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The Movement of Iowa's State Capitol

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# The Movement of Iowa’s State Capitol

**Created by:** Eric Pettit  
**Harmony Elementary School, Harmony Community School District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level (Req.): 5th grade</th>
<th>Content Area (Req.): Geography, State History</th>
<th>Unit (Opt.):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.):**
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**Time Frame (Req.): One 50 class period**

**Goal (Req.):** To help students identify Iowa’s state capitol and trace its movements from Burlington to Iowa City to Des Moines and recognize reasons why it moved.

**Objective (Req.):** Students will be able to identify the three locations of where Iowa’s state capitol has been.

**Materials Needed (Req.):**
- Classroom map  
- 5 Iowa State maps  
- Handout of a blank map of Iowa  
- Overhead projector  
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**New Vocabulary (Opt.):**
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**Anticipatory Set/Introduction [Inquiry Question is required] (Req.):** Why did Iowa’s state capitol move?

**Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.):**
1. As a whole group, identify that Iowa’s first state capitol started in Burlington. Show Burlington on the classroom map. List geographical features that made Burlington on a good early location for the state capitol. What relative location is Burlington, Iowa? What are some physical characteristics of Burlington and of the new state?
2. Identify the date and location of when Iowa’s capital moved to Iowa City? List geographical reasons that made Iowa City a better location for the state capitol on the classroom map. What relative location is Iowa City? What are some physical characteristics of Iowa City and of the state in the year it became the capital?
3. Identify the date and location of when Iowa’s capital moved to Des Moines. List geographical reasons that made Des Moines a better location for the state capitol on the classroom map. What relative location is Des Moines? What are some physical characteristics of Des Moines and of the state in the year it became the capital?

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Formative Evaluation (Req.): Check for understanding of why the capital moved cities

Assessment (Req.): In small groups students will use a current Iowa road map to trace the movement of Iowa’s three state capitol locations on a blank handout of Iowa.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Geography, grade 3-5: Understand the use of geographic tools to locate and analyze information about people, places, and environments.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Geography, grade 3-5: Understand how physical and human characteristics create and define regions.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Geography, grade 3-5: Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):

NGS Standards Used (Req.):

• How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information
• The physical and human characteristics of places
• The characteristics, distribution, and migration of human populations on Earth’s surface
• The changes that occur in the meaning, use, distribution, and importance of resources

Five Themes of Geography Used (Req.):

• Location
• Movement

School District Standards and Benchmarks (Opt.):

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.):</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):</td>
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<td>Other Essential Information (Opt.):</td>
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<td>Other Resources (Opt.):</td>
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