

In the Heart of Philadelphia: The Story of Library Hall

Guiding Questions

- The APS had to change the location of their library several times, which included moving its special collections and rare historical documents. What do you think is important for storing and transporting historic books and documents to ensure their safety?
- Look at the first floor plan of Library Hall (Creative Synergies Photo #4). How is this different from libraries you've visited? How is it the same?
- Despite being built in the 20th century, Library Hall mimics older architecture. In what ways does Library Hall represent the architectural styles prevalent within Old City? How does it differ?
 - Find old engravings of the Library Company of Philadelphia's original home to compare how precisely architect Sydney E. Martin recreated the building.

Classroom Activities

- The cornerstone of Library Hall is a time capsule. Think about what the APS put in this time capsule to describe their accomplishments. Pick 4-6 things you own that you would put in a time capsule about yourself, take a photo, and write a paragraph explaining the items you chose.