



Viewaukee

Milwaukee City Hall

Elementary Curriculum

Milwaukee's City Hall can be seen all over the city and recognized by many with its distinctive architectural style.

Architectural Style- It was built in 1895 by Milwaukee architect Henry Koch in the Flemish Renaissance style. Flemish style comes from the area of Belgium and the Netherlands in Europe. There are other buildings in Milwaukee that have a Flemish gable style like the Pabst Mansion: Mader's Restaurant, commercial buildings on Brady and Mitchell Streets, and the Wisconsin Convention Center.

It was the tallest building in the United States from 1895-1899.

Why was it important for an architect to build the city hall so tall?

Notice the top has a four-sided clock tower. Why do you think the architect and citizens thought a clock tower would be important in the 1890's?



It also has an eight-story atrium in the center of the building. Why do think that was created? What is the purpose of an atrium?



How is it used?

The mayor of Milwaukee works there, and the Common Council has its chambers there to discuss important topics each month. Milwaukee citizens also pay their taxes there.



Geography

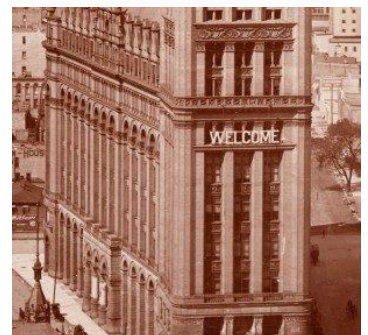
Why did they pick this location? What neighborhood is Milwaukee City Hall in?

What part of town is it?

Is it in an urban, suburban, or rural area? How do you know?

City Hall Letters

This building had giant, illuminated letters that sent a message to the visitors and citizens of Milwaukee from 1908 -1988. Sometimes it greeted special visitors, and sometimes it reminded Milwaukeeans about upcoming events. They are currently stored and used at the Milwaukee County Historical Society. What would you want to tell the citizens or visitors who saw it?



Got Legos? If you would like to see a 1982 Lego replica of Milwaukee City Hall, visit the Milwaukee County Historical Society. It is made of more than 10,000 Lego bricks.

Look carefully at the building. What part would be easy to make with Legos? What part would be difficult? Can you find another building nearby that you would want to make with Legos?

This year, 2021, is our city hall's 175th birthday! Looks pretty good for being 175 years old!



Figure 1 Market Hall - before 1895



New City Hall 1895-96



Figure 2 Milwaukee City Hall after 1990

Milwaukee City Hall 2020

