

Vocabulary Words & Definitions:

Downtown Dragons Timeline and Tour Stops

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1. **aide-de-camp**: trusted assistant in an army
2. **Allegheny County seal**: the coat of arms of Allegheny County. Its symbols are a ship, plow, and three bundles of wheat
3. **annexed**: when an area of land is added to another area in order to make a bigger place
4. **architect**: a person who designs buildings
5. **architectural landmark**: a building 50 years old or more that is a work of art worth saving and protecting
6. **beacon**: a tower-like structure, usually on the top of a building, used as a guiding signal
7. **Bessemer**: a steel-making process invented by Henry Bessemer (1813-1898), an Englishman
8. **centurion**: in this case the name given to the figure heads wearing helmets decorating a building
9. **City seal**: The seal of Pittsburgh is based on the family coat of arms of William Pitt the Elder, for whom Pittsburgh is named. In this language of symbols, the castle means city; the three eagles represent America; and the checkerboard pattern comes from the Pitt family coat of arms. Together the symbols create a seal that means the “city of Pittsburgh in America.”
10. **Classical style**: a style that comes from ancient Greece and Rome
11. **coat of arms**: a group of symbols that means something to a family or group of people
12. **column**: a strong pillar that holds something up, like a ceiling or roof
13. **composed**: to put together
14. **Corinthian column**: the fanciest of the Greek columns that is decorated at the top with acanthus leaves and spiral ornaments.

15. **dam**: something built to stop the flow of water
16. **descendants**: people who are born many years *after* a specific ancestor or relative
17. **Doric column**: the simplest of the Greek columns that is plain at the top
18. **engineer**: a person who designs bridges and roads and often solves problems dealing with transportation
19. **egg and dart**: a decorative pattern of round shapes and arrows that suggest a bird's egg and claw
20. **eyebars**: long pieces of steel with ends shaped like eyes
21. **façade**: the face or front of a building
22. **Forbes Avenue**: a street in Pittsburgh named after the victorious British General John Forbes (1707-1759)
23. **Frederick Osterling** (1865-1934): a famous Pittsburgh architect who designed buildings in a variety of styles
24. **freight**: anything except people or animals that is moved by train from one place to another
25. **gargoyle**: an imaginary creature with an open mouth and spout, carved or formed by a craftsman. A gargoyle projects from the gutter of a building. Rain water flows through the gargoyle's spout and is thrown clear of the building, and therefore does not damage the surface of the building.
26. **George Washington** (1732-1799): a surveyor and soldier in Western Pennsylvania from 1753 to 1759; the commander of the American army during the Revolutionary War (1775-1783), and the first president of the United States (1789-1797). Washington was one of the greatest leaders in American history.
27. **Grant's Hill**: A 60-foot hill in downtown Pittsburgh that used to be in the area where Grant and Ross Streets are now. The hill was cut down at various times and finally was leveled in 1912.
28. **grime**: dirt
29. **grotesque**: an imaginary creature carved or formed by a craftsman to decorate a building

30. **historic**: something that is well known or important. In the case of buildings, *historic* buildings are usually 50 years old or more and are famous for their design or connections to important people or events
31. **igneous**: one of three main rock groups. Igneous rock is formed under intense heat. Granite is one kind of igneous rock.
32. **industrial**: an area that makes and sells goods
33. **ingenious**: inventive, creative, original
34. **Ionic column**: a Greek column that has swirly, scroll-like designs at the top
35. **keystone**: a wedge-shaped stone at the center of an arch that completes the arch
36. **Manor of Pittsburgh**: the name given to the Penn family's private land holdings in the area. In 1784, the heirs of William Penn (1644-1718) had surveyors come to Pittsburgh to lay out streets and lots in the Manor of Pittsburgh. Neither William Penn nor any of his immediate family ever came to Pittsburgh.
37. **militia**: group of soldiers
38. **Morse Code**: Samuel Morse (1791-1872) developed a signal code of dots and dashes to spell words
39. **National Historic Landmark**: This is the highest award, given by the United States government, recognizing places that are important in the history of our nation
40. **petrified**: to become compressed into stone over millions of years
41. **philanthropist**: a wealthy person who contributes money to worthy causes in order to help others
42. **pilaster**: a flat column
43. **Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation**: an organization of people who raises money and finds ways to identify, protect, and recycle historic places in the Pittsburgh region. The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation also leads tours and publishes books so people learn about the value of their city and neighborhood.
44. **plaque**: a special sign with words giving important information
45. **plow**: a farm tool used for cutting into and turning over the soil. In this case, the word plow represents the idea of farming and mining resources in the earth.

46. **Renaissance**: a renewal of life; rebirth. In Pittsburgh the word was used to define the city's major clean-up, beginning in the late 1940s and continuing into the early 1970s. The polluted rivers and smoggy air were cleaned up. Parts of the city were torn down and new buildings and parks were created.
47. **reservoir**: a place where water is collected and stored
48. **scars**: a mark showing where a change has been made to a building
49. **sedimentary**: one of three main rock groups. Sedimentary rock is formed under pressure and over time out of mineral or material such as sand or dead sea creatures
50. **ship**: a vessel that transports people over water. Here the word is used to represent the idea of transportation.
51. **skylight**: an opening in the roof of a building fitted with glass so daylight can fill a building space
52. **skyscraper**: a tall building, usually more than six stories, with a steel frame
53. **smog**: a fog made heavy and dark by smoke
54. **soot**: a black mess of particles produced when coal is burned
55. **spire**: a very tall, thin, pointy roof, often on a church
56. **steel frame**: steel is a strong metal. Large pieces of steel are connected together to make a skeleton, or frame, to support the weight of a very tall building.
57. **terra cotta**: baked clay that is often coated with a hard glaze to prevent dirt or soot from soaking into it
58. **wharf**: a dock for boats
59. **wheat**: a kind of farm crop that is used to make bread. In this case wheat is used as a symbol to represent the idea of harvest and of people working in farming and industry, producing things of value.
60. **Whiskey Rebellion**: an uprising in 1794 of farmers in Western Pennsylvania against the United States government due to a federal tax imposed on whiskey, a drink made by the farmers