

The Power of a Statue – One Day Lesson Plan

Questions This Lesson Addresses:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is the purpose of statues and memorials?• How might the absence of different representations (people of color, LGBTQ+, Native Americans, women) impact what we know and think?• Who would best represent Michigan in the U.S. Capitol’s Statuary Hall?
Instructions	<p>If you have access to the internet and projection abilities, the ideal strategy would be to lead your students through the online version of the lesson at:</p> <p>https://www.teachinghistoryinmi.org/general-8</p> <p>The online lesson takes you through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Purpose of Statuary Hall• Michigan’s Two Current Statues• The Potential Problem with One of Them• Some Potential Replacements <p>There are questions on each page you can answer together as a class OR there is a space on The Power of a Statue Handout (below).</p> <p>The final page online is a list of potential replacements for Lewis Cass. Each has a link to a biography of the individual. We suggest you spend some time reviewing the names and have students, either alone or with a partner, pick one person they feel would be the best replacement, use the linked biography (and any other resources) to make a recommendation on page 4 on The Power of a Statue Handout.</p> <p>If you DO NOT have internet access or want to do this activity without the use of computers, The Power of a Statue Handout (below) is meant to be used on its own.</p>
Assessment	<p>Feel free to score (or not) this assignment for your own classroom purposes. However, if you send your recommendation(s) to us, we will provide feedback from a professor and keep your recommendation on file for future use as this issue moves forward.</p> <p>Send recommendations to sdurham@lakeviewspartans.org</p>

The Power of a Statue – Two Day Lesson Plan

<p>Questions This Lesson Addresses:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the purpose of statues and memorials? • How might the absence of different representations (people of color, LGBTQ+, Native Americans, women) impact what we know and think? • Who would best represent Michigan in the U.S. Capitol’s Statuary Hall?
<p>Instructions</p>	<p>If you have access to the internet and projection abilities, the ideal strategy would be to lead your students through the online version of the lesson at:</p> <p>https://www.teachinghistoryinmi.org/general-8</p> <p>The online lesson takes you through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Purpose of Statuary Hall • Michigan’s Two Current Statues • The Potential Problem with One of Them • Some Potential Replacements <p>There are questions on each page you can answer together as a class OR there is a space on The Power of a Statue Handout (below).</p> <p>When you get to the Potential Replacements page, there is a list of potential replacements for Lewis Cass. To complete day one, students, either alone or with a partner, should be assigned one of these names and asked to complete The Power of a Statue Round One Research Form. On that form, students will recommend if the person they are researching should make the final round.</p> <p>The names (we suggest 4 to 6) that make the final round will be the focus of Day Two. In groups, have students pick one of the names and develop a recommendation that will be presented to the rest of the class. It can also be documented on page four on The Power of a Statue Handout. Upon completion of the presentations, hold a class vote on who should be the replacement. That recommendation sheet will be sent to the Michigan Council on History Education for feedback.</p> <p>If you DO NOT have internet access or want to do this activity without the use of computers, both The Power of a Statue Round One Research Form and The Power of a Statue Handout (below) are meant to be used on its own.</p>
<p>Assessment</p>	<p>Feel free to score (or not) this assignment for your own classroom purposes. However, if you send your recommendation(s) to us, we will provide feedback from a professor and keep your recommendation on file for future use as this issue moves forward.</p> <p>Send recommendations to sdurham@lakeviewspartans.org</p>

**THE POWER OF A STATUE
ROUND ONE RESEARCH**

Name(s):	
What do you hope the statues we choose at the U.S. Capitol might teach us?	
Who will you be researching?	
What are the strengths of this individual that might make them the perfect statue to represent Michigan?	
What are some aspects of this person's life that might make them a less than perfect representative of Michigan?	
Explain how this person meets (or does not meet) the goals you set above?	
Would you recommend this person make the final round of consideration?	

THE POWER OF A STATUE



United States Capitol
Statuary Hall

"...the President is hereby authorized to invite each and all the states to provide and furnish statues, in marble or bronze, not exceeding two in number for each State, of deceased persons who have been citizens thereof, and illustrious for their historic renown or for their distinguished civic or military services...and when so furnished shall be placed...in the Capitol of the United States."

What do we hope the statues we choose for the US Capitol might teach us?

How might excluding and/or ignoring statues of certain Americans (people of color, LGBTQ+, Native Americans, women, etc.) be ineffective at accurately representing the United States?

MICHIGAN'S STATUES



GERALD R. FORD

The future president was born Leslie Lynch King, Jr., on July 14, 1913, in Omaha, Nebraska, and was raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. After his mother divorced his father, she married Gerald Rudolph Ford, in whose honor her son would take the name Gerald Rudolph Ford, Jr. He studied economics and political science at the University of Michigan, where he was also a champion football player. At Yale University, he earned a law degree while coaching football and boxing. He graduated in 1941, practiced law briefly, and enlisted in the navy in 1942 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. His service included time on an aircraft carrier that saw action in the Pacific until it was irreparably damaged by a typhoon and fire, and he was honorably discharged in 1946.

In 1948 Ford married Elizabeth ("Betty") Bloomer and was elected to the first of 13 terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. During his service on committees and on the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, he established a reputation for fairness and integrity, and beginning in 1965 he served as minority leader. Upon the resignation of Vice President Spiro Agnew, President Richard Nixon selected him to fill the vacancy, and he was confirmed by the House and Senate as required by the 25th amendment to the Constitution. On August 9, 1974, Nixon himself left office because of the ongoing Watergate scandal, and Ford assumed the presidency. Among the challenges he faced were low public confidence in the government, economic inflation, conflict in the Middle East, the fall of South Vietnam and Cambodia, and an increasing Soviet military threat. He ran for election to a full term in 1976 but was defeated by Governor Jimmy Carter of Georgia.



LEWIS CASS

Born October 9, 1782, Lewis Cass was the eldest child of Jonathan Cass, a craftsman who had fought in the Revolution. The family lived in Exeter, New Hampshire, and young Lewis attended Exeter Academy, where he became close friends with Daniel Webster. He taught school in 1799 in Wilmington, Delaware, and moved to Ohio later that year. By 1808, Cass had opened a law practice in Marietta, Ohio. He was a member of the Ohio Legislature in 1806 and served as the United States marshal in Ohio from 1807 to 1812. He enthusiastically fought in the War of 1812 and was appointed a colonel in the Third Ohio Regiment. He became a brigadier general in the United States Army a year later.

He was appointed governor of the Territory of Michigan in 1813 and served until 1831. His tenure was marked by good relations with the numerous Indian tribes under his jurisdiction. Cass served as the secretary of war from 1831 to 1836 and as minister to France in 1836. Elected to the United States Senate in 1845, he served until 1857.

In 1848 the noted senator was the unsuccessful Democratic nominee for president. He then served as Buchanan's secretary of state from 1857-1860 but resigned in protest against the president's decision not to reinforce the Charleston forts. He was a strong supporter of the Union and lived long enough to see the outcome of the Civil War. He died on June 17, 1866.

IS THERE A PROBLEM?

"Cass, the second territorial governor of Michigan, oversaw the forced removal of tens of thousands of Native Americans from their lands as secretary of war under President Andrew Jackson. As a U.S. senator, he promoted the doctrine of popular sovereignty, suggesting white settlers in new territories should vote on whether to expand slavery. The marble statue of his likeness has a prominent place in National Statuary Hall in the Capitol. The state of Michigan gave the statue to the collection in 1889."

(from <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2020/07/02/michigan-democrats-want-cass-statue-replaced-us-capitol/5361814002/>)

SHOULD LEWIS CASS BE REPLACED?

YES

NO

Explain your reasoning:

WHAT HISTORICAL FIGURE WOULD BEST REPRESENT MICHIGAN?

Here are some ideas (links to their biographies can be found at

<https://www.teachinghistoryinmi.org/general-8> - just follow the buttons at the bottom of each page

OR do an internet search with the person's name and the word biography):

<p><u>Political Leaders/Activists</u></p> <p>Richard Austin John D. Dingell Phillip A. Hart Damon Keith Frank Murphy G. Mennen Williams Coleman Young</p>	<p><u>Civil Rights Leaders/Activists</u></p> <p>Rosa Parks Sojourner Truth</p>	<p><u>Native American Leaders/Activists</u></p> <p>Chief Pontiac Chief Baw Beese</p>
<p><u>Pioneering Women</u></p> <p>Merze Tate Roberta Griffith Anna Howard Shaw</p>	<p><u>Leaders in the Arts</u></p> <p>Berry Gordy Aretha Franklin Edna Ferber Ernest Hemmingway</p>	<p><u>LGBTQ+ Leaders</u></p> <p>Jim Toy</p>

There are no doubt dozens of others who would be great representatives of the American experience from a Michigan perspective. Use these names as just a starting point. We encourage you to find Michiganders who did not make this list and recommend them to us.

For more guidance, check out the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) Policy Statement on Controversial Commemorative Works. They use the guiding principles of: stewardship, changing values, historical context, historical significance, consultation, inclusion, treatment alternatives, and public education.

The full report can be found here:

https://www.teachinghistoryinmi.org/files/ugd/0e2d8e_5f033a5c738c42569d39d9239e53b256.pdf

<p>EXTENSION PROJECT</p>	<p>Write your state legislators and let them know what you think. Here is where you can find your state legislators: https://www.house.mi.gov , https://senate.michigan.gov</p> <p>And here is a website with some instructions on how to go about contacting them: https://housedems.com/write-to-your-representative/ .</p>
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MAKE A RECOMMENDATION

What do you want to accomplish through the new Michigan statue?

Who will best do that?

Explain why this person is the best choice to represent Michigan in the U.S. Capitol and accomplish your goal(s).

Email your recommendation to:
sdurham@lakeviewspartans.org

YOUR NAME(S):

Grade:

School:

City: