

Utah Heritage Foundation

presents



Kearns Mansion Mystery & History

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Kearns Mansion
Mystery History

A T E A C H E R ' S G U I D E

Utah Heritage Foundation

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Kearns Mansion Mystery History: A Teacher's Guide

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Utah Heritage Foundation, established in 1966, was the first statewide preservation organization in the western United States. The foundation's mission is to preserve, protect, and promote Utah's historic built environment through public education, advocacy, and active preservation.

Utah Heritage Foundation fulfills its mission through a wide range of programs and activities which reach communities throughout the state, including: the Annual Historic Homes Tour, tours and classroom programs for school groups, the Heritage Awards program, our bi-monthly news magazine, the low-interest Revolving Fund Loan Program, and stewardship of the historic Memorial House in Memory Grove Park. As a private, nonprofit, membership-based organization, the foundation is supported mainly by private resources, including memberships, gifts, grants, and proceeds from special events.

For more information about the *Kearns Mansion Mystery History* Teacher's Guide or Utah Heritage Foundation, please contact us at:

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Kearns Mansion Mystery History

Introduction to Teachers

Historic buildings are valuable teaching tools. Students learn best when they can make tangible, “real-life” connections with the subject they are studying. Unlike most of our history, historic buildings can be seen, touched, and experienced by students first hand. Moreover, a wide range of subjects can be explored through studying historic buildings because buildings are products of the social, economic, political, cultural, and technological trends of the societies that constructed them.

The Kearns Mansion is one of Utah’s most exciting historic buildings. Students who visit the mansion each year step back in time to the early twentieth century. They are enchanted by the mansion’s beautiful architecture, stunning craftsmanship, and the fascinating story of the Kearns family. Utah Heritage Foundation’s *Kearns Mansion Mystery History* Teacher’s Guide allows you make the Kearns Mansion the center of an engaging interdisciplinary history unit. Together, the Kearns Mansion tour and the lessons provide your students with a rewarding education experience.

An Interdisciplinary Approach to Utah History

The *Kearns Mansion Mystery History* uses the Kearns Mansion as a tool for teaching about Utah’s rich history. Using the mansion as their springboard, students explore the lives and lifestyles of turn-of-the-century Utahns. Students also learn that Utah’s historic buildings are an excellent source of information about our past and that these buildings continue to benefit our communities in many ways. In addition, the lessons introduce students to basic concepts in architecture and design, such as composition and style.

This guide includes 14 lessons. Lessons 1-7 are pre-tour lessons while lessons 8-14 are post-tour lessons. The pre-tour lessons introduce information, concepts, and skills students will use during their tour of the Kearns Mansion, including the history of the Kearns family and their house, how to “read” a building, and the identification of architectural styles. The post-tour lessons build upon this knowledge and relate the Kearns Mansion to a variety of topics, including Salt Lake City history, Utah’s mining industry, citizens’ responsibilities, craftsmanship, and historic preservation.

The guide is flexible and allows you to select lesson topics of interest to you and your students. With the exception of Lessons 1 and 2, which are required in preparation for the tour, the lessons do not need to be presented in the sequence they are listed. Lessons related to a similar topic, like mining, are grouped together for easier reference. **Figure 1** (*page vii*) illustrates the guide’s flexible structure and the different paths you might choose in teaching it.

The lessons support the Utah State Board of Education Social Studies Core Curriculum. They are keyed to the fourth grade core, but can easily be adapted for other grade levels. The lessons emphasize social studies process skills (like researching and utilizing primary documents) as well as problem solving, critical thinking, and citizenship skills. The lessons also fulfill core curriculum requirements in other subjects areas. For example, the lessons on architecture meet Fine Arts Core Curriculum requirements. Many lessons require students to utilize math and language art skills during the activities. The chart in **Appendix A** shows the fourth grade core curriculum objectives in social studies, fine arts, math, and language arts met by the lessons in the guide.

About the Lesson Plans

The *Kearns Mansion Mystery History* lesson plans utilize readily available materials and require little preparation to teach. Each lesson is organized in the following format:

Core Requirements: Lists the subject areas in which the lesson fulfills Utah State Board of Education 4th Grade Core Curriculum requirements and the numbers of the specific core objectives met.

Objectives: Highlights the concepts and skills to be taught in the lesson.

Background: Information for the teacher on the lesson topic.

Materials: Lists all the materials needed for the lesson. All activity sheets, graphics, and primary sources listed for a particular lesson follow the lesson in the guide.

Activity sheets are marked with the notebook icon and the number of the corresponding lesson. Graphics and primary sources are marked with the clue icon and are numbered sequentially. Lesson 2, which is required before students tour the Kearns Mansion, includes a background reading section marked with the case report book icon. Supplies that you will need to provide, like rulers or scissors, are marked with a check. ✓



Student Instruction: Step-by-step instructions for introducing students to the concepts and skills listed in the objectives.

Student Activity/Product: Step-by-step instructions for an activity or product that allows students to apply their new knowledge or skill to meet the lesson objective.

Extensions: Some lessons include additional activities that address the objectives.

Resources: Provides references for any resources mentioned in the lesson or sources of information students can use in extension activities.

Links: Refers to other lessons that address the same or similar concepts.

Insuring a Successful Tour

The Kearns Mansion tour is interactive and discovery-oriented. It focuses on “reading” the mansion to find clues about the history of the people who built, lived, and worked in it. **Students should complete Lesson 1: School Detectives and Lesson 2: Discovering the Kearns Mansion before the tour. The tour is designed for students with the skills and background information taught in these lessons.** If students have not completed these lessons, tour guides will have to spend time providing background information and students will miss some of the interactive and discovery activities.

Utah Heritage Foundation hopes you and your students will find studying our past through historic buildings a rich and exciting education experience. We are always striving to improve the education programs we offer Utah students. We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions at: (801) 533-0858 or P.O. Box 28, Salt Lake City UT 84110-0028.

A Structure for Teaching Kearns Mansion Mystery History

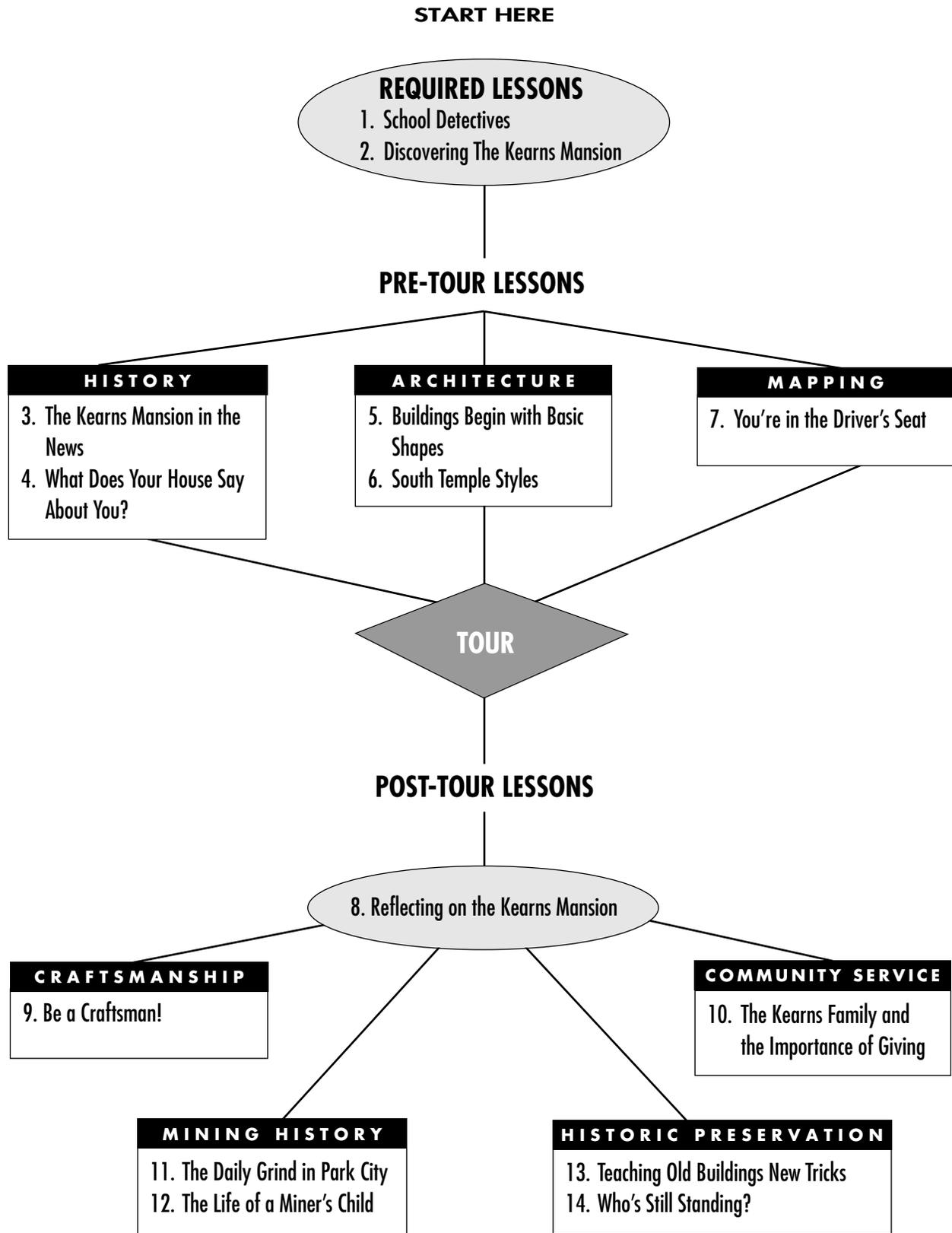


Figure 1.