Unit 3: Building Cities

Objective: Students will learn about how Charlotte grew into a city in the early 1900s.

Essential Question: What was Charlotte like in the early 1900s?

Activities:

Reading and Vocabulary Sheet (15-20 mins)
Directions: Students will read Building Cities and then complete the vocabulary worksheet.

Doodle a Hairdo! (15-20 mins)
Directions: Students can draw their favorite hairstyle or create one themselves.
In the early 1900s, Charlotte grew very fast, because the textile mills were so successful. It soon became the biggest city in North and South Carolina. People from all around moved to Charlotte to be a part of the new growth and opportunity. Skyscrapers began lining the downtown streets.

Neighborhoods were built all around the downtown area. People drove in their new automobiles or rode the trolley to get around town. Trolleys were like little trains that went down the road. Charlotteans also had electricity for the first time. New inventions like the radio, telephone, and movie theater changed their lives. People could see cartoons, a newsreel, and a movie for ten cents.

African Americans were not allowed to enjoy many of things whites could, so they built their own neighborhoods where they could help each other. Brooklyn was the biggest African American neighborhood in Charlotte. It had its own library, movie theaters, barbershops, stores, restaurants, and schools. Thousands of people lived there.
Vocabulary

Directions: Choose a word from the vocabulary box located to the right of the page, and then match it with the correct sentence. Write the vocabulary on the line.

1. People in different places could talk to each other through the newly invented _____________.

2. Some people moved into new ______________ built around downtown Charlotte.

3. Charlotteans drove their new ______________ all around town.

4. ______________ brought new inventions that changed people’s lives.

5. In the early 1900s, people moved to Charlotte to be a part of the ______________.

6. The ______________ were successful and helped Charlotte grow.

7. As people walked around downtown, they could look up at the new ______________.

8. Charlotte had many ______________ that people used to get around town.

9. ______________ was the largest African American neighborhood in Charlotte.

Answer key on last page.
Doodle a Hairdo!

Let’s play barbershop. You be the barber. What haircut do you want to give us today?
Answer Key

1. Telephone
2. Neighborhoods
3. Automobiles
4. Electricity
5. Growth
6. Textile Mills
7. Skyscrapers
8. Trolleys
9. Brooklyn