

# WHO BUILT OUR CAPITOL

## Video Guide

(47 Minute Version)

1. Who officially laid the cornerstone for the Minnesota State Capitol?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. On a bronze plate inside the cornerstone are etched the names of the Capitol commissioners and the architect, Cass Gilbert. How many names of workers who built the Capitol are also written on the plate?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Work began on the Minnesota State Capitol building in 1896. What year was it completed? \_\_\_\_\_ How many years did it take to construct the building? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Otto Manke's family leave their homeland in Prussia (now part of Germany)? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The majority of the workers came from out of state, and many of them were \_\_\_\_\_ or children of \_\_\_\_\_ from other countries.
6. John Rachac held what job while working on the Capitol? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why did Casiville Bullard, an exceptional carpenter, bricklayer and stonemason, have trouble finding work in the South?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. The Capitol contractors recruited African-American workers from the South and Chicago because of their \_\_\_\_\_, especially in brick and stonework.
9. Zebulun Olson, a Swedish immigrant, made an \_\_\_\_\_ out of marble from the construction site. His great granddaughters still have it today.

10. The blueprints for building the Capitol were very detailed and specific regarding techniques the tradesmen were to use. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
11. The craftsmen and artisans were chosen to work on the Capitol because of their prior training and experience as apprentices. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Artisans commonly made their own \_\_\_\_\_.
13. The foundation of the Capitol was constructed of limestone from a quarry in \_\_\_\_\_.
14. After conflict over whether to get building materials for the Capitol from outside the state, it was finally agreed that the builders would use \_\_\_\_\_ from Minnesota for the base and steps and \_\_\_\_\_ from Georgia to cover the upper portions of the building..
15. Ultimately, building materials came from all over the world, including places like France, Greece, Italy and Northern Africa. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
16. The marble used to cover the Capitol is very heavy, weighing 170 pounds per cubic foot. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
17. How did the workers get in and out of quarries, like the 150-foot deep pits in Georgia? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Development of the \_\_\_\_\_ made it easier to transport material from the quarries to the construction site.
19. The railroad lines that carried the marble in Georgia were built by convict labor, who were overwhelmingly \_\_\_\_\_, arrested on minor or made-up charges and working under slave-like conditions.
20. Even though steam-powered machinery was used for certain things at the turn of the century, hauling the marble up the 90 foot vertical incline to the Capitol building site was still done by horse and wagon led by \_\_\_\_\_.

21. John Rachac Jr., who created the design for the cantilevered staircase in the Capitol building and eventually became architect Cass Gilbert's partner, was the son of an immigrant from \_\_\_\_\_.
22. European immigrants did not want to live with other people from the same country and settled far apart so they would not be reminded of their language and culture. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
23. What was (and remains) the largest ethnic group in Minnesota?  
\_\_\_\_\_
24. \_\_\_\_\_ were central to the development, socialization and spiritual services of various ethnic groups in St. Paul.
25. \_\_\_\_\_ brought members and their families together, as well as helping workers deal with low pay and dangerous working conditions.
26. \_\_\_\_\_ worked primarily away from the construction site as seamstresses and helping furnish the Capitol building, but also worked as cleaners and laborers onsite.
27. How many workers died in the course of building the Minnesota State Capitol building? \_\_\_\_\_
28. The men who died in Capitol construction accidents between 1898 and 1903 were not publicly recognized until Workers Memorial Day ceremonies on the Capitol grounds in 2011 and 2012. True or False? \_\_\_\_\_
29. During the Capitol construction, the state had the authority to enforce safety rules or fine employers if working conditions were not safe. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
30. As the center for Minnesotans to gather in remembrance, in protest and to govern themselves, the Minnesota Capitol or statehouse is also known as the \_\_\_\_\_ house.