclopædia Britannica
- Images and information about "A Trip to the Moon": <https://io9.gizmodo.com/in-1901-you-could-pay-50-cents-to-ride-an-airship-to-t-5914655>
- [Photograph of a Kinetoscope Parlor in San Francisco](#), ca. 1895. Image is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- A photograph of the Pan-American Exposition lit by electric lights at night, 1901. [Image](#) is in the public domain and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons
- Image of The Temple of Music, <https://digital.lib.umd.edu/worldsfairs/result/id/umd:1004>
- [Image](#) of the stadium where battle reenactments and sports took place. Image is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- [Image](#) of The Electric Tower, the tallest building at the Pan-Am. Image is in the public domain and courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.
- Quotation from [The Pan-American Exposition: Its purpose and plan](#), p.9-10

Vocabulary

The following words and phrases appear in this lesson and may be a challenge for students to define.

Word or Phrase	Definition

Instructional Suggestions

Make this lesson your own. This resource is meant to be modified for your use considering your students' needs, your style as an educator, and the context in which you teach. The suggestions below are only suggestions.

Stations Activity

Arrange the information below into stations that students visit as if they were visiting exhibits at a fair. Have students gather information as they move from station to station, discussing the graphic organizer questions as they go.

Online Webquest

Ask students to examine the materials in this lesson, especially the videos online independently, then record the responses to their questions in the graphic organizer.

What was the Pan-American Exposition? When and where did it take place? Why did people go? What was it like to be there?

Objective:

- **Identify** where and when the Pan-American Exposition took place.
- **Describe** what it was like to be there and the attractions that made people want to go.

Introduction

→Directions: Answer the questions below.



Have you ever gone on a trip for a special event or to see something special?

Where did you go?

When did you go?

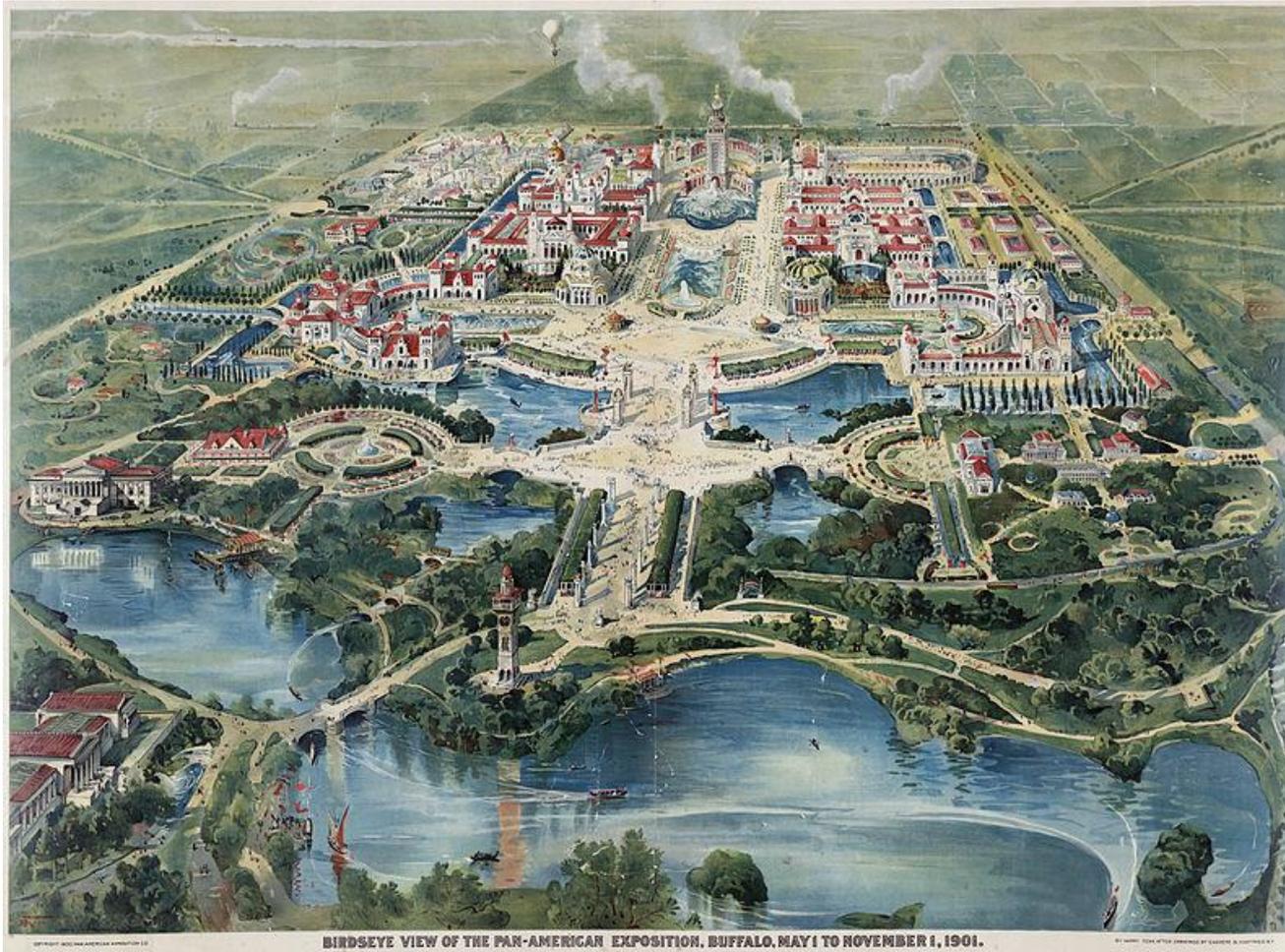
Who did you go with?

How did you get there?

Why did you go?

Historical Context: What was the Pan-American Exposition? When and where did it take place? Why did people go? What was it like to be there?

From May 1 to November 2, 1901, Buffalo, N.Y. hosted the Pan-American Exposition. The exposition was like a long-running fair and it was called the “Pan-Am” because it celebrated the cultures and friendships of countries in North, South, and Central America. “Pan” is a prefix that means “all,” so this was a celebration of *all* cultures in the Americas. It was also a great opportunity to showcase exciting new technology and the city of Buffalo. The grounds of the exposition were in Delaware Park and the area just north of it. People from all over the world came to Buffalo in 1901 to experience the Pan Am.



A birds-eye view of the Pan-American Exposition.

Now, it's your turn to explore the Pan-American Exposition!

→**Directions:** You are a visitor to the Pan-American Exposition in 1901 and you have come to Buffalo for the first time. Your best friend at home is jealous that you got to go and they want you to write them after every day to tell them what it was like. You have made a schedule for yourself to make sure you get to see everything the Pan-Am has to offer and given yourself a place to write down your thoughts so you won't forget to tell your friend about what your experience.

As you explore the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site online and examine the documents about the Pan-Am, take notes in the schedule below on what it was like to visit the Pan-Am and what attractions made you want to come.

My Pan-Am Schedule

Order	Attraction	What do you think? Were you impressed? What do you want to write your friend about your experience?
	Edison's Kinetoscope	
	Thomas and Dundy's "A Trip to the Moon"	
	A Grand Carnival of Nations: The Midway	
	Niagara Falls	
	Electric Lights	
	The Buildings, Grounds, and Food!	

Edison's Kinetoscope

While the earliest photographs had been around for over 60 years, the first movie machine, the Kinetoscope, invented by Thomas Edison and W.K.L. Dickson, had only been available for 7 years in 1901.

Visitors to the Pan-Am could enter a Kinetoscope parlor to view some of the many silent films set to music created by Edison's company.



[Click here to watch the PBS American Experience video](#) about the kinetoscope and to see some of the films that visitors at the Pan-Am saw.



Photograph of a man using the Edison Kinetoscope, ca. 1895



Photograph of a Kinetoscope Parlor in San Francisco, ca. 1895

Thomas and Dundy's "A Trip to the Moon"

There had never been an attraction quite like A Trip to the Moon before it debuted at the Pan-Am.

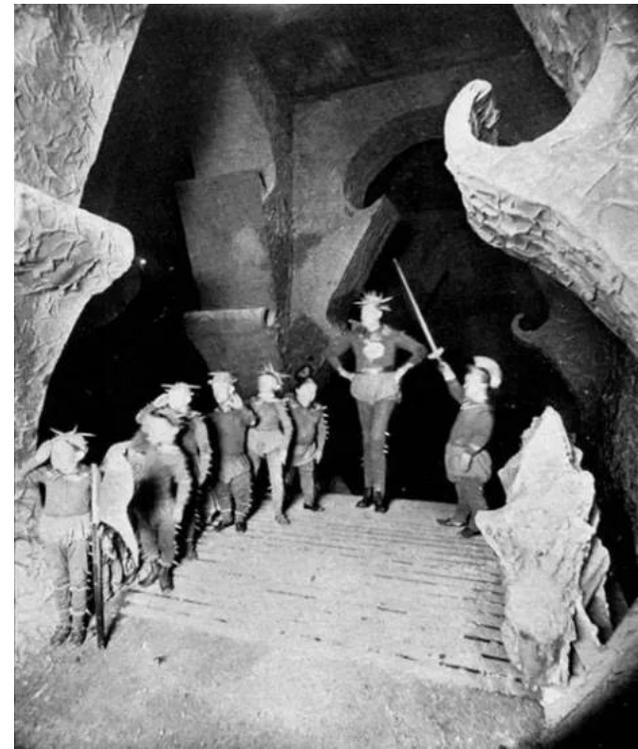
For fifty-cents, twice as much as any other attraction at the expo, visitors entered a gigantic building, then boarded a thirty-seat "airship" named "Luna." As they sat, the wings of the ship beat, rocking the vessel from side-to-side, appearing to lift it off the ground. To the passengers it looked as if they were flying through the clouds, out of Buffalo, past Niagara Falls, and to the Moon!

Landing on the Moon's surface, the passengers were greeted by aliens, guided through a maze of wonders to the "City of the Moon" and the palace of the Man in the Moon where the aliens put on a spectacular show for them. The visitors were then taken through a gift shop to buy things to remind them of their trip, then they left the Moon and returned to Earth by climbing down a rope ladder.

"A Trip to the Moon," was operated by 20 employees and staffed by 200 actors, was the first "dark ride," a style of attraction that uses shifting scenes, movement, and lighting effects now found in most amusement parks including Disney World.



An image from an advertisement for "A Trip to the Moon" showing the airship soaring over Western New York.



The scene as passengers meet the Man in the Moon for the first time.

A Grand Carnival of Nations: The Midway

The Midway, the section of the Pan-Am where most of the attractions were located included exhibits that claimed to showcase the cultures of people from other countries and Native Americans. Some of these demonstrations were put on by people from those cultures, but others were performed by other groups in costume. The exhibits were meant to entertain visitors to the Pan-Am and many would have been amazed by the performances, but people from those cultures might have been offended by how they were represented.

Thomas Edison's company visited the exposition and filmed several of the performances on The Midway.



[Click here](#) to see a performance of Spanish dancers at the Pan-American Exposition.



[Click here](#) to see a family of Japanese acrobats who performed at the Pan-American Exposition



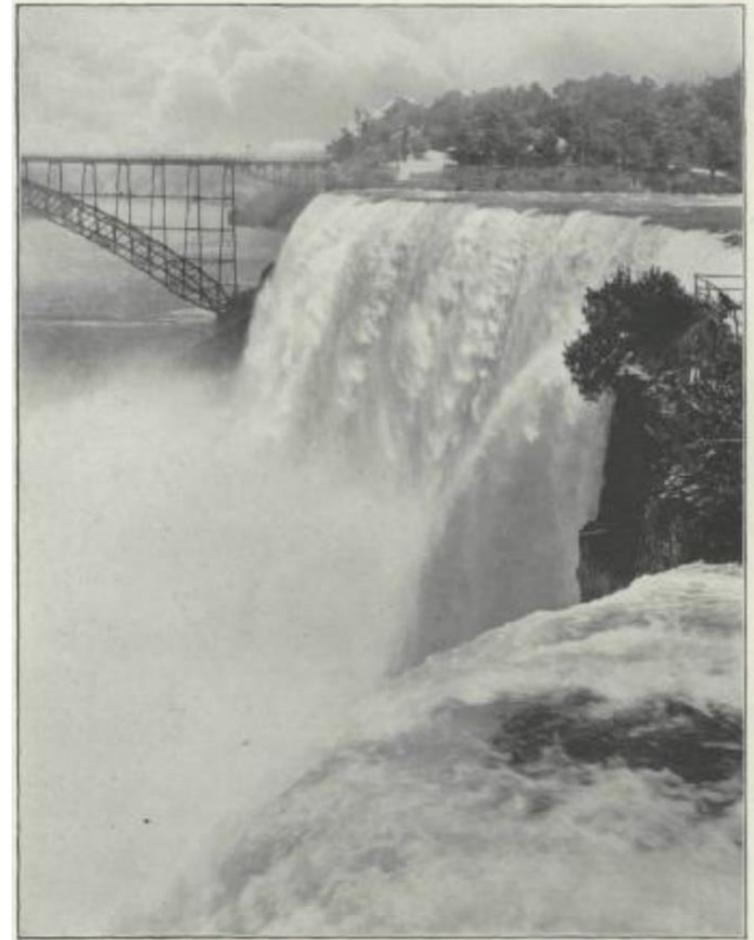
[Click here](#) to watch what visitors were told were Eskimos, a Native American group we now refer to as the Inuit who live in northern regions of Alaska, Canada, Greenland and Russia. This is an example of an exhibit that was not what was advertised. The performers are dressed up to look like they are Inuit, but they are not.

Niagara Falls

Niagara Falls, as it is today, was one of the main reasons people came to Western New York for the Pan-American Exposition in 1901. Its natural beauty and power captivates visitors. In 1901 the power of the falls brought electricity to the exposition through the use of new technology that used the running water to turn machines called turbines that created electricity.

"Buffalo's greatest and most-famed suburb, first and always is Niagara Falls. The Falls are considerably nearer to Buffalo than they used to be. We do not refer to their geologic crawl upstream, though that counts for something. But it is easier now than ever before to get to the Falls from Buffalo. It is easier to go to the Falls than it is to stay away from them, and it doesn't take half so long. Forty minutes by train from downtown points in Buffalo puts one into the beautiful State Park with all the glories of Niagara free before him ...Pleasant parks, all free as air, now make accessible to the visitor practically every point of interest on either side of the river, without charge and without restriction..."

- The Pan-American Exposition: Its Purpose and Plan, 1901



A photograph of Niagara Falls from an advertisement for the Pan-American Exposition.

Electric Lights

Visitors to the Pan-American Exposition marveled at the attractions during the daytime and were even more astounded at night when all the buildings were lit up by an impressive arrangement of light bulbs. While electric light bulbs had existed for a number of years before the Pan-Am they were rarely in people's homes, so the display was a fascinating attraction for visitors.



A photograph of the Pan-American Exposition lit by electric lights at night, 1901.



[Click here](#) to see a film made by the Thomas Edison company of the Pan-American Exposition during the daytime and at night.



"If you will stand anywhere in the Grand Court at the exposition and see the lights turned on once you will want to witness it every night. The turning on of the electricity is the most artistic performance of this kind ever seen. The lights do not go on at once; there is at first a slight rosy glow, which becomes brighter and brighter until the whole place is ablaze, and when the lights are turned off at eleven o'clock they do not go out suddenly, but fade gradually like a dream. It is a most marvelous sight, and seeing it once, the visitor wants to stay in Buffalo and go to the exposition every night."

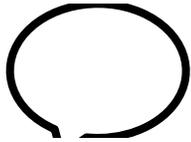
- Leslie's Weekly magazine, August 24, 1901

The Buildings, Grounds, and Food!

Click here ([Part 1](#), [Part 2](#), and [Part 3](#)) to explore the grounds of the Pan-Am by boat traveling on a canal through a silent film created during the exposition. Skip around the recording to see different sections of the grounds.

Most of the buildings on the Pan-Am grounds were temporary and created specifically for the exposition. They were decorated with a rainbow of colors and created to blend the styles throughout North, South, and Central America.

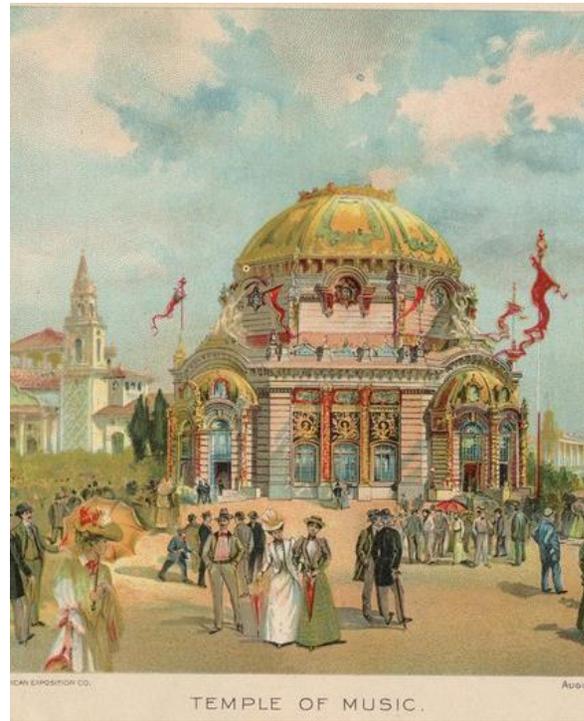
The food was also a blend of cultures and there were many options to choose from. Read the quotes below from a visitor to the exposition.



...There are two fifty-cent dinners offered on the grounds: one at the restaurant beside the Philippine Village, the other in the Dairy Building. There is even a thirty-five cent dinner to be had beside the East Amherst gate...The Nebraska Sod House...furnishes...a meal of fricasseed chicken, coffee, and bread and butter for thirty cents..." - Everybody's Magazine- October 1901



A section of the Midway including the ferris wheel and "A Trip to the Moon"



The Temple of Music



The Electric Tower, the tallest building at the Pan-Am.

Show What You Know: A Letter Back Home

TR VR Lesson: What was the Pan-American Exposition? When and where did it take place? Why did people go? What was it like to be there?

