



Viewaukee North Point Water Tower

Elementary Curriculum

Landmarks

“Water, Water, Everywhere, But Not a Clean Drop to Drink”

Water, it is one of life’s essential elements. In centuries past, while the Potawatomi, Menominee, and Ho-chunk peoples lived here, it was as bountiful, clean and pure as the air around the land we call Milwaukee. But, in the 1830’s, the European settlers, that didn’t last even 50 years before they found themselves in a mud pit of trouble. In 1850, the city had wells, rivers, and lakes, but with a population of about 100,000 residents, the waste was going back into the same water sources as where they were pumping for drinking water. Soon, people would drink anything but the water. People all over Milwaukee were getting sick. They wanted a sewage plan and new pipes to bring clean water, but the city could not afford it. They had just spent their “piggy bank savings” on Milwaukee’s new train lines to connect to Chicago and to the Mississippi River and from the hardship of the Civil War. They waited more than 20 years before they started a new plan.

This 175-foot Victorian Gothic style limestone and cream city brick water tower was built in 1873 for \$50,892.00 and was one of the first engineering solutions to help Milwaukeeans have clean water. This building was connected to two other structures; One was the Pumping Station which was on what we now call Lincoln Memorial Drive and the other structure was The Kilbourn Park Reservoir which held 20 million gallons of water, just west of the water tower. The Water Tower helps relieve the water flow from the Pumping Station and the Reservoir. This building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1973.

Questions:

1. Why is this building a famous Milwaukee Landmark?
2. What side of Milwaukee is it on?
3. What body of water can you see over the hill?
4. What is a reservoir?
5. Where were cream city bricks made?
6. Doesn’t the North Point Water Tower look like a story book setting? Can you write a story about Milwaukee and the tower?
7. Read the story of how artist Terese Agnew put a metal dragon sculpture on here in 1985.



<https://city.milwaukee.gov/water/customer/FAQs/additionalinfo/History-of-the-Milwaukee-Water-Works.htm><https://www.wuwm.com/post/saga-milwaukees-water-tower-dragon#stream/0>



Extra curriculum – Water Tower

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1zOjxSrbmt4> water pressure

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNCbLRYIWCo>

<https://www.rookieparenting.com/waterpressure/>

<https://www.thenakedscientists.com/get-naked/experiments/water-pressure>

https://www.education.com/science-fair/article/earth-science_squirter1/

<https://www.billnye.com/home-demos/current-event>