



# Welcome to Hemisfair!

By Jaci Finch

Welcome to Hemisfair!  
We have art, gardens, food, and sun.  
Out in our parks  
There are opportunities for endless fun!

“Where San Antonio Meets,”  
This fact has always been true,  
All throughout history,  
Even long before there was a me or you.

The Payaya were first,  
The original guardians of this land.  
They lived off the Earth  
And were grouped into hundreds of bands.

Yanaguana is their history,  
How they believe San Antonio got its start.  
In the “Blue Cat” and “Ahing Bird,”  
Their story is told within the playground’s art.

Next came the houses,  
Where thousands of families stayed.  
You can see the past  
Through the many historic homes that still remain.

The families were moved  
So that the city had land to create  
The historic World’s Fair  
That took place in 1968!

San Antonio was famous.  
The number of visitors was into the millions.  
There were more than 30 countries,  
That hosted stands in dozens of pavilions!

Although the fair is over,  
Many of the attractions are still here.  
The gondolas and the Tower  
Remind us of the fun that happened that year.

Soon after the fair’s end,  
All of the people went away  
The land was left  
To be redeveloped by Hemisfair one day!

Now you and I,  
We can play songs on the steel drums  
To celebrate the history behind us  
And the history to be made in the years to come.

**Instructions:** Read the poem and answer the questions.

- Who were the original guardians of the land that Hemisfair sits on?  
A. The Payaya                      B. The Apache                      C. The Odawa
- What year did the World’s Fair in San Antonio take place?  
A. 2015                                  B. 1986                                  C. 1968
- Many attractions from the World’s Fair are still in the parks district.  
A. TRUE                                  B. FALSE
- What is the rhyme scheme of the poem?  
A. ABAB                                  B. ABAC                                  C. ABCB

