THIRD GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES

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Understanding Our City,

DES MOINES

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Des Moines Independent Community School District

DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Des Moines, Iowa

DES MOINES PUBLIC SCHOOLS

UNDERSTANDING OUR CITY, DES MOINES

THIRD GRADE

SOCIAL STUDIES

A tentative sourcebook
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CHAPTER I DES MOINES - CAPITAL CITY

Largest City in Iowa

Des Moines is a wonderful and exciting city. It is a good place to work and study. It is a good place to have fun, too. Des Moines is a friendly city. It is a hustling, bustling, growing city too. Everywhere there are busy sounds as the city is working, growing, and changing. New buildings are going up. Roads and highways are being built. It is a city of planners and builders and doers.

What makes Des Moines a wonderful place? It is located near the center of the state of Iowa. It is a center for trade and travel in Iowa and the Midwest. Many people work to make the city a better place. When the people believe in a growing, better city, it becomes a better place to live and to work. All these things and many more make Des Moines an important city.

The Des Moines and the Raccoon Rivers are important to Des Moines. They provide water for homes, factories and offices. In the days of the early settlers, these rivers were also important in the transportation of goods and people. Now, railroads, airlines, and highways make it easy to travel to and from Des Moines to any part of the country.

It is also important to remember that these two rivers divide the city into east, west, north, and south sides.

Des Moines is the capital city of the state of Iowa. This means that the offices of our state government are located there. Iowa is located in the Midwest of the United states. It is called one of the prairie states because of its gently rolling land.

The weather in the Midwest is good, too. The long, warm summers, good rain, and rich ground are good for farming. Much of the best farming land in the nation is found near Des Moines.

The railroads, planes, and highways are busy day and night carrying people and goods from Iowa to many parts of the country and the world.

The Midwest is important for both farm goods and industry. Des Moines and Iowa supply goods and foods to our country and other countries of the world.

Big and Important

There are more than 216,000 people in the city and over 276,000 in the Metropolitan Area. It is the largest city in Iowa and the fifty-fifth largest city in the United States.

Des Moines is important for a number of things. It is best known as an insurance, printing, and convention city. It is known as the insurance center of the West. Forty-seven companies have their home offices here. Over one hundred other insurance companies have offices here, also.

The city is one of the outstanding publishing centers in the United states. As a leading convention city, over four hundred conventions are held here every year.

Des Moines is important, too, as a center of learning. People come from all around Iowa, and the nation to study at Drake University, Grandview College, the College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery, and the American Institute of Business.

It is a great center for medicine with many fine hospitals, clinics, and doctors. Sick people come from near and far to be helped.

Many early settlers helped build the city. Today, there are men and women who see even greater things for Des Moines. New buildings, factories, businesses, and schools are being built. They are part of the new Des Moines that is changing before our eyes. This is why we must learn about our city.

Now We Know

Des Moines is a busy, growing city.

Des Moines is located where the Des Moines and Raccoon Rivers join near the center of Iowa.

Des Moines is the crossroads of Iowa.

Des Moines is changing every day.

Something to Do

Look over what you have just read. Name three busy places in Des Moines. Choose a busy part of Des Moines and draw a picture of it. Tell why the place you chose is busy.

Questions

1. Why is Des Moines an important city?
2. In what part of the United States is Des Moines?
3. In what ways has nature been good to Des Moines?

CHAPTER II DES MOINES' EARLY DAYS

The First People

Indians were the first people known to make their homes in the place where Des Moines now stands. They lived in villages of crude teepees or wickiups of bark, poles, skins, reeds, and rushes. Indian families spent most of their time providing for their needs. They hunted for food. They made clothing and rugs of animal skins. Things for cooking were made of mud.

The valley of the two rivers was a wonderful place for the Indians. In the summer they hunted buffalo, deer, and rabbits. In the winter they trapped beavers and hunted wild turkeys. The rivers were filled with fish. The weather was good for growing corn and other vegetables.

If the hunting was not good in one place, the Indian moved his family to another place. The open land of the Des Moines and Raccoon river area was fine for hunting. The rivers were good for fishing and traveling by canoe.

Because there were no streets or roads, the Indians made trails through the bushes, woods, and tall prairie grass. Sometimes the trails became muddy from the rains in the spring or fall. Sometimes the trails were dry in the hot summers or frozen in the cold winters. The Indians used their trails for hunting and trading and traveling.

As the early explorers and settlers came to the Des Moines River area, they used these Indian trails in finding their way across the prairie. Water was the fastest means of travel at that time.

Early Visitors

The first white visitors to the Iowa region were French. They were Louis Joliet, an explorer, and Father Marquette, a missionary. In 1673 these two men and their five oarsmen, set out to explore the Mississippi River. They started out from St. Ignace in Northern Michigan. As their boats came out of the Wisconsin River into the Mississippi River, they saw Iowa as high bluffs above the west bank of the river. For eight days they paddled down the Mississippi without seeing any human beings. At last, footprints were found. Following these, Marquette and Joliet met some friendly Indians. The Indians and white men smoked the pipe of peace together and talked. They parted as friends and the visitors continued on their journey, south on the Mississippi River.

Other white men did not come to Iowa soon. Iowa was to be Indian land for another one hundred years before white men came to make Iowa their home.

Even after the settlers began moving into eastern Iowa, very little was known about the region of Iowa where Des Moines is now built.

One of the first white men to travel through the Des Moines River route was a French fur trader, Jean Faribault. He made several trips about 1800 up and down the river, trading for furs with the Sioux Indians. He did not write about what he saw on his trips.

The government in Washington thought that a fort should be built in this frontier area. In 1835, a Colonel Kearney led an expedition of dragoons (mounted soldiers) through Iowa.

When they came to the place where the Raccoon River joins the Des Moines, they found a boggy, marshy meadow with plenty of wood nearby.

One of the officers, Lieutenant Albert M. Lea, was sent down the Des Moines River in a dugout canoe. His job was to find out if the river was deep enough for boats to bring soldiers and supplies to and from the fork of the rivers if a fort was built there. He also drew a map of the region he explored.

Later, a Lieutenant John C. Fremont was sent up the Des Moines River to the Raccoon forks to map the region and set down its exact location.

About 1842, troubles between white settlers and traders and the Indians began to grow. This was Indian land but the traders and settlers were coming into it against the wishes of both the Indians and the government. These were called "squatters". The Indians asked the government for help to keep the white men out. Also, fighting began between the Sac and Fox Indians and the warrior Sioux Indians from the north. A fort in the area was needed for the protection and safety of both the Indians and the settlers.

Among the fur traders, early explorers, and settlers who came to this area before the soldiers was Wilson Alexander Scott. He was probably the first settler to make his home at Fort Des Moines. He came several months before Fort Des Moines was built and bought land on the east side of the river where the capitol building now stands.

Captain James Allen of the First Dragoons led an expedition up the Des Moines in November, 1842. He selected the Raccoon Fork as a good place to build the fort for several reasons. A <u>fork</u> is a place where two rivers meet.

He found rich soil and plenty of wood, stone, water, and grass. All were necessary to build and run a fort. Keelboats could use the Des Moines River to bring in supplies. The place chosen was between the Sioux tribes of the North, and the Sac and Fox Indians in the southeast. Captain Allen

also felt that this was the part of Iowa where most squatters would want to come. Also, the place chosen was about half-way between the Mississippi and the Missouri Rivers. A fort here would be on the best trail of settlers moving westward across the Iowa region.

* Can you see why this location would be used by later settlers as a trading place?

* Can you tell why its location at the fork of the rivers helped Des Moines to grow?

The war department ordered that a fort be built at the Raccoon Fork. In May, 1843, Captain Allen and a small group of soldiers arrived at the place chosen aboard a small steamboat, the "Ione". Two more companies of soldiers arrived in late May.

Work was started at once on the log barracks for the soldiers. By winter, two rows of log cabins were built. One row faced the Des Moines River and was called "Officers Row". The other cabins faced the Raccoon River. Other buildings for storing supplies, a guardhouse, and offices were built also.

Because an earlier fort on the Mississippi River had been called "Fort Des Moines", Captain Allen wanted to name the new fort "Fort Raccoon". But General Winfeld Scott thought that it would not be in good taste to name the fort after an animal and so he ordered that the place be called "Fort Des Moines".

The exact location of the old fort is marked by a marker in the parkway on West First Street about five blocks south of the Public Library. We must remember that the two rivers do not meet today at the same spot they did in 1843. The path of the Raccoon River has been changed to control flooding in the season of high waters.

Life at Fort Des Moines was not easy. In the summer there was fever and disease. Winters were long and cold. There were few medicines for those who got sick. The fort was not very big. People were far away from their homes and families in the East.

The most important job of the soldiers was to keep the settlers from coming into central and western Iowa before October 11, 1845. Until that time, this area was an Indian Reservation. A few traders were allowed to come in and there were several who lived near the fort. Not all of these traders were honest men. They often traded things of almost no value for furs. The Indians had received money from the government for the land they had given up in eastern Iowa. But the Indian was not used to trading with money and did not know its real value. They often paid too much for what the traders sold them.

Others were allowed to come into the reservation. A Mr. J. M. Thrift was a tailor who made clothes for the soldiers. James Drake and John Sturdevant were gunsmiths for the soldiers. Two blacksmiths took care of the soldier's horses. William Lamb and Alexander Turner were allowed to raise crops and vegetables to feed the soldiers at the fort. Dr. Thomas A. Brooks came in to help the sick or wounded.

The only trees for building were found southeast of the fort near where the town of Carlisle is now located. Here Captain Allen and Moses Barlow opened a sawmill to furnish lumber. Brick for fireplaces and chimneys were made from clay by a Mr. Trullinger. Limestone was found along Four Mile Creek and used for making cement to hold the bricks in place.

There was no wall built around the fort. Indians did not attack the fort. Sometimes the soldiers had to go north to push the Sioux back so they would not attack the Sacs and Foxes. Much of the soldiers' time was spent in keeping track of the Indians in the area so that the Indians could be moved westward to Kansas when the time came for them to leave in 1845.

When they were not busy, the soldiers hunted, held "turkey shoots", and raced their horses against the Indian horses. All news reaching the fort was at least a month old. Few visitors came this far west. It took weeks and sometimes months to make a trip from Washington or New York to Fort Des Moines.

Des Moines Grows into a Town and City

The land was opened for settlement at midnight, October 11, 1845, except for a square mile around the fort. With the Indians moved out of the territory into a new reservation in Kansas, there was no need for a fort here. Some of the soldiers left in the fall of 1845 and the fort was given up by the government in March, 1846.

At the signal of a gunshot from the Agency house on the east side of the river, the settlers rushed into stake out their claims on the land. By April, 1846, about thirteen hundred people lived in Polk County. Ten years later, over ten thousand people lived in the county. Today nearly three hundred thousand people live in Polk County.

With the Indians gone, the people moved in to claim the good land. As people moved west, more and more people came to Fort Des Moines.

These early settlers spent most of their time growing food, making clothes, building homes, and making their own furniture and utensils. They had no power tools to help them. The work was hard and it took most of their time. They could hardly produce enough food for their own needs.

Not all of the people who moved into this frontier country were really farmers. Many of them had been craftsmen, tradesmen, or other workers where they had lived before. But, on the frontier, they did have to eat and so many of them farmed to raise their own food.

In June of 1846, a Mr. Jones made out a plan of the village. Streets were named and lots were sold. Not many people were living in Fort Des Moines at that time. A few early settlers were living in the cabins no longer used by the soldiers. There were a few log huts built outside the old fort area.

A number of settlements wanted to be named the "county seat" where the offices of the Polk County government would be located. The state government, then located at Iowa City, decided to make Fort Des Moines the county seat of Polk County in 1846.

At this time, Mr. Jones' plans showed the village boundaries as the Raccoon River on the south, the Des Moines River on the east, Eighth Street on the west, and Locust street on the north.

As villages like Des Moines began to appear, they became market places where the settlers in the surrounding area could come to trade or buy things they needed which they could not make themselves.

Many new people came to the village growing up around the old fort: craftsmen, tradesmen, bankers, doctors, teachers, and others. The village of Fort Des Moines was a central location for these people. A central location is a place which is easy for people to reach. It is the center of an area.

* Why was it easier for people to buy and sell if they lived in a village and not on a farm?

* Could the village of Fort Des Moines grow very large in these early days without plenty of good farming land nearby?

In 1850, Fort Des Moines became a town by permission of the state government and a vote of the people living in the village. It was now a town, not a village. A town government was set up. Seven council members and a mayor were elected to make laws to keep the people safe and healthy. Life was simple in this early town. Spelling bees were held for fun and the day a steamboat would arrive on the river was a very important day for all the townspeople.

* Do you know why Des Moines was now a town?

* Why was Des Moines growing?

Several doctors and lawyers offices were started. General stores and grocery stores, drug stores, a hardware store, a furniture store, a

clothing store, and a tailor shop were opened. One of the double cabin barrack buildings of the old fort was made into a hotel. The first church was a Methodist Church, but other churches were established soon.

By this time, Des Moines had become a hub for all the neighboring villages and farms. You know what the hub of a wheel is. A town is called a hub when it is the center of an area around it. Generally, a town becomes a hub because it is a center for transportation. The town was located on the rivers, and land trails had been started. The town could get and send goods by water. Docks had been built so that the goods could be unloaded.

Merchants and traders could make a living in Des Moines. They built new warehouses, docks, and stores. They helped Des Moines grow larger.

Goods, supplies and new settlers had to come over land from the east, except in summer. Then they could be brought up the river. One pioneer tells of seeing four steamboats unloading at one time on the dock at the fork of the two rivers. This was called the "Point".

There were wolves, deer, elk, bear, numerous smaller animals, and wild turkeys in the nearby woods. Hunting and fishing were not only fun, but were necessary in those days.

At the same time that Fort Des Moines was growing up on the land between the two rivers, another settlement was growing on the east side of the Des Moines river. There, the Ewings had built a home for themselves and ran a trading post to trade with the Indians. Another trading post, Phelps and Company, had been built there, trading in furs. J. B. Scott had a farm on the east bank of the river and operated a ferry boat in the river not far from what is now Grand Avenue. A few settlers homes, a "grist mill" to make flour from grain, and other buildings were also located on the east side. In 1854, that area was planned into blocks and streets to form a town to be called "Demoine".

When the state government made plans to move to central Iowa from Iowa City, the towns of Fort Des Moines and Demoine each wanted the capitol building located on their side of the river.

It was finally decided to build the capital on the east side of the river on land donated to the state by Mr. Scott. His grave is in the southeast corner of the Capital grounds today.

The two towns decided to stop their quarrel and to become one city. On January 28, 1857, the town of Fort Des Moines came to an end. In its place, a new city of Des Moines was born which included both the east and west side settlements. The limits or boundaries of this city were pushed out in all directions, making the city seven times larger than it had been. There were new industries, new businesses, new homes, and new people.

Des Moines had reached an important stage in its growth. Now it was a city, no longer a soldier's outpost on the frontier. It was the county seat of Polk County and the capital city of the state of Iowa. The new enlarged city had a mayor-council government. W. H. McHenry was elected mayor and there were fourteen councilmen, two from each of seven divisions or wards.

In 1857, there were about five hundred houses and business buildings. The new capitol, a three story brick building was being built where the soldiers and sailors monument now stands. The first county courthouse was built on Cherry Street just south of where the present courthouse now stands. The Exchange Block at Third and Walnut, was the largest business building in the city. In 1856, the Sherman Block, a fine brick business building, was built.

Crossing the rivers was a problem from the beginning. At first they were forded by floating people, animals, and goods across them on a raft, using poles or ropes to push and guide the raft. Later, ferry boats were used for crossing both rivers.

The first bridge built was a pontoon or floating bridge across the river about where the Grand Avenue bridge is now. Soon other bridges were built at Court Avenue, Market Street. Not until 1862 was a bridge built over the Raccoon River.

These were only wooden bridges and they were often repaired or replaced because of wearing out or being swept away by river flooding in the spring.

The streets of early Des Moines were not much better than wide paths. There were no curbs or sewers, no paving, no street lights. People were ankle-deep in dust in dry weather and ankle-deep in mud in rainy weather. The sidewalks were made of wooden planks. By the end of the 1800's, sewers had been built and many streets and alleys were paved.

Des Moines was not a boom-town, growing quickly. It did grow steadily. The first railroad reached Des Moines in 1866. It was called "the Des Moines Valley Railroad" and ran between Des Moines and Keokuk.

As the number of people in Des Moines grew, the city became larger by taking in a number of smaller towns that had grown up nearby.

The first state fair grounds in Des Moines were one mile west of the city, on a piece of land called "Brown's Park". This land was on Grand Avenue about where Tonawanda Drive is now. Ingersoll Avenue now runs through what was about the center of the fair grounds.

Later, in 1886, the present state fairgrounds were opened. The

Iowa State Fair, held every year in late summer has brought thousands of visitors to Des Moines from all over Iowa and the nation.

Today, the people of Des Moines are still working out changes to improve their city.

Now We Know

Indians were the first known people to live where Des Moines now stands.

Louis Joliet and Father Marquette were the first visitors to the Iowa area. Jean Faribault, a French fur trader was the first white man to travel in the Des Moines area.

The first settler in the Des Moines area was Wilson Alexander Scott.

Des Moines began as a military post at the fork of the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers.

After the Indians left in 1845, Des Moines grew steadily.

Something to Do

In the encyclopedia look up Indians. Tell the class what Indians lived in the Des Moines area.

Draw a picture of Fort Des Moines.

Questions

1. Why was Fort Des Moines built?
2. Why was the Raccoon Fork chosen as a good location for a fort?
3. When Des Moines became a town?
4. Who was the first mayor of Des Moines?
5. When did Des Moines become the capital city of Iowa?
6. In what county is Des Moines located?

CHAPTER III THE PEOPLE OF DES MOINES

Neighborhoods Grow and Change

Families have come to live in Des Moines from all over the world. In 1857, there were less than four thousand people in Des Moines. Thirteen years later there were more than twelve thousand people. Most of the early settlers came from the older areas in the East and South. Some came by way of the Ohio River or up the Mississippi and the Des Moines Rivers. Others made the trip by land in wagons. People were interested in the rich soil of Iowa which sold for only $1. 25 an acre.

During the California gold rush of 1849, many people on their way to California for gold decided to stop in Des Moines and make it their home. Others returned from California to live in or near Des Moines.

In the late 1800's, many people came to the United States from Europe. They wanted to make a living and a better life for their families. Some of these people chose Des Moines as a place to make a new home.

There was much work to be done in building a new city and state. Carpenters, bricklayers, coal miners, printers, machine workers, store keepers, railroad builders, and farmers were needed.

While most of the people coming to live in Des Moines were from older states back East, European families also came. People from Sweden, Denmark, and Norway and Italy found homes in areas where friends and relatives from their home country lived.

In Des Moines, people from the Scandinavian countries (Norway, Sweden, and Denmark) settled rather closely together near Union Park in East Des Moines. There they built their homes, churches, and businesses. Grandview College, a Danish institution was built to prepare students to serve in the Danish Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. One of Des Moines largest hospitals, the Iowa Lutheran Hospital, is operated by the Swedish Lutheran Church in Iowa.

The Italians chose to settle in South Des Moines. At first, they kept small repair shops and fruit stores. Many became truck gardeners, growing berries, fruits, and vegetables for the cities markets. Others became coal miners, barbers, tailors, restaurant operators, or importers.

As the newcomers from Europe began to work, live and go to school in the community, they learned the ways of the new country. As the families saved money, they moved into new jobs and new homes in other parts of the community. Today, these people are found in all neighborhoods, jobs, and professions in the community.

Present-Day Newcomers

Newcomers are still coming to Des Moines and looking for jobs, education, and a better life. However, most of today's new people do not come from Europe, but from different parts of the United States. They come to Des Moines by bus, by car, by train, and by plane.

These newcomers want to make themselves at home in Des Moines as soon as possible. There are many places in Des Moines where newcomers may find help. But the most help is the kindness shown by a new neighborhood.

A Great Blend

Des Moines is a wonderful place to live because there are people of different countries and different parts of the United States living here. Each new group of people has given something of its own to help Des Moines the city it is today. Each group has helped the city to grow into a bigger and finer place.

There is little space not in use in Des Moines. But as new people come to the city, other people move to the edge of the city or into suburbs. The city has promise for new people. New people bring new ideas, and a growing city needs new ideas.

Now We Know

People have come to Des Moines from all over the world.

Most of Des Moines was settled by people from other parts of the United States.

Many different people make Des Moines an interesting place in which to live.

Something to Do

Find someone who has lived in your neighborhood for sometime. Where did they live before? In another part of the city? The state? The nation? In another country? Report to the class what you find out.

Questions

1. How did the first newcomers get to Des Moines?

2. Where did the early Scandinavian and Italian settlers live in Des Moines?

3. Does Des Moines still have newcomers? Who are they?

CHAPTER IV OUR BUSY CITY

Food for Our City

The nearly three hundred thousand people in the Des Moines area need and use a great deal of food, clothing, and housing. When the early settlers came to Des Moines, they hunted and fished and raised their food. They even made most of their own clothing and built their houses. Today, life in Des Moines is different. There is not enough room for each family to grow its own food. People must buy most of the things they use. How does a city supply its people with the things they need for day-to-day living?

The food stores are filled with foods families need. Some foods are raised on farms in Iowa. Other foods come from many different states and countries. These foods are shipped hundreds of miles from small and large farms to Des Moines and other cities. Railroad cars, trucks, and even planes move the nation's food to cities and towns everywhere.

Fruits and vegetables come from California and other states where the weather is warm. In the states to the north where it is not so warm, milk is produced. The Corn Belt is in the Midwest, and much wheat is raised in the Great Plains. It is from these two areas that much of our meat and grain come.

All night and day, trucks on the highways carry food to the Des Moines markets. Tons of fruit and vegetables are bought and sold here each day. Trucks with loads of produce are sent from farms all over the country and sold to Des Moines food dealers. Very early in the morning, trucks get fruits and vegetables at the wholesale houses and take them to stores in time for the early morning shoppers.

It was once a problem to get food to the city fast enough. However, refrigeration and canning have made it possible to store many foods in warehouses until it is time for them to be shipped to the neighborhood stores. All over the nation, there are hundreds of warehouses that store food, grain, and canned and packaged goods.

Eating places also use a great deal of food for the thousands of people who eat food away from home. Des Moines has many fine eating places. Everywhere people go in Des Moines, people can find places that have food to eat.

Years ago, Des Moines women bought the family food at little neighborhood stores. Often there was a different kind of store for each kind of food.

There was a fruit and vegetable market, the food store, and the meat shop. Sometimes a man would drive up and down the streets in a

wagon. He would call out the fruits and vegetables he wanted to sell. Then the women of the neighborhood would come out to the wagon to buy their fruits and vegetables from the man.

Most of the foods were not packaged as they are today. Food was often sold from big jars or barrels.

Most of the small neighborhood stores are gone. The large supermarkets with their packaged foods have taken their place.

Many Things to Buy

The people of Des Moines need other things, too. They need clothing and furniture and household goods. Des Moines has a fine shopping place. It is the downtown part of Des Moines, sometimes called the Loop. It got its name from the old street car tracks that used to make a large loop around the downtown business area.

The downtown area is crowded with people buying, window shopping, meeting friends, looking for a place to eat, or going to work. Within a few blocks on Walnut Street is one of the busiest shopping areas in Iowa. It has department stores both large and small. Every kind of clothing, household goods, and furniture can be bought there. Thousands of dollars each day are spent by the hundreds of people who shop in the many downtown stores. There is also a busy shopping area in the downtown area on the east side of the river.

Because many people have moved to the edge of the city, other shopping centers have opened away from the downtown stores so that people do not need to go far from home to shop. On the westside of the city there are University Place, Roosevelt, Uptown, and Beaverdale shopping districts. Other shopping districts like these are found in Highland Park in north Des Moines and on the south and east sides as well. Even newer shopping centers have been built in suburban Des Moines. The downtown stores and offices are in tall buildings but the new shopping centers are low and spread over large areas.

The new shopping centers have walks and flower gardens for people to use and enjoy. Many of the downtown stores have branch stores in the shopping centers. Clothing, food, furniture, household goods, toys and everything the family needs can be bought here, too.

To the west is Merle Hay Plaza Shopping Center. To the north is Park Fair. To the northeast is Eastgate Shopping Center. To the south is the Wakonda Shopping Center on Fleur Drive. There are others. While stores here are busy, they do not seem as crowded as the downtown stores. The people are moving out where there is more space, and the shopping centers are growing to meet the needs of the newcomers to the suburban areas.

Des Moines has many things to buy and sell, all of this business makes more jobs for the people.

Homes in Our City

In the early days of Des Moines, houses and other buildings were made mostly of wood or brick. Today the people of the Des Moines area live in many different kinds of houses.

At the edge of the city and in the suburbs are long modern homes with space for lawns and flower gardens. In most of the city, there are lawns, flower gardens, and many shade trees. Toward the center of the city, many large older houses have been changed into apartment houses. There are many apartment houses in the city. Most of these are located near the business area or along main streets leading to downtown Des Moines. Some city buildings are very old but many are new. Some are being taken down and new ones are always being built.

There are many houses of interest to everyone. One of these is Terrace Hill at Terrace Drive and Grand Avenue. Built in the 1870's for B. F. Allen, a pioneer resident and banker in Des Moines, Terrace Hill later became the home of F. M. Hubbell another pioneer family of Des Moines.

Two very new apartment buildings are the West Grand Towers and 3660 Grand near 36th and Grand Avenue.

Other kinds of homes in Des Moines are roof apartments, underground apartments, old homes and modern homes.

Some of the houses and buildings in Des Moines have become too old. The people of the city decided to buy the land on which many of these houses stood, tear down the old houses and buildings and build new ones. This plan is called "urban renewal". A law was made in 1957 which started Des Moines' work in urban renewal.

The place that has changed greatly is the River Hills Area. Less than ten years ago, the neighborhood was old. Today, beautiful new apartments and office buildings have been built or are being built in this area. Old buildings and homes have been taken down to make way for the huge Veteran's Memorial Auditorium, the Des Moines Medical Center, the Americana Nursing Center, and the striking new office building of Architects Associated.

Other apartment buildings, motels, and business buildings are planned for this area. Des Moines men are at work, tearing down the old and building the new. Des Moines is growing and changing.

Transportation in Des Moines

When settlers first came to Des Moines, their only roads were the rivers and Indian trails. As time went by, people traveled over mud roads in small wagons pulled by animals. Later, boards were placed over the mud roads so that wagons and horses could be used for transportation more easily. At one time, some of the main streets in downtown Des Moines were paved with blocks made of cedar.

As more and more people came to Des Moines, the city needed better transportation. Horse cars were the first public transportation in the city. These cars had two long rows of seats. In winter there was a little stove in the center of the car to keep the people warm. The horses were very slow in cold weather. In summer, open horse cars were used.

In 1887, the city railway company bought its first electric car. These cars were bigger. One man drove the street car and another man took the money at the back of the car. When the people were all on, the man who took the money would give the signal to start. The street car moved on iron tracks in the street.

Later, buses were used when Des Moines still had street cars. Today, street cars are gone, but the Des Moines Transit System provides an important part of Des Moines' transportation system. More than 25,000 people use the transit buses each day. Nearly half of these are students going to and from school.

Highways in the Des Moines Area

Many people in Des Moines do not use public transportation. They drive their cars to work. The roads are level and wide. The city, county, state and national governments have built many highways and roads to help drivers. Large main streets take cars in and out of the city quickly.

Thousands of cars and trucks bring people into the city each day. Some people are on their way to work. Some are bringing goods to the city in trucks. Some are going downtown to see their lawyer or doctor. Some are going downtown for fun and shopping.

Goods must be moved from place to place, too. Thousands of trucks run in and out of the city each day. Big trucks carry everything from cattle to furniture. Big trucks can drive only on some streets.

Des Moines has more than seventy trucking companies and loading docks. Day and night, big trucks are seen at the loading docks and on the main streets and highways. The people of the city depend very much on the work of trucking companies and the things they haul into and out of Des Moines.

The coming of the railroads helped Des Moines grow. Since the first train came to Des Moines in 1866, railroad transportation has been important to the city. More factories were built in and near Des Moines. Good transportation made it easy to ship factory goods and food products to cities all over the United States.

Today, Des Moines is served by nine railroads. Tons of goods are moved from Des Moines by train each day. Trains carrying goods are called "freight trains". These do not look like passenger trains. Some have refrigerator cars. Some carry machines, grain, and other products. Some even carry trucks loaded with goods.

Des Moines has become an important air center. People can go to almost every big city in the United States from Des Moines. Nearly a half million people travel in and out of the airport each year.

Located at Fleur Drive and Army Post Road, the airport covers a very large area, with many fine runways where large jet planes as well as small private ones may land or take off. Three major airlines serve Des Moines. They are the United Airlines, Braniff International Airways, and Ozark Airlines. A large, modern terminal building with eating places, gift shops, a barber shop and other services has been built there.

Goods are sent by plane, too. Planes carrying goods are often called "ware-houses on wings". Each year there is more and more air freight.

Planes also carry mail to all parts of the world. Each year there is more airmail. Air travel has made communication faster.

Even though the airport seems far away from the downtown area, it is really only an eight minute drive along Fleur Drive.

People like to visit the airport even when they are not going on a plane trip. There are so many things to see at the airport. It is fun to see friends off on a plane and see the fast jets take off and land. The Des Moines airport is a very busy and important place.

Communication

People of Des Moines learn news quickly by mail, telephone, newspapers, radio, television, and telegraph. The very early settlers got their mail only once in a while. They depended on travelers and new arrivals to bring them news. Des Moines' first post office opened in 1845 in one of the fort buildings. Dr. Thomas K. Brooks became the first postmaster in 1846. Since there was so little mail, Dr. Brooks did not need a postoffice building. It is said that he carried the few letters there were in his hat. Later, a wooden building at Third and Court Avenue became the post office.

By 1886, a new building was built on the corner at Fifth and Court Avenue, across from the Polk County Courthouse. This building is now known as the "Old Federal Building". Later, in 1911, the post office was moved to its present building between First and Second streets on Walnut. The building has been added to since it was built as the business and population of Des Moines grew. Now a new, nine million dollar federal building is being built in the block between Second and Third streets and Walnut and Court Avenue. The old Everett House, which was in that same block, on Third Street, was a stage coach stop in early Des Moines.

There are many post office stations all over the city. Thousands of people work to bring the mail to homes and offices and factories. There are many mail-truck drivers and other workers. Mail is now brought to Des Moines by truck, planes and trains and buses.

People get news in other ways, too. They read newspapers, and many different kinds of books. Des Moines first newspaper was printed in 1849, and was called the "Iowa Star". A year later, a second paper "The Gazette" was started. Today, there are two papers daily, the "Register" and "The Tribune" which are read not only in Des Moines, but throughout the state and the nation. There are also several neighborhood newspapers. These come out only one or two times a week. Des Moines is an important printing center. Besides the newspapers, many magazines and books are printed in this city, furnishing jobs for many people.

In 1862, the first telegraph line was built between Des Moines and Newton, connecting Des Moines with cities to the east. Now there was faster communication. Des Moines got its first telephone in 1878 just two years after it had been invented by Alexander Graham Bell in Boston. People used to crowd around the windows of the places where the first telephones could be seen. They found it hard to believe that people could talk "through" a wire. There are now over one hundred and sixty thousand telephones in Des Moines.

Des Moines' nine radio and three television stations bring news, education, and fun shows, too. Everyone likes to hear the weather reports and sports reports. News is sent out over the radio and television a few minutes after it happens. People in Des Moines and all over the world are brought closer because of good, fast communication.

Now We Know

There are many different kinds of food and homes in Des Moines.

The many different kinds of transportation in and out of Des Moines will tie us to almost any part of the world.

Communication by radio and television, telephone and telegraph, newspapers and magazines, and postal service brings the news of the world to Des Moines.

Something To Do

There are many different kinds of homes in Des Moines. Draw a picture of your home. When you are finished, see how many different kinds of homes there are in your class.

Questions

1. What is the urban renewal plan?

2. What kinds of transportation now are used to take people and goods in and out of Des Moines?

3. What kinds of communication are provided to help the people of Des Moines find out what is happening in Des Moines and the rest of the world?

CHAPTER V DES MOINES - A METROPOLITAN AREA

A City Grows Up

We have learned how the early frontier army post of Fort Des Moines grew up to become the city of Des Moines. This did not happen quickly. It took many years to become the city we know today.

Other towns and villages were also started by the early settlers of Iowa. Some grew up to become the towns and cities of Iowa we know today. Others have long ago disappeared or stopped growing.

Some of the cities and towns of Iowa continue to grow each year. Others grow very little. Some have fewer people each year. Why does this happen, do you suppose?

Try to imagine what Iowa was like before the first pioneers came. Think about how it must have looked before houses, schools, buildings, roads, and bridges were built.

If we think about what Iowa, and especially central Iowa, was like when only the Indians lived here, we can better understand how men used and changed the land to make the city of Des Moines today. The Indians lived on this land as it was but the settlers began to make changes as soon as they arrived.

Where Are We Located?

Location has much to do with growing. To begin with, let us see what we know about the location of Iowa and Des Moines.

On a map of the United States:

* Can you find Iowa on the map?

* In what part of the United States is Iowa located?

* Can you name the states which border on Iowa?

On a map of Iowa:

* Can you find the location of Des Moines?

* Now find the cities of Cedar Rapids, Davenport, Sioux City, Waterloo, Council Bluffs, Ottumwa, and Mason City.

* How many of these cities are located on rivers?

What Is Our Natural Environment?

Do you know what the word "natural" means? "Natural" is anything not made by man. Rivers, hills, and valleys are made by nature. Which of the following are true?

A tree is natural	A car is natural
A tree is man-made	A car is man-made
A house is natural	The weather is natural
A house is man-made	The weather is man-made

Now, do you know what the word "natural" means? Do you know what your "environment" is? By environment, we mean the area in which we live. Our natural environment is all those things around us made by nature and not made by men. This would include rivers, lakes, hills, and valleys. It would also include the animals, trees, grasses, and climate which have been a part of Iowa for hundreds of years.

How would you describe the land surface of your community? Is it hilly or flat? Is the soil rocky or smooth? If you were looking down on Des Moines from a high building, such as the Capitol building, where would the high and low land surfaces of Des Moines be seen?

The climate has much to do with where people decide to live. What does the word "weather" mean to you? When we talk about the weather, we are talking about daily changes in the natural conditions around us. If it rains today we say we are having rainy weather. Tomorrow we may have snowy weather. It may be warmer or colder than it is today. We use the word climate when we are describing weather conditions over a long period of time. It is cold in Iowa and Des Moines from December to March. Our winters are cold and snowy. Most years, our summers are hot. Most years, we have much rain in the spring and the fall. These are the things which make up an important part of our climate.

We have a variety of weather. It is not always comfortable. Yet this weather makes a good climate for farming and Iowa is one of the world's best farming areas. Much of Des Moines' growth happened because it was located in the center of a rich farming area.

Other Reasons for Growth

If a city is to grow it must be within easy reach of the workers, raw materials, food supplies and manufactured things people need. If a city is within easy reach of these things, we say it is accessible. If it is easy for you to reach school each day, we say it is accessible to you. If it is easy for workers to reach their place of work each day, their office or factory is accessible.

If a city or town becomes too hard to reach, it is no longer accessible. If coming and going from the jobs in the city becomes too hard, people will look for other places to live and work.

We have read earlier how Des Moines changed over the years. As new machines, factories, businesses, and railroads came, the city grew. With the railroad depot built in the downtown area, railroad tracks were laid out from Des Moines like the spokes of a giant wheel. The town was like the hub of the wheel, with railroad tracks going north, east, south, and west. These tracks carried cars filled with people and merchandise. There were new industries, new businesses, new homes, and new people.

Later came the streetcars, buses, and automobiles. More people came to Des Moines from the farms, from other parts of the United States, and from other lands. A growing system of streets, roads, and highways became necessary.

As our city continues to grow, we must keep on improving our roads and streets to handle the larger numbers of cars, trucks, and buses coming in and out of the city. Expressways, superhighways, and airports must be built if the city is to be accessible.

There must also be good public transportation within the city for people who do not drive to work. If a city's public transportation is good, it is easier for people to get to work or to do their shopping. If it is easier for people to do these things, more businessmen will locate their stores, offices, and factories in the city.

A Commercial Center

Do you know what the word commerce means? Commerce is the business of buying and selling. People who buy things are called consumers.

We are all consumers. There are so many things we want and need that we must get from others. The things we want or need to buy from others are of two kinds - goods or services. We may buy such things as food, cars, toys, houses, clothing, or furniture. These things we call goods. But we also may buy the services of others such as the doctor, the dentist, the barber, the teacher, or the policeman. These people do not make things for us to buy but they have learned to serve us in important ways.

* People have both needs and wants. Which of the following are needs and which are wants?

Food	A house
Ice skates	Clothing
An ice cream cone	A pet

* People want and need both goods and services. Which of the following are goods and which are services?

Clothing	A salesman
An education	An automobile
A haircut	A fireman
A magazine	A paper-boy

Those people who provide these goods and services for us to buy are called producers.

A growing city is one where there are more and more producers and consumers. It is a place where there are many jobs for many people. A city which produces many goods and services will employ many people.

With plenty of work for people to do, these people may earn a living. With the money they earn, they may buy many things they want or need.

Des Moines - A Metropolitan Community

Because the cities meet so many needs of the people, fewer and fewer people today live on farms or in villages. Also, because so many machines are now used on farms, fewer people are needed there to produce food crops.

Today, only three out of every ten people live on farms or in villages. Seven out of every ten people live in or near to bigger cities like Des Moines.

Many of these cities are grouped together into what we call metropolitan communities.

A metropolitan community is a group of small cities clustered around a big, centrally located city. The word metropolitan comes from two Greek words which mean "mother-city". A metropolitan community is like a mother city with "children-towns" or "children-cities" around it.

There are really three parts of a metropolitan community. In metropolitan Des Moines, you probably live in one of these three areas;

1. The central city - the real "mother-city" of Des Moines.

2. The suburbs - "the children-towns" clustered close to Des Moines (like West Des Moines, Urbandale, Clive, Windsor Heights, or Pleasant Hill).

3. The satellite cities - the "children-cities" which have grown up

in the countryside beyond the suburbs (like Ankeny, Altoona, Norwalk, Indianola, and Adel.)

The central city is the part that is in the center of the metropolitan area. It is the hub to which highways, streets, railroads, bus, and transit lines lead.

In the middle of the central city is the central business district. Here we find the most important offices and stores of the metropolitan area. Here we also find important government buildings like the city hall, county court house and U. S. government offices. Here are also located theaters and other entertainment places. In or near the central business district you will also find railroad depots, factories, and warehouses.

There are also many homes in the central city. Some people live in apartment buildings, others live in houses set on narrow streets. People are more crowded together in the central city. There is no land unused downtown. Land is very expensive there.

Sometimes slums develop in the central city. A slum is an area where homes and apartments have grown very old and are badly in need of repair. In slum areas many people may live in houses too old and crowded to be safe and healthy.

* What are some good reasons for living in the central city?

* What are some reasons why people would not want to live in the central city?

* Why do you suppose the land is expensive in the central city?

* Can you think of some ways that slum areas could be made into better, safer places to live?

The suburbs have more open areas and seem less crowded than the central city. The houses are often set further apart with larger lawns. There are also offices and stores in the suburbs. Some factories are also located there. Most of the men and women living in the suburbs work in the central city.

* What are some good reasons for living in the suburbs?

* What kinds of transportation are there between the suburbs and the central city?

* What are some reasons for not living in the suburbs?

The satellite cities are very much like the suburbs except they are often surrounded by areas of farm land. They are also located farther from the central city then the suburbs. But, in the satellite cities we would find

many people who must travel to and from the central city to work or to do their shopping. There are offices and stores and factories in or near the satellite cities also.

All of these - the central city of Des Moines, its suburbs, and the satellite cities, make up what we call the metropolitan area of Des Moines. We must build and change the central city of Des Moines to keep it a safe, healthy and growing city. The suburbs and satellite cities also continue to grow. They are building new homes, schools, offices, and fadtories to meet the needs of more people.

Now We Know

Not all villages and towns grow to become cities or metropolitan areas.

A good natural environment helps cities grow.

A city must be accessible if it is to grow.

A city must produce goods and services for the people.

Des Moines is a metropolitan community with a central city, suburbs, and several satellite cities and towns.

Something to Do

Get a highway map of Iowa. Locate Des Moines. Locate the suburbs of Des Moines listed in this chapter. Where are most of our suburbs? North, east, south, or west of Des Moines?

Questions

1. What does metropolitan mean?
2. What is a slum area?
3. Which part of a metropolitan area is farthest away from the central business district?

CHAPTER VI OUR CITY GOVERNMENT

The Mayor and the Council

When old Fort Des Moines became a town in 1851, seven men were chosen to draw up laws. The Reverend Thompson Bird was elected as the first mayor.

When Des Moines became a city in 1857, East Des Moines and Fort Des Moines became one city. The city was divided into seven parts, called wards. Each ward elected one council member to help make the laws. A mayor, W. H. McHenry, was elected by the voters of the new city. One of the first things these men did was to select a marshall to enforce the laws. Other important early city officials were streets commissioners and a city engineer.

We must remember that early Des Moines streets were only dirt roads which were dusty in the dry weather and filled with deep mud in wet weather. We can understand why the people wanted this city government to do something about these things. Also, the people had not learned how to control the flooding of the rivers in the spring after the snows melted and the spring rains came. Dams and high river banks had not been built to keep the high river waters from flooding the city and damaging or washing away the bridges or from flooding the city's homes and businesses. There was much planning and work for a city engineer and streets commissioners were needed to solve these problems.

Also, new and better bridges, dams, streets and sewers would cost money. These were problems which all people wanted the city to solve. They could not do much about these things alone. But working together, as citizens of a city, they would pay taxes to raise the money necessary to build streets, sewers, bridges, dams and other services which would help all the people.

At first the City Council held its meetings in several different buildings. Today the City Council meets in the Municipal Building, built in 1910, on East First Street between Grand and Locust Streets, on the east bank of the Des Moines River. The Council chambers where the city manager, mayor, and councilmen meet is on the second floor of this building.

Today, the city is no longer divided into wards. The people elect five city councilmen. The council chooses one of its own members to serve as mayor. The council also chooses a city manager who is especially trained for his job. With the help of the council, the city manager chooses the heads of the city departments. The City Council has many jobs.

It decides how city money is to be spent; builds streets; provides fire, police, and health plans; makes traffic laws and other laws. It is the city manager's job to see that the Council's plans for the city are carried out.

The Council has many groups studying city problems such as buildings, river improvement, traffic, and housing. After a group studies a problem, it reports to the City Council. The Council decides what changes need to be made.

One of the biggest jobs of the mayor, Council, and the City Manager is to take care of the city's money and spend it in the right way. All of the services the people expect from their city cost money. Policemen and firemen must be paid. The people pay taxes and fees which go to the city treasurer and the city clerk. This money pays for the city services. The tax and fee money is used to pay the bills of the city. Running a city as large as Des Moines costs much money.

Police Department

When Des Moines became a town, laws were written down. These laws were necessary to help keep people safe. People who let their cows roam the streets into neighbor's yards were fined. People riding horses or driving wagons too fast over the town's early bridges were fined. So that people would keep the new laws, a town marshall was chosen. Later, as the town grew, deputies and others were hired to help the marshall.

As Des Moines grew, the police department got bigger and more important. Now there is an assistant to the city manager in charge of public safety. There is a Chief of Police and more than 250 people on the police force. There are many kinds of police work. There are policemen who control traffic and policemen who look for people who have done something wrong. People must pass examinations to be hired to work as policemen or policewomen. Men who are twenty one years old and have finished high school may become policemen but they must be trained to do police work. The Police Department often has special training classes to train the policemen to do a better job.

The police department headquarters is in the Municipal Court Building on East First Street and Court Avenue. It is in a large building with many modern things to help policemen track down people who break the laws. Many people work there. The police must meet problems at any hour of the day or night. Not all problems can be solved quickly or easily. But the Des Moines police force is working hard to give more and better service to all the people of the city. Theirs is a big job. They must make sure that the people live up to all city, state, and national laws.

Courts

We must remember that Des Moines is also the capital city of Iowa and the county seat of Polk County. The people of Des Moines must obey the laws of our city, county, state, and nation. When a problem comes up

under any of these laws, a person may take his problem to a court.

The courts have changed through the years. Today, we have Municipal Courts which hear smaller cases that have to do with such things as traffic and housing laws. There are county courts who hear more important cases. There is also the Supreme Court of Iowa or the United States District Court in Des Moines. These will hear cases less often than the others.

Fire Department

For many years, there was no fire department in Des Moines. In those days, all helped if they could. Women and children passed buckets of water from the wells or cisterns to the men who threw the water on the fire. The first fire engines were pulled by horses.

The first volunteer fire department in Des Moines was started in 1865. It included a hook and ladder company. This was the beginning of today's modern, well-equipped fire department. A call to 244-3212 will bring the help of the firemen in less than three minutes. The big fire engines can be seen and heard tearing down the street to wherever they are needed.

The Des Moines Fire Department has nearly 350 firemen. They do more than fight fire each day. They look over homes, schools, hospitals, and other places to see if they are safe. They help school children with their fire drills.

There are also three rescue companies who rush to help people who are ill, burned, in accidents, or drowning.

When the siren sounds and the red engines rush down the street, you know the fire department is going to help someone.

Health

The Des Moines Health Department was begun in 1912. Today there is a city Board of Health and a Director of Public Health. Over eighty people work in this department. Their job is to see that people obey state and city laws on public health.

There are many fine hospitals that take care of the sick. There is also the Polk County Hospital, which takes care of anyone even if he cannot pay. The Des Moines Board of Health and the Polk County Board of Health work together to keep the people of the city and the county in good health.

Pure Water and Sewage

The people of early Des Moines had no running water in their homes. Many dug wells or bought barrels of water. But it was not long before the people knew that a better way for getting enough water was needed. A water company was built in 1872. The water was pumped from the Raccoon River. In 1919, the city bought the water plant.

Today, Des Moines' pure water comes from the sands and gravels in the Raccoon Valley. The Des Moines Water Works produces clean, pure water for the city and some of its suburbs. Over 28 million gallons of water is used here each day. Nearly 800 miles of water mains carry the water to where it is needed.

The Des Moines Water Works is also one of the most beautiful spots to visit in Iowa. The land has been made into a fine park with fish ponds, fountains, and areas of flowering trees and wild flowers. The Raccoon River and Des Moines' modern water works give the city and its suburbs all of the good, pure water they need.

Getting clean, pure water is one problem. But taking care of the waste in homes is another. The Department of Public Services takes care of the miles and miles of sewer pipes under Des Moines. All of the waste runs into the pipes.

Pure water is supplied to Des Moines and many of its suburbs each day. At the same time the Department of Public Services takes away waste in a way that helps keep disease out of the city.

Now We Know

The city government of Des Moines is led by the mayor, the council and a city manager.

There are many workers on the Des Moines Police force.

The Des Moines Fire Department does more than fight fires.

The Board of Health helps the city's people stay healthy.

Something to Do

On a sheet of paper, list the telephone numbers of the police department, fire department, hospitals, your family doctor, and others who could be called for help. Take the list home and place it near the telephone.

Questions

1. What is being done to keep Des Moines clean and beautiful?
2. What courts are in Des Moines?
3. Why is the Department of Public Services important?
4. What does the Des Moines City Council do?

CHAPTER VII EDUCATION IN DES MOINES

The First Schools

The first two schools of Des Moines were opened in the fall and winter of 1846-47. A Miss Mary Davis was the the teacher of one, and Mr. Lewis Whitten of the other. The classes met in a cabin of old Fort Des Moines. These were not public schools. Each father had to help pay for a teacher and books.

But in September of 1849, the first public school began in Des Moines, with Byron Rice as the teacher. Since there was no school building, school met in the Methodist church. Later, the school was held in the courthouse. But the courthouse was not yet finished. There were no doors. There was no plaster on the walls, and an old boxstove at one end of the large room was used for heat. After only three months, the school closed.

Plans were made to build a real school. A lot was set aside at Ninth and Locust streets. By the winter of 1856, the new brick schoolhouse was ready. It was called the Third Ward School or the Brick School House. There were four classes and four teachers when the school opened. Mr. J. A. Stickney was the principal.

But as the city grew, the Third Ward School could not take all the students. The old Third Ward School was sold and a new school building was built in 1870 at Tenth and Pleasant Streets. It was called Irving School. People began to see that good schools cost a great deal of money to run.

East Des Moines also set up a school in 1858. It was a private school at first but a public school district began there in 1859. For many years, East Des Moines and the area west of the Des Moines River each had their own separate school district. By 1875, the west side district had four school buildings, about 1,855 pupils and twenty-four teachers. The first superintendent of schools was hired in 1868.

Other school districts grew up over the years in the area now covered by Des Moines. North Des Moines, Evergreen, Greenwood, and Capital Park each had their own school district. These later became a part of either the west or east side districts. Then in 1907, the East Des Moines and West Des Moines districts went together to make up the Independent School District of Des Moines.

Today's Schools

The school system has continued to grow. Many fine school buildings have been built. The school district is larger than the city of Des Moines.

Today more than 45,000 pupils go to Des Moines public schools. Des Moines church schools have more than 7,000 students. Today's schools do not look like those of a hundred years ago. There are many kinds of special rooms such as libraries, shops, eating rooms, art, science, and play rooms.

There are special schools, too, for children who cannot hear or see. Special classes are held for children who need special help. The people of Des Moines are paying more taxes each year for new schools, books, teachers, and other supplies that are needed. They know that education will help make the city, the state, and the nation better.

Colleges and Universities

People come from all over Iowa, the nation, and the world to study at Des Moines' schools such as Drake University, Grandview College, Still College of Osteopathy and the American Institute of Business.

Here, people study to become doctors, teachers, engineers, or for other jobs. People have learned that education and training are needed for a good happy life. Colleges and universities help make the city a better place.

Now We Know

The people of Des Moines have been interested in education since the days of early Fort Des Moines.

Des Moines provides schools for almost every kind of pupil.

People from many places come to Des Moines to study.

Something to Do

Schools in early Des Moines were much different than those of today. Draw a picture of what you think a room in a school looked like in old Fort Des Moines. Write a story to explain your picture.

Questions:

1. What are some of the special things used today to help make learning easier?

2. How many elementary schools are there in Des Moines?

3. Can you name five of the elementary schools in Des Moines?