Explore the City with William Christmas

An At-Home
Raleigh History Game
Ages 8 & up
HOW TO PLAY

Explore the City with William Christmas

The year is 1792 & William Christmas, a surveyor & cartographer, has been chosen to plan the City of Raleigh!

To help him with his map of the new capital, travel through some of Raleigh's history & explore what his planned city will become!

Things you'll need:
- Game pieces (your own or cut out pieces on the last page)
- One die (your own or make your own with the template on the last page)
- Printed game board (next page)
- Pencil & piece of paper to keep score

How to Play:
- Choose a game piece & place on the Start location.
- Read the Start location's description in the player's guide & then roll the die. Move your piece along the circle spots & numbered historic locations for the amount rolled.
- When you land on (not pass) one of the historic locations, read the player's guide description for each, look for activities, & tally the points per player!

How to Win!
- Keep track of the points for each player along the way.
- The game ends once the first player reaches the Capitol at the End location.
- The first player to finish will become the new Governor! The player with the most points will become the Intendant of Police (the title of the mayor in 1795) for the new City of Raleigh.
Explore the City with William Christmas

Who will get to the center of the new capital first? Explore Raleigh through its history & find out!

Map courtesy of the State Archives of North Carolina.
You’ve started out at one of William Christmas’s five originally planned squares or parks, Burke Square! In 1891, this park will become the site of the final Governor’s Mansion in Raleigh.

You’re on your way! Travel through Raleigh’s future history to discover more & help William Christmas with his plans.

Caswell Square! The second of William Christmas’s parks you’ll find along the way. The NC School for the Blind & Deaf will be established on this space later in 1846.

* + 2 points *

Getting closer to the heart of the city! This original park is called Nash Square & after being created in 1792, it will remain a park for over 200 years! A modern city hall will be built across the street in 1983. The oldest known oak tree in Raleigh will stand in this park for over 120 years until 2019.

* + 5 points - Do your best oak tree impression *

You’ve found the future site of the Wake County Courthouse & jail! From 1792 through 2020, this block will be one of the busiest parts of Fayetteville Street, called ‘North Carolina’s Main Street’. The street points south towards the city its named after, Fayetteville, which was the first city in America named after the Revolutionary War hero, Marquis de Lafayette.

* + 8 points for the first player to reach this spot, -1 for each player afterward *

This is the future site of the second Governor’s Mansion in Raleigh! During the Civil War in 1865, General Sherman will occupy this space & use it as his headquarters. Later, it becomes the first Raleigh public school in 1876 & will be replaced by Memorial Auditorium in 1932, to honor those who fought in World War I.

* + 5 points *

On this block, the house of one of Raleigh’s prominent historic figures, Dr. Manassa T. Pope, will be built in 1901. Dr. Pope will go to Shaw University, the first African American university in the South, built just down the street & becomes one of the first African American doctors in North Carolina. He later opens his own pharmacy & insurance company, founds a medical association, & even runs for mayor of Raleigh in 1919, opening doors for African Americans in Raleigh & the state.

* +10 points - State your slogan for your campaign to become Raleigh mayor *
You’ve found the future 1914 City Market! Originally on Fayetteville Street, City Market will relocate here & become a hub for farmers to sell their produce & goods, coming to Raleigh from as far away as the East Coast. While it eventually will be replaced with the State Farmer’s Market, the cobblestone streets will remain for over a century, the last ones in Raleigh.

+ 5 points - Choose what item you would sell & try to sell it to other players

You’ve stumbled upon City Cemetery! Beginning in 1798, this is the future resting place of Raleigh’s founders & many other historic figures in local history. The iron fence that will surround the Capitol & Union Square at the center of the city to keep wandering livestock out will later be moved here in 1898.

+ 8 points for the first player to reach this spot, -2 for each player afterward

Moore Square is the second to last park you’ll visit that William Christmas is planning for the new capital! During the Civil War, it will be occupied by Union troops & afterward, the square will be transferred from the State to the City. In the late 1800s & early 1900s, business will be booming in the area, with the 1914 City Market located just across the street & prominent African American businesses nearby on Hargett Street & Jewish businesses nearby on Wilmington Street.

+ 8 points

In your quest to the center of the city, you’ve discovered the first location of the Governor’s Mansion in Raleigh! Right now in 1792, the governor is not required to live in the new capital. By 1797, this will have changed & a two-story, wooden framed house will be purchased for the governor to live in on this corner of Fayetteville Street & Hargett Street.

+ 10 points - Describe your own Governor’s Mansion & invite players for tea

In 1795, Peter Casso will open one of the first & largest inns in early Raleigh history! Casso’s Inn will be located next to the State House or Capitol & will have at least two outdoor kitchens. One kitchen will have an apartment above it, said to be lived in by the Johnson family. Andrew Johnson will be born here in 1808 & later become the 17th U.S. President. The kitchen will be moved around the city for over 100 years & will then find a permanent home at Mordecai Historic Park.

+ 5 points

Congratulations! You’ve made it to Union Square & helped William Christmas finalize his plan for the new capital of North Carolina! This last square is the center of his planned city, where the State House or Capitol will be built & stand throughout Raleigh’s history.

The first player to reach this point will be elected as Governor & the game will end! The player with the most points from landing on historic locations will be made the Intendant of Police or Mayor of Raleigh!
GAME PIECES FOR
Explore the City with William Christmas

Print & cut out these game piece options or use your own!

Game Pieces:
(Cut out & fold tab below to make each piece a stand.)

Sammy the Squirrel
Sir Walter Raleigh
The Historic Raleigh Trolley
Oak Tree Acorn

DIY Dice:
(Only need one for the game; cut out & fold on creases into a cube. Then glue/tape tabs.)