



STATE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
OF NORTH DAKOTA

The Marquis de Mores – Dakota Entrepreneur

Observation Activity

Travel writers from all over the world often visit the Chateau today to write for the tourism industry and to encourage people to come to North Dakota to visit. In 1884, those writers may not have had the title of “travel writer”, but as they wrote home about their experiences they were trying to create a word picture so that someone else could experience the same thing that they were seeing. Guests began arriving at the Chateau in 1884 even before the family arrived in the spring. One of the visitors wrote about his experience in a letter to the **Philadelphia Times**:

“We are the guests of the Marquis, but the Marquis is not at home, and we have the free range of his big house. The building suggests a summer boarding-house by its size, and its furnishing is a cross between a Newport cottage and a hunting lodge. Couches and tables are covered with red Mackinac [Mackinaw] blankets; there are deer horns over the doors, and an enormous buffalo head stares at the occupants of the spacious breezy parlor, where easy chairs of a variety of cool, comfortable patterns invite lounging. The big dining-room and kitchen and eight guest chambers up-stairs bespeak the hospitable habits of the master of the premises. From the wide porch one looks down into the narrow valley of the Little Missouri and out on the walls of the fantastic buttes streaked with strata of red terra cotta, blue clay and dark brown lignite.”

See what you can find. You’ve been given a picture of one of the rooms in the Chateau de Mores. Look at it carefully. Observe the details. Then try to answer the questions below.

NAME OF ROOM: _____

1. What do you think people did in this room?
2. What smells and sounds can you imagine in this room?
3. What is the feel of the room? Is it fancy, fun, cold, bright, dark, big, crowded, comfortable?



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Gathering Details: Pick 5 objects you see in the picture and fill in the chart below.

List: 5 objects you see in the picture	Color: What color(s) is the object?	Texture: What do you think the object feels like?	Location: Where is the object in the room? What is it near?	Compare: Does it remind you of anything? This object looks like a _____
A.				
B.				
C.				
D.				
E.				