

# Discover Greater Lansing!

## School Project Information Packet



# Discover Greater Lansing!

Welcome to the Greater Lansing and Conventions Visitors Bureau! The following PDF contains fun facts and more to allow young minds to learn more about our fantastic city!

Here are a few extra links regarding essential information about the Greater Lansing area:

<https://www.lansing.org/visit-greater-lansing/greater-lansing-history/greater-lansing-history-timeline/>

<https://www.lansing.org/visit-greater-lansing/greater-lansing-history/african-american-heritage-trail/>

<https://www.lansing.org/visit-greater-lansing/greater-lansing-history/>

<https://www.lansing.org/visit-greater-lansing/greater-lansing-history/automotive-history/>

<https://datausa.io/profile/geo/lansing-mi#about>

<https://www.lansing.org/visit-greater-lansing/climate-and-demographics/>

<https://www.michigan.org/city/lansing#?c=44.4299;-85.1166;6&tid=110&page=0&pagesize=20&pagetitle=Lansing>

<https://www.michigan.gov/whitmer>



# Did You Know?

It's possible to split a boulder in two using a cherry pit.

- A well-known Lansing landmark was "half-way rock," also known as "split rock." Located on Michigan Avenue, it marked the approximate half way point between MSU (then Michigan State College) and the Capitol.
- College students making the three mile trek to downtown Lansing looked for the half-way rock. One passer-by placed a cherry pit in a small crack in the rock. Over time, a tree sprouted, grew, and eventually split the rock in two.
- The rock and the tree were removed in 1925 for the purpose of widening the road. One half of the rock now stands as a marker just southwest of the MSU Union building.



The Grand River is the longest river in Michigan.

- It flows 260 miles before reaching Lake Michigan. Most of the river is consistently flat with many swamps and lakes.
- The Grand River was a very important navigational route through the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. It was used by Native Americans and settlers for many centuries.
- The river was called O-wash-ta-nong, meaning "Far-away-water" because of its length.



Reward money for the capture of John Wilkes Booth was spent in Lansing?

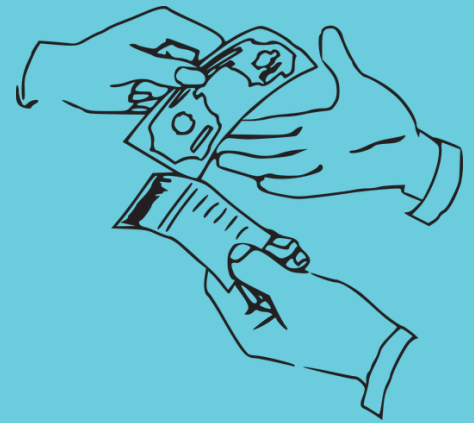
- General Baker received \$20,000 and his cousin, Lieutenant Baker, \$5,000 for the capture of John Wilkes Booth, who shot and killed President Lincoln in 1865.
- They resigned from service and came to Lansing to build a first-class hotel.
- Unfortunately, the Lansing House, erected in 1866, was torn down in 1937.
- The J.W. Knapp Co. erected a department store on the site, at the corner of Washtenaw and Washington.



# Did You Know?

## Lansing failed as “Biddle City”.

- “Biddle City” named after Maj. John Biddle, was laid out on land that lies entirely within the limits of Lansing in 1836.
- Many lots were sold to buyers in New York.
- When the first settlers reached the land they bought, they were shocked. It was early spring and the rivers had overflowed their banks, covering the Biddle City with water.



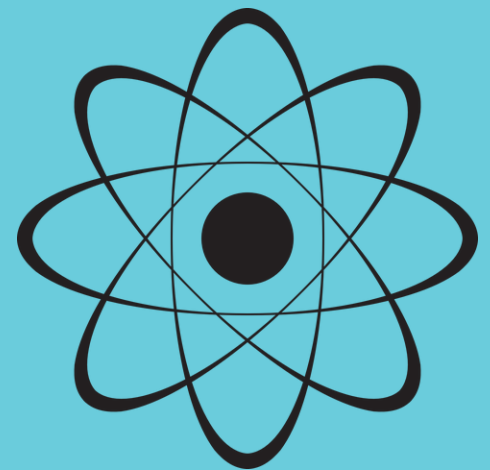
## Michigan State University is the oldest center for teaching scientific agriculture in the nation.

- The institution was established in 1855, and dedicated in 1857.
- The school was originally known as Michigan Agricultural College. From 1925 to 1955 it was called Michigan State College. Then in 1955 it became Michigan State University.



## At Michigan State University on November 25, 1981, the World’s first superconducting Cyclotron smashed its first atom.

- The cyclotron enables scientists to study the characteristics of heavier elements at faster speeds than ever possible.
- Nuclear physicists use cyclotrons to recreate the cauldrons that exist inside stars and that result when stars die in gigantic explosions, called supernovae.
- Sometimes they create practical tools, such as particle beams for cancer therapy or countermeasures against terrorism.
- The MSU cyclotron is the world’s first and the world’s largest superconducting cyclotron. It’s 40 year history of nuclear science and accelerator physics makes it a logical launch pad for the next generation of nuclear physics.



# Did You Know?

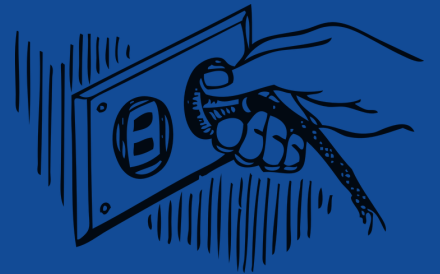
**The Michigan Vietnam Veterans Monument was dedicated November 11, 2001 in Lansing.**

- About 400,000 Michiganians served during the Vietnam War.
- The Monument's total cost was 3.4 million dollars.
- It's comprised of a 120 foot long, 10 foot high arc of steel suspended three feet above the ground and supported at one end by a concrete pier and suspended by a two inch tension cable.
- The monument weighs 5 tons.



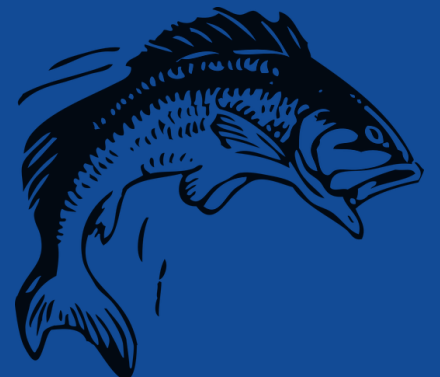
**The Eckert Station, used by Lansing Board of Water & Light, was first built in the early 1920's.**

- It's located near downtown Lansing and has undergone several rebuilding and expansion projects over the last 100 years.
- The Eckert Station includes six electric generating units ranging from 41 megawatts (MW) capacity to 77 MW. The six units are capable of generating a total of 351 MW of electricity.
- The smoke stacks of the Eckert Station are nicknamed Winkin', Blinkin', and Nod and they are 619 feet tall.
- Water from the Grand River is used to form energy for the power plant.
- The water system can deliver 20,000 tons of water each day.
- The water is sent to the customers at 43 degrees through 14,000 ft. of pipe that has been layed for the Lansing community.



**There are a lot of different fish found in the Grand River.**

- Atlantic Salmon, Brook Trout, Brown Bullhead, Brown Trout, Channel Catfish, Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon, Lake Herring, Lake Trout, Lake Whitefish, Largemouth Bass, Menominee, Muskellunge, Nothern Pike, Pink Salmon, Rock Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Smelt, Steelhead, Walleye, White Bass, and White Sucker.



# Lansing

## Fun Facts!

During the 1830's Lansing was known as Biddle City.

Jacob Frederick Cooley, Lansing Township's first permanent resident, settled here in 1837.

Joseph North challenged Jacob Cooley's Claim as the first resident.

Lansing was named after the New York Patriot John Lansing.

The township was officially created in February of 1847.

Lansing became the second state capital of Michigan because the first capital, Detroit, was too close to the border and therefore was vulnerable to an invasion by British forces in Canada.

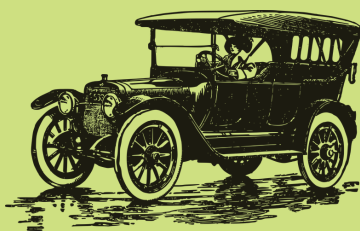
There were only eight registered voters when Lansing became the state capital.

A sawmill was the one industry present in Lansing when it became the state capital.

The top three area employers in Lansing are General Motors Corporation, State of Michigan, and Michigan State University.

The Grand River runs through downtown Lansing and is Michigan's longest river.

Ransom Eli Olds (R.E.Olds) founded the Oldsmobile, later a division of General Motors in 1897.



# Lansing

## Fun Facts Continued...

Lansing is located in Ingham County and is the only capital in the United States not located in the county seat.

The county seat of Ingham county is Mason, Michigan.

Ingham county was named after Samuel D. Ingham, the Secretary of Treasury under President Andrew Jackson.

Michigan State University is the only university in the nation to have three medical colleges. They are Human Medicine, Osteopathic Medicine, and Veterinary Medicine.

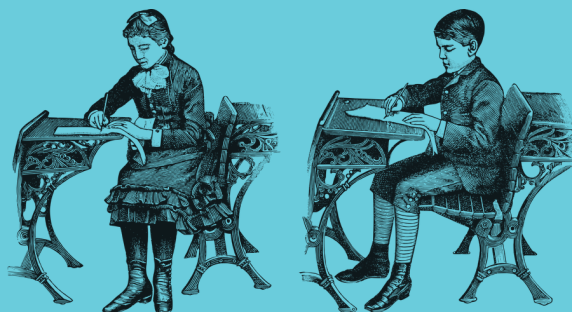
Michigan State was established in 1855, dedicated in 1857, and is the oldest center for the teaching of scientific agriculture in the nation.

Michigan State University Museum was organized in the 1860's and is one of the earliest museums on a university campus in the Midwest. This is the oldest museum located in the Lansing area.

Lansing's first school opened in 1847.

The Michigan State Capitol Building was modeled after the nation's capitol building in Washington D.C.

Elijah Myers designed the Michigan State Capitol Building and it was dedicated on January 1, 1879.





# GLCVB

## Word Search

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AGRICULTURE  
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CREATIVITY  
CULTURE  
FESTIVALS  
FOOD

GARDENS  
HISTORICAL  
LANSING  
LUGNUTS  
MICHIGAN  
MSU  
MUSEUM

OLDSMOBILE  
PARKS  
RIVER  
SPARTY  
SPORTS  
THEATER

