Educators Kit

Old Prison Museums Lesson Plans

The information you need to complete these worksheets will come from the guided tour book and other materials provided.

Old Prison Review & Answers

1. During the many years of operations, inmates built several buildings. Name two structures that still exist at the Old Prison?

The 1912 Cell House and The Wall.

2. What year was the prison wall extended, and why?

In 1911, to accommodate the 1912 Cell House.

3. How many years was Frank Conley warden at the prison?

31

4. Two riots are discussed in the Guided Tour Booklet. In what years did they occur?

1908 and 1959

5. The earthquake in 1959 damaged which building?

The 1896 Cell House.

6. How many cells are in the 1912 Cell House?

200

7. What other job did Frank Conley have while he was the prison warden?

He was the mayor of Deer Lodge.

8. Why did the prison staff retire cell number one?

The cell was assigned to Paul "Turkey Pete" Eitner. After his death the staff felt no other person should be housed in the cell.

9. Why was Paul "Turkey Pete" Eitner in prison?

He murdered a man in Miles City, Montana.

10. Who were the men who started the 1908 riot and why did they start it?

George Rock and William Hayes. It was an effort to escape from the prison.

11. Who were the men who started the 1959 riot and why did they start it?
Lee Smart and Jerry Miles. They were protesting over the crowded conditions in the prison.
12. What organization was asked to assist in bringing the 1959 riot to an end?
The Montana National Guard.
13. For how many hours did the 1959 riot last?
36
14. What year was the Women's Prison added to the outside of the prison wall?
1907
15. Before the Women's Prison was built, where were the women housed?
On a separate floor from the men in the Federal Building.
16. How many miles of road did the inmates build in the State while Frank Conley was Warden?
Just over 500 miles.
17. Which three buildings where taken to the New Prison and are still in use today?
The schoolhouse, the gymnasium and the mess hall.
18. What was the area now housing the Montana Auto Museum and Visitor Center originally used for?
These areas were used as the trustee bunkhouse, carpenter and electrical shop, garage, storeroom, property controller's office, inmate waiting rooms, trustee visiting room, dormitory and laundry.
19. Flat Bar Cells were never used at the Old Montana Prison. What were they used for and where?
They were built for the brigs (prison cells) on ships. When the ships were scrapped, the cells were sold to different law enforcement agencies to use in their jails.
20. What area was the main entrance for people coming into, and leaving, the prison?
Tower 7
21. Name at least two areas that are accessible by the underground tunnel system.
The Chapel, showers, mess hall and the catwalk.
22. In what year was the old prison closed?
1979

23. How many seats were inside the W.A. Clark Theater?
600
24. Name at least three activities that the inmates did in the prison yard
Horseshoes, softball, basketball, shuffle board and jogging.
25. During the course of the prison's history, two Deputy Wardens were killed in the line of duty. Give the name of at least one and the year that he died.
John Robinson in 1908 and Ted Rothe in 1959
26. Who was Prison Warden during the 1959 riot?
Floyd Powell.
27. How many inmates could be housed in the Federal Building?
98
28. How many inmates could be housed in the 1896 Cell House?
A total of 290. One section held 32 youths, the other section held 258 men.
29. Which area of the Old Prison Museum did you think was the most interesting? Please give your reasons.