



## URBAN TOUR GROUP EARLY CITY TOUR INFORMATION



### TABLE OF CONTENTS

Suggested Tour Activities.....	1
Emergency Procedures for Accident or Illness.....	2
Earthquake Emergency Procedures.....	3
Map of Early City Tour Area.....	4
Map Legend.....	5
Tour Vocabulary.....	6
Commonly Toured Sites	
Skidmore Fountain.....	8
Waterfront.....	8
Bill Naito Legacy Fountain.....	8
Ascension.....	9
Japanese American Memorial Historical Plaza.....	9
Central Fire Station.....	9
China Gate.....	10

# **URBAN TOUR GROUP**

## **SUGGESTED TOUR ACTIVITIES**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:** The quantity of appropriate places to visit and things to see is almost unlimited and it is not possible to see everything. The guide will choose the best route for this tour. Attached are some vocabulary words, emergency procedures and information about some "probable" stops. If the students are familiar with these, it will enhance their tour.

### **SUGGESTED TOUR ACTIVITIES**

- What are the expected behaviors for downtown Portland? How are expectations different inside buildings, on the sidewalk, and/or a church?
- Why do people go downtown, i.e., to work, live, attend cultural events, shop?
- How have people changed the city environment? What problems can arise from these changes? How are people working to protect our city environment?
- What is a landmark? How does something become a landmark? Why are landmarks important? What landmarks might we see on our tour?
- During the tour students will be asked to use their senses to discover the vitality of our city. Make a list of things you expect to see, hear, smell, feel, etc.
- How do we know people care about our city? What might you see on the tour that tells you people care about our city?
- It takes many workers to maintain our city. Make a list of jobs you think are needed to take care of our city. Look for them on the tour.
- What is an ethnic group? Which of these are represented in our schools? neighborhood? city?
- Make a list of questions that reflect things you are curious about that might be answered on the tour.
- Visit: [www.portlandonline.com](http://www.portlandonline.com) for more information and links to other sites.
- Compare where you live with downtown Portland. What is similar? What is different?
- What landmarks did you visit on the tour? Students may be interested in learning more about these or other landmarks. Help students find resources for needed information. Information gathered may be shared with the class through oral presentations or collaborating to make a "Landmark Guide Book" or posters.
- List the sounds, sights, smells and feel of the city. You might focus on similes and/or descriptive words and allow students to write poems.
- Design a poster or create a slogan that will tell others that you are proud of our city.
- Look at the list of questions from the pre-tour activity. Did you find the answers to your questions? Do you have any new questions? How will you proceed to find answers to your questions?
- Look at the list of jobs that you made during pre-tour activities. Do you have any new jobs to add to the list? Make a collaborative book, "Taking Care of Our City".
- Many cultural groups have contributed to the growth of our city. Together, have the children write a group story about what they have learned.

- List highlights of your tour. Have children work individually or in small groups to illustrate and write about something from the list. Compile the information into a class book. Could one group make a map to be included?
- Using photographs taken during the tour or post-tour CD's have students write captions or descriptions. This provides students with the opportunity to use expository, descriptive and/or narrative writing.
- Have students identify and describe their favorite site or landmark in their thank you notes to their guides.

## **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES FOR ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS**

### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

To insure the safety of tour participants the following procedures will be followed in case of emergency by the Urban Tour Group guides:

- If a student or adult becomes seriously injured and needs immediate attention or cannot be moved, call 911, the teacher on his/her cell phone and the school.
- If a student or adult becomes ill or for lesser problems that need resolution before the tour can be completed, call the teacher on his/her cell phone.
- The chaperone may be left with the students if a guide must seek other guides to assist with an emergency. UTG guides are asked not to be alone with students.
- Depending on the severity of an emergency and the time, two tour groups may be combined and complete the tour together or head to the final destination.
- Notify the teacher as soon as possible and keep her/him informed of developments.

## EARTHQUAKE EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Your guides have received instruction in responding to earthquakes in the downtown area. In general, they follow four steps in any emergency, but especially earthquakes. They include (1) stop while shaking; (2) quickly assess the surroundings; (3) protect the children and self; and (4) then reunite.

Please provide a list of students to each chaperone to facilitate accounting of all students in the event of an earthquake. Detailed earthquake emergency procedures are available on the Urban Tour Group website.

### MEETING PLACES IN THE EVENT OF AN EARTHQUAKE

Make every attempt to reunite with the whole group. If members of the group are missing, and safety allows, a guide may be dispatched to the other designated meeting place to account for the entire group.

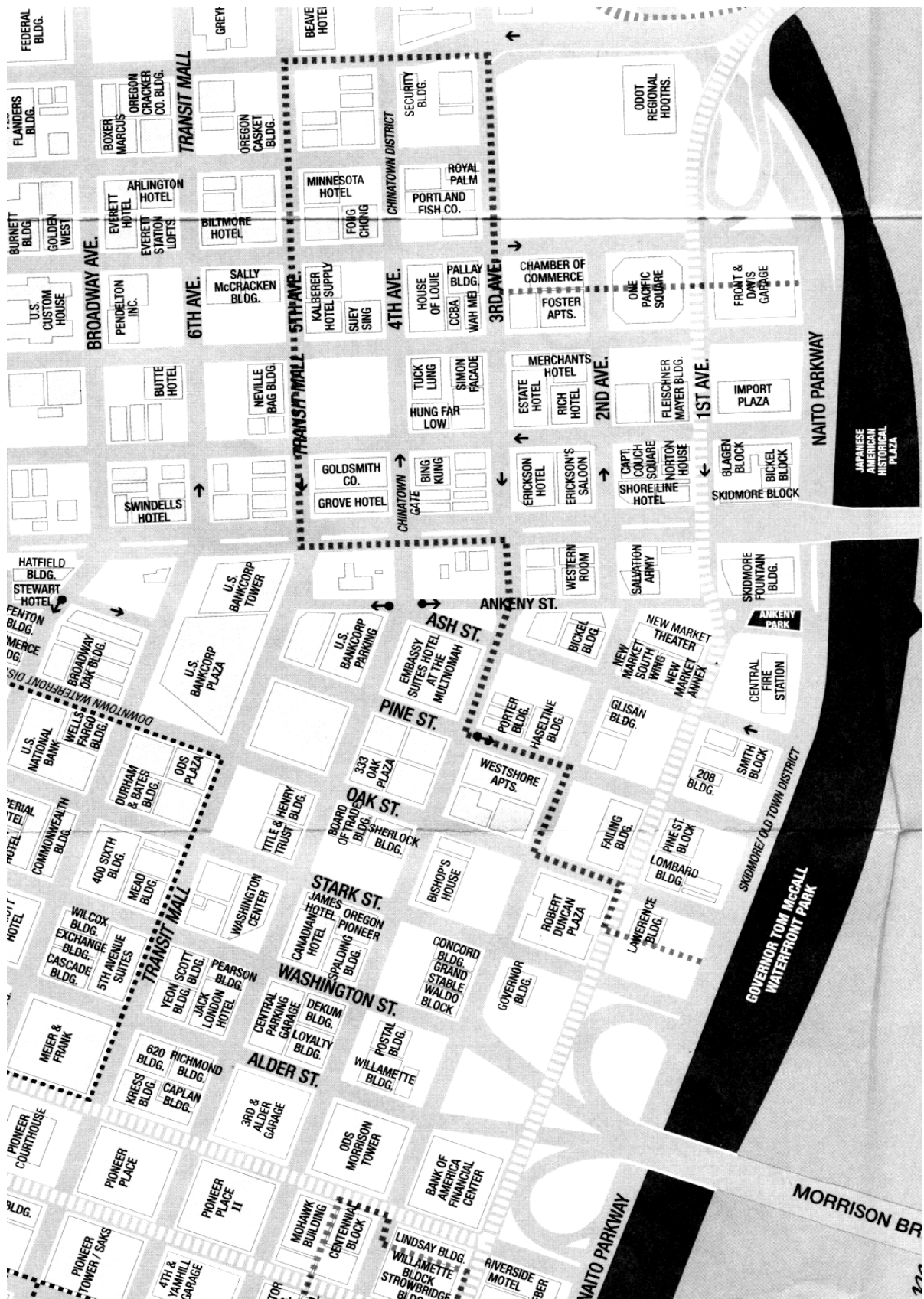
**Early City:** Your ultimate destination is Fire Station #1. Head for open ground, staying as far away from buildings as possible, as many are brick and not re-enforced. Do not use Waterfront Park. Depending on where you are on the tour, gather at the courtyard of the Chinese Garden or the intersection of 3rd, Ash and Ankeny, by the Embassy Suites Hotel. Regroup and as safety allows proceed to the Skidmore Fountain.

**Building a City:** Your ultimate destination is Pioneer Courthouse Square. However, if at the beginning part of the tour, head for the south plaza of Big Pink or the intersection of 3rd, Ash and Ankeny, by the Embassy Suites Hotel. Regroup and as safety allows, proceed to Pioneer Courthouse Square via the transit mall. Be aware of buildings with ornamentation. Think falling debris.

**Life in the City:** Your ultimate destination is Pioneer Courthouse Square. Depending on where you are on the tour, gather in the South Park Blocks or in the Chapman-Lownsdale Plaza. Regroup and as safety allows proceed to Pioneer Courthouse Square. Most of the city's taller buildings have been either built or retrofitted to be earthquake proof. The buildings most likely will sway, but that is the desired effect.

If a student is unable to evacuate with the group, have the chaperone stay with the child. Because it is the only way to safeguard the majority of the group, the Guide will proceed with the balance of the group to the meeting place and seek emergency help for the student.

EARLY CITY MAP



## MAP LEGEND

### SOUTHWEST SECTION:

1. Skidmore Fountain
2. Packer-Scott Building
3. Dekum & Reed Building
4. Ankeny Square
5. Jeff Morris Fire Museum  
Ascension
6. Waterfront
7. Smiths' Block
8. Kamm Building
9. Battleship Oregon
10. Fechheimer & White Building
11. Hallock & McMillan Building
12. Log Cabin
13. Delschneider Building
14. Failing Building
15. Seuffert Building
16. New Market Theater, South Wing
17. New Market Theater
18. New Market Annex
19. Bickel Building
20. Phoenix Hotel
21. Glisan Building
22. United Carriage & Baggage Transfer Company
23. Haseltine Building
24. Multnomah Hotel

### NORTHWEST SECTION:

2. Japanese American Memorial Plaza
3. Bickel Block
4. White Stag Sign
5. Blagen Block
6. Skidmore Block
7. Overland Hotel
8. Pacific Square
9. Chamber of Commerce
10. Merchants Hotel
12. Erickson's Saloon
13. Sinnott Building
14. Simon Building
15. Far East Trading Company
16. Chinatown
17. China Gate
18. Chinese Garden
19. Port of Portland Building
20. Oregon Leather Company
21. Oregon Jewish Museum
22. Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center

## TOUR VOCABULARY

**ballast:** Ships often arrived in Portland without full cargoes. It was necessary to carry a ballast-stone in the hull of the ships to provide weight (stability) to the ship. Much of this stone was left on the docks by the heavily laden ships leaving Portland. This stone was used for paving and sidewalks, as seen around the Skidmore Fountain. Belgian Block consisted of basalt slabs 4 x 10 x 15 inches, quarried from the large Columbia River igneous formations.

**Belgian Blocks:** A material used to construct Portland's early cobblestone streets. Came to Portland as ballast on ships.

**bollard:** A thick post on a ship or wharf, used for securing ropes and/or cables. Bollards are found along the seawall in Waterfront Park. Navy and Coast Guard ships use them during the Rose Festival.

**bronze:** Bronze is a reddish-brown metal composed of a combination of metals--copper and tin or copper and other metals. Bronze is often used in works of art such as the Skidmore Fountain.

**cast iron:** A material used for construction used in early Portland buildings. Cast iron as a commercial building material had several advantages. Narrow cast-iron columns could replace heavy masonry piers between windows, allowing considerably more daylight to penetrate dim interiors. The prefabricated iron parts could be erected more quickly, with fewer workman and lower costs. The easily precast decorative elements offered almost limitless opportunities for decorating a building. Early Portland had few artisans that would have been needed to create buildings of equal complexity in stone or marble.

**cisterns:** Wooden cisterns held water underneath early Portland streets at major intersections for fire fighting purposes.

**hand pumper:** A piece of fire fighting equipment brought to Portland in 1863. The firefighters pulled these pumpers to the scene of a fire. The pumps were equipped with a suction hose, which was dropped in a well or cistern. The handlebars were lowered and locked into place. Twenty men on each side did the pumping. The pump was a double one, which gave a constant stream of water.

**helipad, helistop, heliport:** An airport for helicopters. The parking structure between Front and First, and Davis has an active one.

**National Register of Historic Places:** A list, which recognizes historic sites or buildings that have a significance to the nation.

**renovation:** To make new. Often a building will be renovated to its former self but just as likely it could be renovated to look entirely different. Good examples of the latter are the Hallock and McMillan Building, the Phoenix Hotel and the Bickel Block.

**restoration:** To restore a building to its original state. An excellent example would be the Blagen Block, which after a disastrous fire in 1980 was redone to how it had been originally built. Another is the Fechheimer and White Building.

**seawall:** A seawall is an embankment or wall that protects the shore from erosion or acts as a breakwater. The seawall along Portland's waterfront does indeed serve both functions; it prevents the riverbank from falling into the river and it helps stop flooding of the city.

**skid roads:** The first Skid Roads were made to aid the loggers to clear the thickly wooded area we now know as Portland. The demand for lumber in the early days was great and Portland couldn't supply the manpower to clear the area and get the logs down to the river to be made into lumber. Temporary roads were made out of logs, which were heavily greased which made it easy for a team of oxen to pull the numerous logs down to the lumber mills or river. The construction of these roads was quite interesting. Beginning with clearing the brush and hacking out, a road was graded and elevated on the inside. Cross

pieces of 18 inch long logs were then laid across the road at 8-foot intervals and sunk into the soft ground. The length of the crosspieces depended on the diameter of the logs to be hauled. Some of these roads were as long as two miles. The crosspieces were grooved in the center making a trough to carry the logs.

Hook tenders chained the logs to a team of oxen. Bull whackers drove the oxen using a goad. A goad was a five-foot piece of hardwood with a one-inch steel brand in the end. With the help of the goad and much profanity, the oxen were persuaded to move along the road. A grease boy would run ahead of the team greasing the road with green sludge, axle grease, lard or whale oil; whatever was available. The grease boy had to be agile, quick and careful. Sometimes a team of oxen would get going very fast and the grease boy would have to get out of the way. The teams of oxen could weigh up to 1800 pounds. The logs sometimes smoked from the friction and many forest fires were caused from flying sparks. Skid Roads were put out of business in the early 1900's when the donkey engine was invented.

**steam pumper:** A steam pumper is on display in the Jeff Morris Museum. It was pulled by two horses. There were two men, the driver and the man in the rear who started the fire to make steam. He had seven minutes from the time the alarm sounded till he had to have enough steam to start the pump. He used wood with pitch to start the fire and later kept it going with coal. The rest of the crew came by the wagon, which brought the hoses.

## TOUR SITES

### SKIDMORE FOUNTAIN

Architect: H.M. Wells, Sculptor: Orin L. Warner Stephen Skidmore in his will dedicated \$5,000 to be used to erect a fountain that would serve as a central meeting place to grace downtown Portland. He wanted a place where a working man and his dog or his horse could have a cool drink. With an additional \$13,00 raised by friends, the fountain was commissioned. It is 14 feet tall with an 8 foot bronze basin which appears to be supported by two classical female figures. Four cups were chained to the pool wall where they could be filled by the lion's mouth. These cups were later removed as the threat of "germs" came to be understood. The large rocks imbedded around the fountain were to prevent horses and wagons from crashing into the fountain.

Stephen Skidmore came to Portland with his family at the age of 11. He delivered newspapers to help out his family. Later he helped with delivering medicines and went on to work for the Davis Drug company. After going to San Francisco to study medicine he became a druggist and in 1867 he opened his own store.

### WATERFRONT

The waterfront is one of the few places which provide the city dweller with the opportunity to get in touch with the natural environment and more particularly with the special qualities of a body of water. The Willamette rises 180 miles south in the Calapooya Mountains; it flows the whole length of the valley for a total distance of 187 miles. A few miles downstream from the city, just before it enters the Columbia, the river realizes the ending it

deserves, flowing past the shores of Suave Island. When Overton and Lovejoy beached their canon in 1843, the river was edged with fir, maple, oak and cottonwood. The "clearing" where they landed did not have those trees, they had been cleared by the Indians so they could set up trading camps. In time all the trees were removed and this area was laced with wharves and warehouses.

By the mid-1920's the downtown waterfront was a mess. To clear the debris and cure the problem of flooding the seawall was built in 1928.

Until 1974, a main arterial, Harbor Drive, ran along the waterfront. It was felt that it was a disgrace to block access to the waterfront. Tom McCall, at the time the governor of Oregon, moved the road and set aside this area for a park with fountains, a promenade and a memorial to the interned Japanese of World War II.

### BILL NAITO LEGACY FOUNTAIN

The fountain was dedicated on August 20, 2009 in honor of Bill Natio who was instrumental in the revitalization of Old Town. The interactive fountain was funded by private donors in partnership with the Portland Parks Foundation and the City of Portland. A poem etched on these steps is a tribute to the diverse cultures that contributed to the development of the city.

## **ASCENSION**

Public art project meant to hide a parking lot and at the same time remind us of the purpose of the property and the higher calling of firefighters, climbing higher and saving lives

## **JAPANESE AMERICAN MEMORIAL HISTORICAL PLAZA**

This is a memorial to the internment of the Japanese Americans during World War II. Designed by landscape architect Robert Murase, who was himself interned. With the assistance of Bill Naito, this memorial was created. Entering the plaza from the south you will see a long rock wall sloped at a 45 degree angle. Along the wall there are occasional stones that stick upright and become a time line from south to north like the Willamette. The first stone bears a plaque with the Bill of Rights. Subsequent stones hold haiku verses that tell of the Japanese experience in Oregon from the 1890's to the beginning of World War II. At the end of the wall is a plaque with the official apology made in 1988 by congress and President Reagan. On Front street there are two bronze cylindrical columns sculpted by Jim Gino. The one on the north represents innocence before the internment and the one on the south represents experience inside the camps. One hundred cherry trees donated by the Japanese Wheat Growers Association surround the plaza.

## **CENTRAL FIRE STATION**

In 1850 the first Portland Fire Department was organized. It was all volunteers. It was considered an honor to be a volunteer, There were no uniforms.

The First attempt at fire fighting was a small cart containing 40 leather buckets. The buckets were dipped at the nearest well, cistern, creek or river. Those buckets full of water were handed from man to man until the back man in the line threw the water not he firs. The empty buckets were returned to the starting point.

In 1863 Portland got hand pumpers. The firemen pulled these pumpers to the scene of the fire. The pumps were equipped with a suction hose which was dropped in a well or cistern. The handle bars were lowered and locked into place. Twenty men on each side did the pumping.

In 1872 Portland had its first major fire. In 1873 there was an even bigger fire which destroyed 22 city blocks. Many volunteer firemen did not hear the bell calling them to duty. Eventually a larger bell was ordered -the sound was very penetrating and could be heard at great distances, even as far away as Oregon City.

The next improvement was the steam pumper. Two horses were used to pull it as it was too heavy to be pulled by the firemen.. There were two men, the driver and the man in the rear who started the fire to make the steam. They had seven minutes from the time the alarm sounded until the engine had to have enough steam to start the pump. Sometimes, with a big fire, the fire engine would pump the cistern dry. Eventually the city built several cisterns for fire protection purposes. These were constructed at intersections in Old Town. Eventually the city got water pipes and hydrants.

## CHINA GATE

The China Gate was completed in 1986 and symbolizes the entryway to Chinatown. The Chinese view the gate as a symbol of protection. In ancient time, walls enclosed Chinese cities. However, through time, the walls no longer existed and the gates became a symbol of what the walls once were.

Portland's gate stands 36 feet 9 inches tall and 46 feet wide. This is a five-roofed gate with the primary color being red. The roof is orange tile and green, blue, yellow and orange symbols adorn it. Sixty-two dragons can be found upon the gate and two lions stand guard at each side of the gate. These lions represent union of two opposing forces (i.e.: yin and yang, fire and water, male and female). An ancient saying has it that the male lion carries the moneybags. Over time this has become a round object – a ball, which symbolizes power. The female's left paw rests upon the lion cub and she is said to guide and protect the nation's young. These lions are exact replicas of the lions guarding the National Palace Museum in Taipei, Taiwan. After these copies were made, the molds were stored improperly and they cannot be reused.