

Around The Capitol



State Capitol



Kentucky became a state on June 1, 1792. The legislature in 1901 voted to spend \$1 million for a new capitol building. The building was dedicated in 1910. The total cost of the building and furnishings was \$1,820,000—a modest price, even in 1910. It is the state's fourth capitol building. Frank Mills Andrews designed the Capitol and combined the form of Greek architecture with French styling. Andrews included French features on the inside of the Capitol with sculptured archways and cornices, hand-painted murals, stained-glass skylights, and dark mahogany wood. The Rotunda features statues of important Kentuckians, and the dome is patterned after the dome of Napoleon's tomb in Paris. The elegant interior includes 36 large columns of Vermont granite. The Governor's Office and other executive branch offices are on the first floor. The Supreme Court, the seat of the judicial branch of government, is on the second floor. The Senate and the House of Representatives meet in chambers at opposite ends of the third floor.

Governor's Mansion



The Governor's Mansion is on the east lawn of the capitol grounds overlooking the Kentucky River. It was designed by Kentuckians CC and EA Weber of Fort Thomas. Nearly 80 feet wide and 200 feet long, the 25-room mansion is made of solid brick and limestone.

Since 1914, Kentucky's governors and their families have lived there. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and is one of the few executive residences in the United States open for guided tours.



Floral Clock



Kentucky's floral clock measures off the minutes a foot and a half at a time, with giant hands weighing about a quarter of a ton apiece.

The face of the giant clock is 34 feet across. The minute hand is 20 feet long, and the hour hand is 15 feet long. The planter that holds it weighs 100 tons. Dedicated in 1961, the floral clock was a project of the Commonwealth and the Garden Club of Kentucky.

It takes more than 10,000 plants to fill the clock, all grown in the state's own greenhouses near the Capitol. Coins from the pool are used to benefit young people in Kentucky.

Old State Capitol



The legislature approved the construction of a new state capitol building in 1827 after the first two were destroyed by fire. Gideon Shryock, a Lexington architect, designed the building. Most of the building is made of "Kentucky River marble," a local form of limestone. One of the most famous features of the building is the circular stone staircase. Each step fits into the one above it, and all are held in place by a keystone landing on the second floor. The staircase has no visible support.

The Old Capitol was the center of Kentucky politics for nearly 80 years. In 1900, the grounds became the site of a murder. The 1899 election for governor was too close to call, and the state legislature met to decide who would be the official winner. As William Goebel, the Democratic candidate, walked toward the building, he was shot by a gunman hiding in a nearby office. Afterward, armed citizens and soldiers threatened to fight each other. A peaceful solution was finally reached in court. There is a marker today on the grounds of the Old Capitol where William Goebel fell after being shot.

The Old Capitol was replaced by the current Capitol in the early 1900s, but it is still open today for guided tours.

Inside The Capitol



Kentucky's Capitol dome is modeled after one in Paris, France. Above the four corners of the Rotunda are murals that depict Kentucky's rich history and diverse culture, professions, landmarks, and architecture. They represent the unique landscapes of eastern, western, northern, and southern Kentucky. The murals were part of the original design of the Capitol when it was first on the architect's drawing table. However, money ran out and the murals were not completed until 2009, as the Commonwealth prepared to celebrate the centennial of the 1910 dedication of the capitol building. Two generous donors provided the money to hire artists to carry out the original vision for the beautiful Rotunda.

Statues of five famous Kentuckians are placed in the Capitol Rotunda.



Abraham Lincoln **1809-1865**

Abraham Lincoln was born in Hardin County and had little formal education in his early years. As an adult, Lincoln became a self-taught lawyer and settled in Illinois. He greatly admired Henry Clay. Lincoln served in the military and then was elected to the Illinois legislature and later won election to the US House of Representatives. His talent for strong debate and eloquent speeches earned him national recognition. He was the Republican nominee for president in 1860 and became the 16th president in 1861. Soon after, the Civil War began over the issue of slavery. Lincoln opposed slavery and in 1863 issued his famous Emancipation Proclamation declaring slaves in Confederate states free. Lincoln won reelection as president in 1864. Lincoln's strategy to end slavery was showing success. However, he never lived to see his most important accomplishment: Lincoln died of an assassin's bullet on April 15, 1865. The Union accepted the Confederate surrender on April 26.

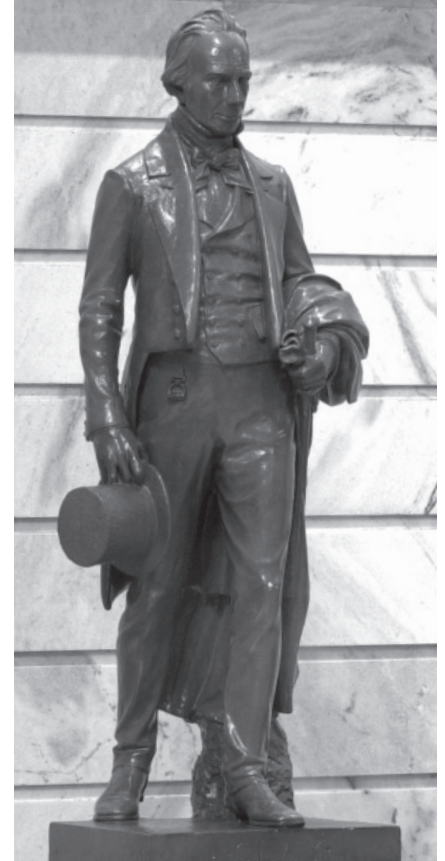
Ephraim McDowell **1771-1830**



Ephraim McDowell was born in Virginia but moved to Kentucky with his family when he was 12. After studying medicine in Scotland, he returned to Kentucky to set up his medical practice in Danville. McDowell married Sarah Shelby, the daughter of Isaac Shelby, Kentucky's first governor. McDowell also set up an apothecary shop. In 1809, he performed a groundbreaking surgery to remove a 22-pound ovarian tumor from Jane Todd Crawford, who was mistakenly thought to be pregnant. The surgery was successful, and she lived many, many more years. The statue includes a depiction of the tumor, in a bowl on the table behind McDowell.

Henry Clay **1777-1852**

Henry Clay was born in Virginia but moved to Lexington to establish his law practice in 1797. He became a major landowner and a successful livestock breeder and farmer. He also was a successful lawyer and became an important statesman. He was elected to the Kentucky General Assembly and went on to become a member of the US Senate, the speaker of the US House of Representatives, and secretary of state. He was known as the "Great Compromiser" because his negotiating skill became invaluable to the future of the United States. His accomplishments include negotiating the Missouri Compromise and helping to secure the Treaty of Ghent to end the War of 1812 between the US and Great Britain. Upon his death, Clay was the first person to be honored by a funeral ceremony in the US Capitol Rotunda.



Jefferson Davis

1808-1889



Jefferson Davis was born in what is now Fairview. He graduated from West Point and performed distinguished military service, including as US secretary of war. He served as a member of the US House of Representatives and of the US Senate. In 1862, Davis was selected by the Confederate states to serve as the only president of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War.

Alben W. Barkley

1877-1956

Alben Barkley was born on a farm near Lowes in Graves County and worked as a janitor to pay for college and law school. He served in the US House of Representatives from 1913 until 1927. He served in the US Senate from 1927 until he became vice president in 1949. Barkley was the last vice president to routinely preside over the Senate. After his term as vice president ended in 1953, Barkley returned to Kentucky. In 1954, he again ran for and won a seat in the US Senate, where he served until his death in 1956, at the age of 78. His grandson called him "The Veep," which caught on and became his nickname for the rest of his life.



First Ladies In Miniature



The collection of miniature replicas of Kentucky's first ladies was created by the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs and was presented to the Commonwealth by the group in 1971. Each first lady is represented in this collection, and they are on display in the Capitol.

Can you name the only governor who has a doll in the case?

Answer: Governor Martha Layne Collins

Can you name this famous frontiersman?

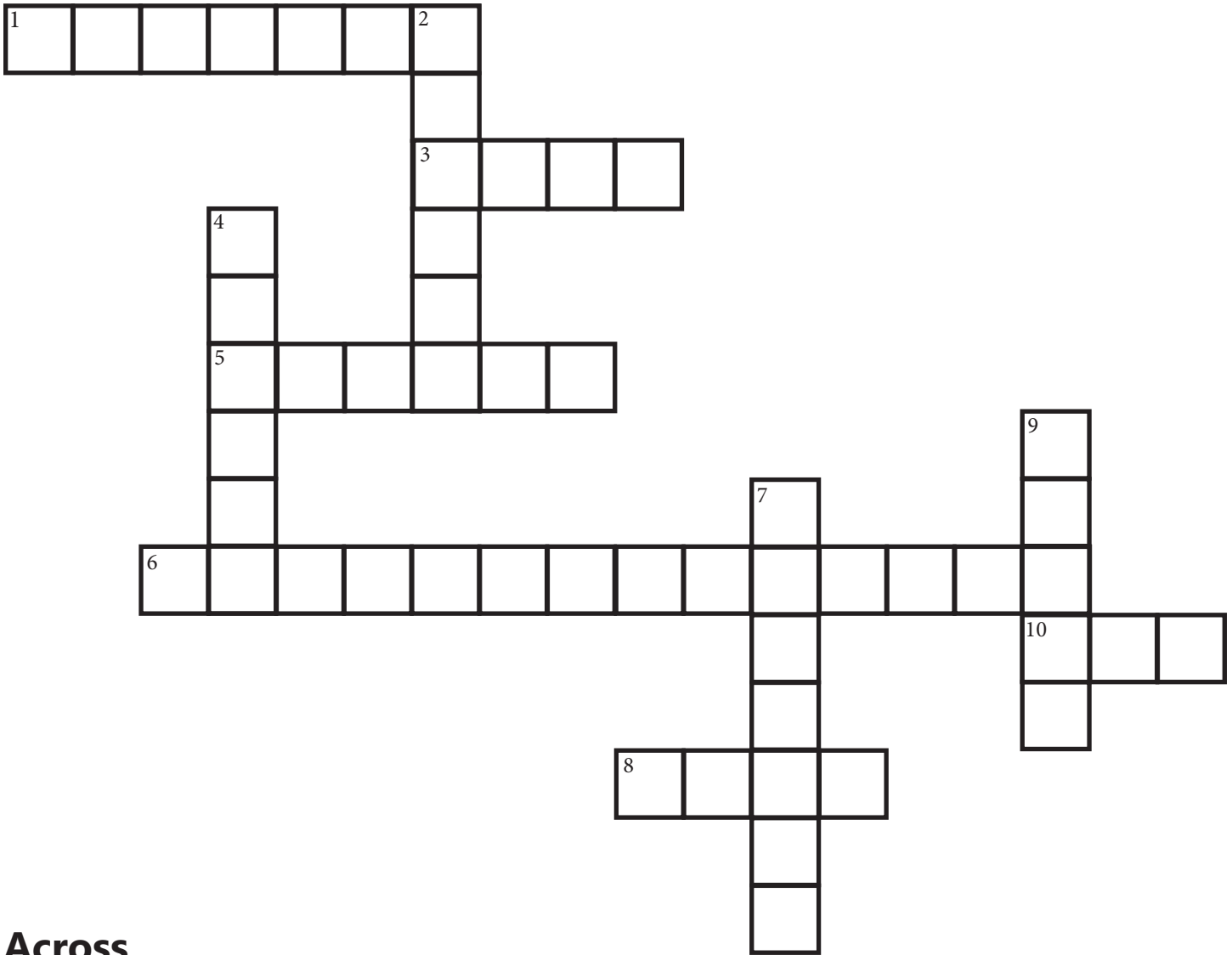


He spent 30 years exploring and settling parts of Kentucky. He carved out what would become a major travel and business route, called the Wilderness Trail. He also founded Fort Boonesborough. Twenty-five years after his death in Missouri, he and his wife, Rebecca, were returned to Kentucky for their final resting place: the Frankfort Cemetery.

Answer: Daniel Boone

Capitol Crossword

Choose the right word to complete each sentence and then use the words to fill in the puzzle.



Across

1. Members of the legislature are _____ by the citizens of a state.
3. A _____ that is signed by the governor becomes a law.
5. When a bill is signed, it takes _____ days to become a law.
6. A _____ is elected every two years.
8. When the governor rejects a bill, it is called a _____.
10. When voting, the legislators vote "yea" for yes and "____" for no.

Down

2. When the legislators discuss their opinions on an issue, it is called _____.
4. A senator is a member of the _____.
7. The _____ is the building where our governor and legislature work.
9. To change a bill is to _____ it.

Word Bank

- Amend
- Bill
- Capitol
- Debate
- Elected
- Nay
- Ninety
- Representative
- Senate
- Veto

Kentucky Word Jumble

1. NYKUECTK

2. AGSULSBRE

3. MWLAOCOTMNHE

4. EALNID OBOEN

5. RABAMHA NOILNLC

6. KFOTFNARR

7. NAETSE

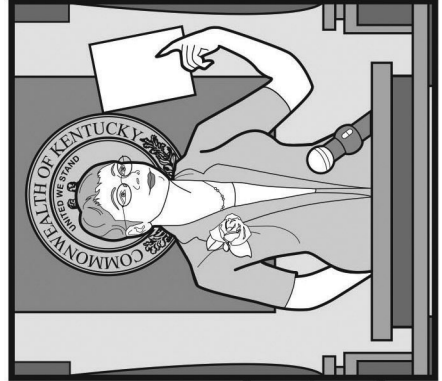
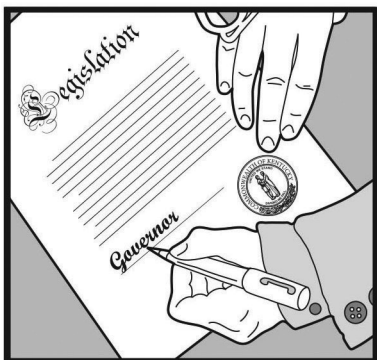
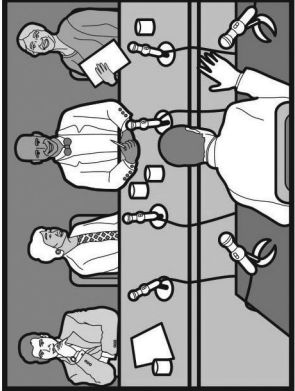
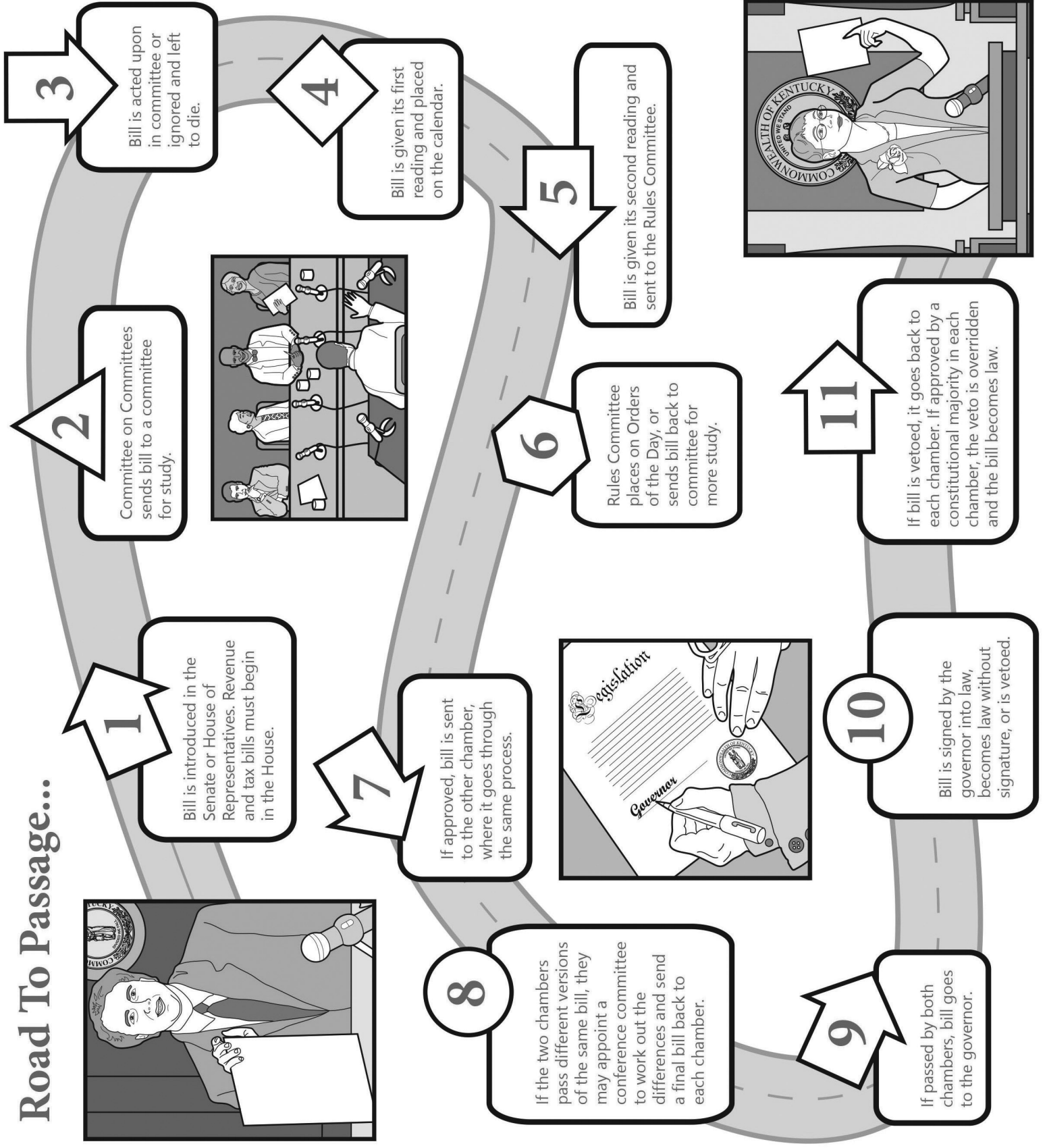
8. UHSOE FO RRENEATSITPEVS

9. OGHTURHOERBD

10. PTAOCLI

Answers: 1. Kentucky 2. Bluegrass 3. Commonwealth 4. Daniel Boone 5. Abraham Lincoln 6. Frankfort 7. Senate 8. House of Representatives 9. Thoroughbred 10. Capitol

Road To Passage...



Glossary

Amendment - A change to an existing bill. Amendments can be as simple as changing a few words or as complex as re-writing the entire bill.

Bill - A written proposal to create or change a law. Most bills can become a law only if two-fifths of the members elected to each chamber vote for it.

Budget - A bill that determines the state's taxes and spending. Budget bills generally begin in the House.

Committee on Committees - A group of legislative leaders that assigns each bill to the appropriate committee for study.

Calendar - A list of bills that have had one reading and are ready for a second reading (to become a law, bills must have three readings).

Constitutional Majority - Half of all the members of a chamber, plus one. A constitutional majority is needed to pass certain types of bills as well as to override a governor's veto.

Floor - Where each chamber meets. The term is also used to refer to each chamber as a whole, such as, "sending a bill to the House floor."

Simple Majority - Half of all the votes cast, plus one.

Orders of the Day - A list of bills and resolutions that are ready in each chamber to be debated and/or adopted that day.

Rules Committee - A group of legislative leaders and other members that prepares the Orders of the Day.

Statute - Another word for a law.

Veto - The governor's rejection of a bill passed by the General Assembly. If each chamber then approves the bill again by a constitutional majority vote, the veto is overridden and becomes law.

General Assembly Word Search



Adjourn

Amendment

Bill

Capital

Capitol

Committee

Constitution

Election

Frankfort

Governor

House

Law

Legislature

Majority

Minority

Rules

Senate

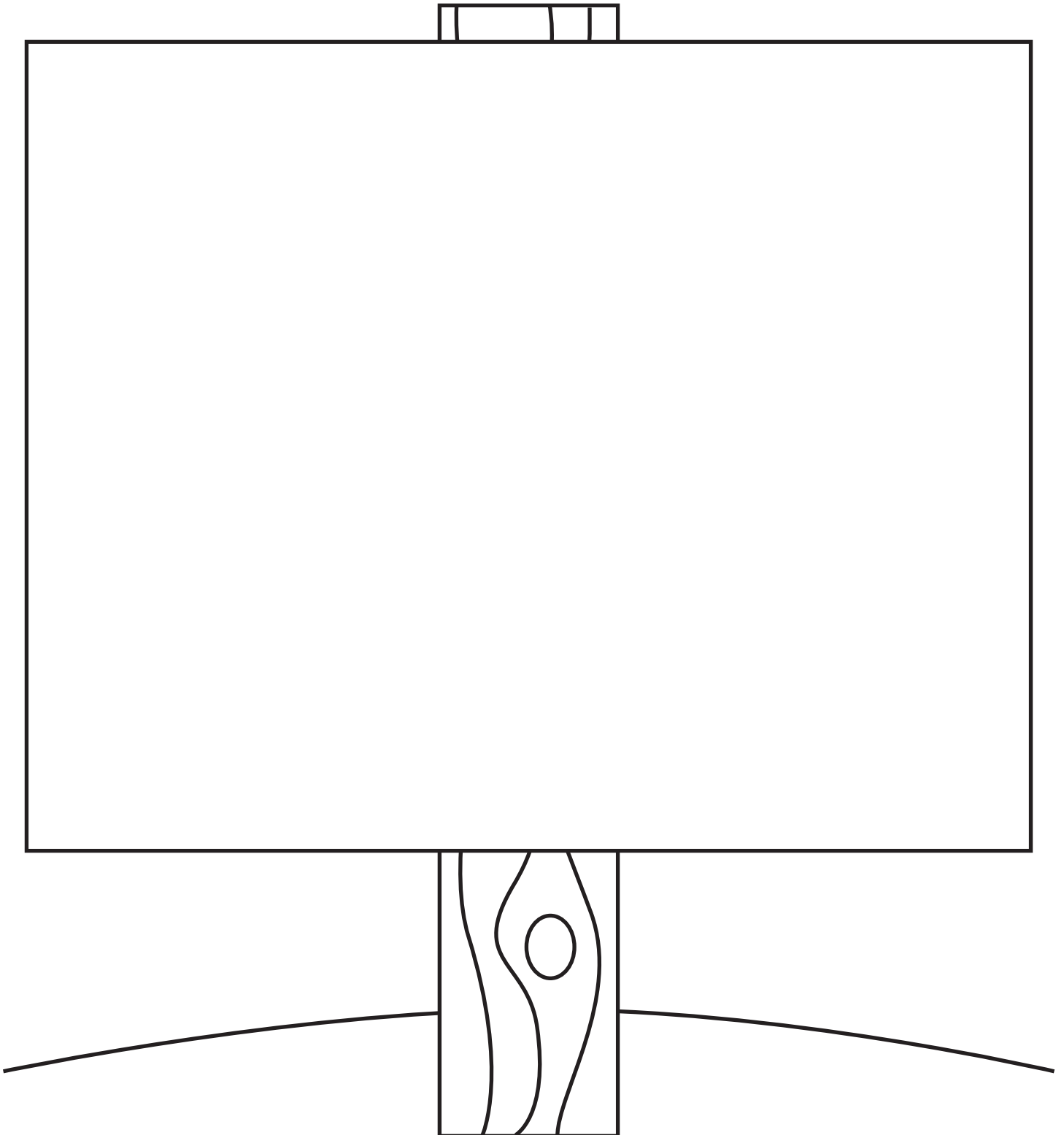
Sponsor

Veto

Vote

Let's Pretend

You want to become a senator or representative.
Design a poster that will make people want to vote for you.



State Flag And State Seal



The official seal of Kentucky was adopted in 1942 and is the symbol on the state flag. The original state flag is housed at the Kentucky History Museum in Frankfort. The state's pledge is below.

I pledge allegiance to the Kentucky flag, and to the Sovereign State for which it stands, one Commonwealth, blessed with diversity, natural wealth, beauty, and grace from on High.

State Symbols



The viceroy butterfly (*Limenitis archippus*) was adopted as the state butterfly in 1990.



The male cardinal has a vivid red plumage, while the female is light brown with red highlights.



The blackberry (*Rubus allegheniensis*) was adopted as the state fruit in 2004.



Settlers from Europe brought the dulcimer with them to Kentucky. It is still important to Kentucky's music tradition.

To learn more about the Kentucky state symbols, go to the legislature's kids' webpage and click on "State Symbols."

lrc.ky.gov/kidspages/kids.htm

Know Your Legislature

What is the legislature?

The legislature is the branch of government that makes new laws and changes old ones. Our state legislature makes laws only for Kentucky. It is made up of 138 members. These men and women represent the views and concerns of the people in their legislative districts.

What are houses?

The Kentucky legislature is divided into two bodies, called houses—the Senate and the House of Representatives. The 38 senators are elected to 4-year terms; 100 representatives are elected to 2-year terms.

What are political parties?

The members of the two houses also are divided into political groups, called parties. The two major parties are Democrats and Republicans. The group having the larger number of members is called the majority party. The other group is the minority party.

Who can be a legislator?

Senators must be at least 30 years old and immediately before the election must have lived in Kentucky for at least 6 years, the last year in their district. Representatives must be at least 24 years old and must have lived in the state for 2 years, the last in their district.

What are legislative districts?

Kentucky is divided into legislative districts: 38 Senate districts and 100 House of Representatives districts. Each district has about the same number of people in it. The residents of each district elect one senator and one representative. New district boundaries are drawn every 10 years after an official count called a census. A census counts how many people live in the state and where they live.

When does the legislature meet?

Kentucky's General Assembly meets on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January. Even-year sessions last 60 working days and must adjourn no later than April 15. Odd-year sessions last 30 working days and must adjourn no later than March 30. The governor may call the legislators into a special session at any time to discuss important issues.

Who is your legislator?

Find your county on the map.

Do you know who your legislators are?

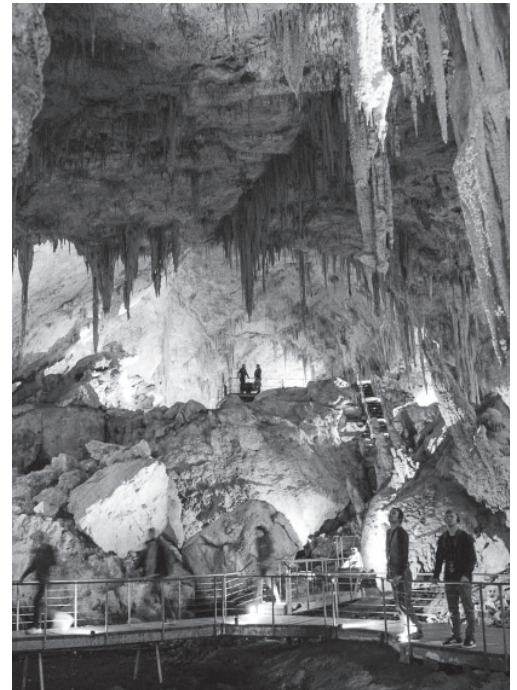
You can find out this information by going to the legislature's kids' webpage and clicking on "Find Your Legislator."

lrc.ky.gov/kidspages/kids.htm



Interesting Kentucky Facts

- 🏞️ Is the grass really blue? Kentucky's nickname is the Bluegrass State even though our grass is actually green! Bluegrass is a common type of grass found throughout the state. In the spring, the grass produces a blue flower that makes fields look blue from a distance.
- 🏞️ Kentucky was the 15th state to join the Union and officially became a state on June 1, 1792.
- 🏞️ Frankfort became the state capital in 1792.
- 🏞️ Mammoth Cave is the world's longest cave system, with more than 336 miles of mapped passages. It is 379 feet deep and contains at least 5 levels of passages. It's second only to Niagara Falls as the most popular tourist attraction in the US. It became a national park on July 1, 1941.
- 🏞️ Cumberland Falls is known as the "Niagara of the South." The waterfall is 125 feet wide, falling 60 feet. The mist of Cumberland Falls creates a moonbow visible only on a clear night during a full moon. This unique phenomenon appears nowhere else in the Western Hemisphere.
- 🏞️ Middlesboro is the only city in the United States built within a meteor crater.
- 🏞️ More than \$6 billion worth of gold is held in the underground vaults of Fort Knox. This is the largest amount of gold stored anywhere in the world.
- 🏞️ Kentucky has 12.7 million acres of commercial forest land—50 percent of the state's land area—and ranks 3rd among hardwood-producing states.
- 🏞️ Kentucky ranks 37th in land size, with 39,732 square miles.
- 🏞️ The Ohio River flows 664 miles along the northern and western borders of the state. Kentucky's highest point is Black Mountain in Harlan County, 4,145 feet above sea level; its lowest point, the Mississippi River in Fulton County, is 257 feet above sea level.
- 🏞️ Kentucky has more miles of running water than any other state except Alaska. The numerous rivers and water impoundments provide 1,100 commercially navigable miles.



- Breaks Interstate Park is one of two interstate parks in America. It encompasses 4,500 acres of woodland and is home of the deepest gorge east of the Mississippi River, commonly called the Grand Canyon of the South.
- The first observance of Mother's Day was in Henderson by teacher Mary S. Wilson in 1887. It was made a national holiday in 1916.
- The World Peace Bell in Newport is the world's largest free-swinging bell. It weighs 66,000 pounds and is 12 feet in diameter and 12 feet tall. Its clapper alone weighs a whopping 6,878 pounds!
- Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption in Covington is home to the world's largest hand-blown glass window, which is an astounding 24 feet by 67 feet.
- "Happy Birthday to You" was written in 1893 by sisters Mildred and Patty Hill from Louisville.
- The public saw an electric light for the first time in Louisville. Thomas Edison introduced his incandescent light bulb to crowds at the Southern Exposition in 1883.
- More than 100 native Kentuckians have been elected governors of other states.
- High Bridge, located near Nicholasville, is the highest railroad bridge over navigable water in the United States.
- Penn's Store, located near Gravel Switch, is the oldest country store in America still owned and operated by the same family. It has been a store site since 1845.
- The first American performance of a Beethoven symphony was in Lexington in 1817.
- The Jif plant in Lexington is the world's largest peanut-butter-producing facility.
- In 1873, Louisville druggist John Colgan invented something that you can find in just about every grocery store in the world: chewing gum.



Glossary

Adjourn - when the legislature stops proceedings for the day.

Capital - the city that is the seat of government.

Capitol - the building in which government operates.

Committee - a group of legislators assigned to consider an issue or question.

Constitution - a written document that defines and limits the duties and powers of a government and guarantees certain rights to the people who live within the area it governs.

District - an area of the state where a senator or representative serves a certain number of people.

Election - the process of selecting a person to occupy an office.

Frankfort - the state capital of Kentucky.

General Assembly - the entire body of senators and representatives who make our laws; also called the legislature.

Governor - the chief executive officer of a state.

House of Representatives - the 100-member elected body, or the chamber or room in the Capitol where official meetings of Kentucky's representatives are held.

Law - a bill that has been accepted by both the Senate and House of Representatives and signed by the governor.

Legislator - a senator or representative; a lawmaker.

Legislature - the body elected by state citizens under the power of the constitution to enact laws.

Majority Party - the political party that has at least one more than half of the total membership of the house.

Minority Party - the political party that has less than half of the total membership of the house.

Rules - the code of procedure adopted by each house of the legislature to govern its operation.

Senate - the 38-member elected body, or the chamber or room in the Capitol where official meetings of Kentucky's senators are held.

Sponsor - the legislator responsible for presenting an item of legislation to the body.

Vote - a decision on a question, either yes or no.

Get Involved

Look around at something you'd like to change or see happen in Kentucky.

Listen to different options and ideas.

Learn as much as you can about the issues and the different options.

Just because you are not old enough to vote doesn't mean you can't have a voice in Kentucky government.

Talk to someone who can vote.

Share your feelings and ideas with your parents, neighbors, friends, relatives, and community leaders.

Join forces!

Work with other people or groups that have the same ideas that you have and tell them to contact their legislators.

Write your legislators.

You may contact your state legislators about a current law, a law that is being considered, or an idea you have for a law. One of the best ways to share your ideas or concerns is to write your legislators a letter.

Find out more about your legislators on our website:
lrc.ky.gov