

Welcome to Washington, DC, with School Tours of America!

This booklet is designed to be a helpful guide as you visit our nation's capital. It will provide you with an overview of many of the sites you will see on your tour. It is also loaded with interesting facts and fun trivia questions! Washington, DC, is one of the most beautiful capital cities in the world, even though it was built on what was once swampland—the site was chosen by George Washington himself!

A French engineer, Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, was chosen to build the new city. The layout he designed is very similar to Paris, the city in which he was born. Major roadways were placed diagonally, like the spokes of a wheel, to move efficiently toward the centers of government.

Four Sections

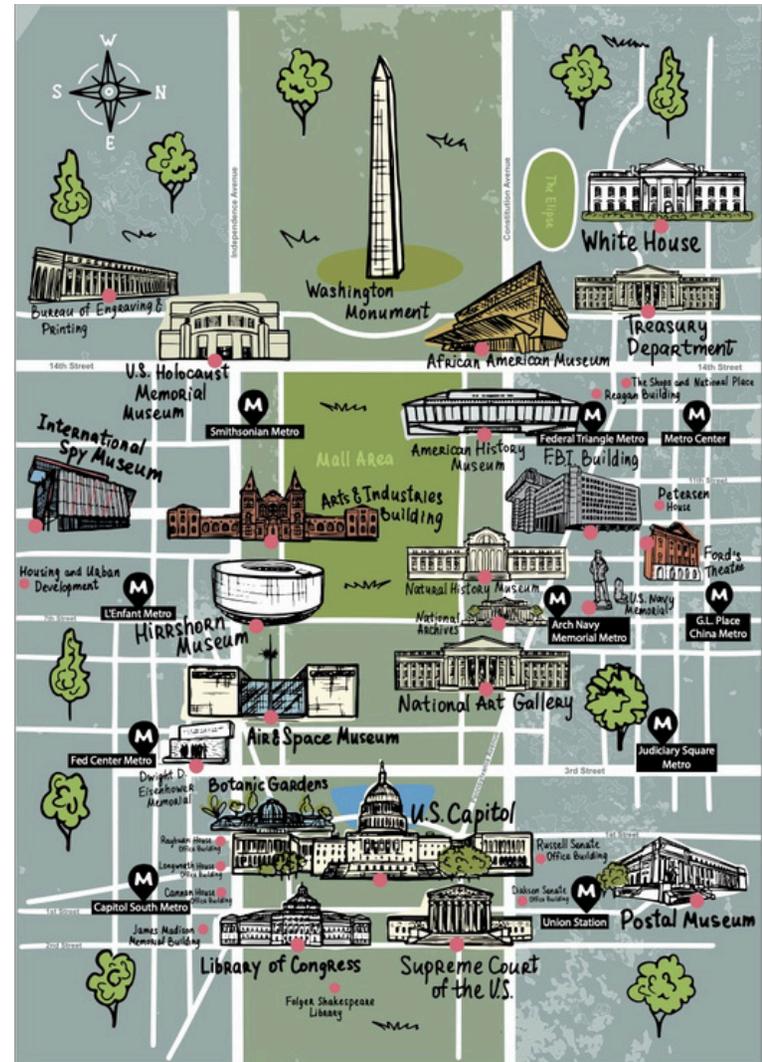
Four spokes come out of the Capitol at right angles, dividing the city into four sections. The spokes are North Capitol Street, South Capitol Street, East Capitol Street, and, on the west side of the building, the grassy Mall instead of an actual street. The four sections of Washington are called Northwest (NW), Northeast (NE), Southwest (SW), and Southeast (SE). You can always tell what section of the city you're in by looking at a street sign - all street names are followed by one of these abbreviations.

How the Streets Are Named

Within each of these four areas, the roads running north and south are numbered - 1st Street, 2nd Street, 3rd Street, and so on. The roads running east and west are named after letters of the alphabet - C Street, D Street, E Street, and so forth. There are no A or B Streets because A Street became the Mall and East Capitol Street, and B Street was renamed Constitution Avenue on the north side of the Mall and Independence Avenue on the south side. After the letters are used up, street names become words in alphabetical order. This alphabetical lineup keeps repeating itself until it reaches the Maryland and Virginia borders. A few major avenues run diagonally across the district and are named after states such as Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania.

Navigating the City

Knowing the layout of the city makes it easy to figure out where you are and how to get where you're going. For instance, if you are at 14th and E Streets, NW, and need to go to the Capitol, you have to walk 14 blocks to the east and four blocks to the south. If you are at 16th and M Streets and need to get to 12th and K Streets, you go two blocks down to K Street and four blocks over to 12th Street.



Arlington National Cemetery

Arlington National Cemetery, located across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., in Arlington, Va., has become the final resting place for over 400,000 Americans who were killed in war or who died while in the service of their country. Established in 1864 on what was once Robert E. Lee's land, the 639-acre site also contains the Tomb of the Unknowns, the Challenger and Columbia Space Shuttle Memorials, the Custis-Lee Mansion, and the Women's Memorial. Among the many famous people buried at Arlington are Presidents Taft and Kennedy and Generals Pershing and Marshall.



The Tomb Of The Unknown Soldier

The unknown soldier is an unidentified wartime casualty who has been memorialized since World War I as a representative of all "who died in their nation's service." Four unknown servicemen—one from each world war, one from the Korean War, and one from the Vietnam War—are buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. They are guarded by a sentry 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



Arlington National Cemetery: Guess Who?

1. I am a Civil War veteran, better known for my involvement in the development of baseball.
2. I am buried with my wife and two children beneath the "eternal flame."
3. I served in the Army during WWII and then became a famous heavyweight boxing champion.
4. I was the architect of the city of Washington, DC.
5. I am a boy from Ohio who became the first American to orbit Earth in 1962.
6. I am the only former president to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.
7. I was the most decorated soldier in American history and also a movie actor.
8. I served as a scout sniper in the 4th Marine Division in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1965.
9. I was one of the Marines who raised the second U.S. flag on Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945.
10. We have a memorial stone located behind the Amphitheater dedicated to the seven of us.
11. I confirmed the theory that mosquitoes transmit yellow fever.
12. I am a former Attorney General of the United States. I am buried near my brother.

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Basilica is one of the ten largest Catholic churches in the world; it is the largest in the Western hemisphere! This beautiful, domed church honors the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. The interior is gorgeously adorned with stained glass, mosaics, paintings, and marble sculptures.

Home to more than 80 chapels and oratories honoring the Mother of God and representing people from every corner of the globe, the National Shrine reflects the ethnic and cultural diversity of the United States and the unity and universality of the Catholic Church. The upper church can seat more than 6,000 in its pews. The lower Crypt Church can seat 400. It is modeled after the catacombs of ancient Rome.

Construction began in 1920 and was completed in 1959. The bell tower, or campanile, is 329 feet tall, as tall as a 32-story building, and second only to the Washington Monument in height. The 56 bells in the tower's carillon, a musical instrument, can be heard on the hour and quarter-hour every day. The bronze cast bells range in weight from 21 to 7,200 pounds.



Bureau Of Engraving And Printing

Billions of dollars are printed at the Bureau on high-speed presses, which use approximately five tons of ink and 20 tons of paper each day. The "paper" is actually 75% cotton and 25% linen. In addition to paper money, the Bureau designs, prints, and furnishes a wide variety of security products, including US passports, materials for Homeland Security, military ID cards, most U.S. postage stamps, naturalization certificates, White House party invitations, and other special security documents.

All products are designed and manufactured with advanced counterfeit deterrence features to ensure product integrity. The Bureau advises other Federal agencies on document security matters and processes claims for the redemption of mutilated currency. The Bureau's research and development efforts focus on the continued use of automation in the production process and counterfeit deterrent technologies for use in security documents, especially U.S. currency. Paper money is also produced in Fort Worth, Texas. Coins are made by the US Mint, which has facilities in Philadelphia, PA; West Point, NY; Denver, CO; and San Francisco, CA.

Look whose picture is depicted on the front of the US currencies listed below:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| \$1 George Washington | \$2 Thomas Jefferson |
| \$5 Abraham Lincoln | \$10 Alexander Hamilton |
| \$20 Andrew Jackson | \$50 Ulysses S Grant |
| \$100 Benjamin Franklin | |



Capitol Hill

The United States Capitol crowns Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. It houses the legislative branch of government, comprising the House of Representatives and the Senate. President George Washington laid the cornerstone in 1793. Construction was completed in 1830. By 1850, it had become necessary to enlarge the building, and the Philadelphian Thomas U. Walter was commissioned to design and build the enormous present-day Capitol. Grandiose new House and Senate wings of white marble in Greek revival style were added to the old sandstone building by 1859. Walter's awesome cast-iron dome, topped with Thomas Crawford's colossal statue, Statue of Freedom, was completed in 1863.



Inside the dome, 180 feet above the floor, is the painting entitled The Apotheosis of Washington by Constantino Brumidi. Under the rotunda is a burial crypt that was intended for George Washington, but he chose to be buried at his home, Mount Vernon.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, the British burned the Capitol and other important buildings. It was rebuilt and was used as a military prison during the Civil War. The Old South wing was used by the House of Representatives until it was turned into Statuary Hall. This hall is home to statues of famous citizens from each state. A flag flying over either end of the building signifies that the chamber below is in session.

The iron dome weighs 14.1 million pounds.

Population size determines the number of representative seats each state has.

There are 100 seats in the US Senate.

Abraham Lincoln was the first president to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda.

Which statues represent your state in Statuary Hall?

Constitutional Requirements to Hold Office

	Age	US Citizenship	Residency	Term Length
President	35	Natural Born	14 years in the US	4
Senator	30	9	State	6
House of Representatives	25	7	State	2
Supreme Court Justice	X	X	X	Life



Ford's Theatre/Peterson House

Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C., earned notoriety on Apr. 14, 1865, when President Abraham Lincoln was fatally shot by John Wilkes Booth during a performance of *Our American Cousin*. After Booth fired the fatal shot, Lincoln was carried across the street to the house of William Petersen. It was there, in one of the bedrooms, that the president died at 7:22 am the next morning.

During the president's final hours, he was surrounded by his wife, Mary, his son, Robert, and various U.S. government officials. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton turned one of the rooms into an interrogation area, interviewing witnesses about what happened inside the theater. The Aftermath Exhibits follows the 12-day manhunt for Booth and his eventual capture in Virginia. It also shares the route of Lincoln's funeral train as it returned his body to his hometown of Springfield, Illinois.

John Thomson Ford (1829-94), the builder of the theater, was imprisoned for more than a month after the assassination until acquitted of complicity. Congress then forced him to sell the theater and closed it to further productions. Misfortune struck again in 1893 when part of the edifice collapsed, killing 28 people. Since 1968, the building has been maintained by the National Park Service.



Abraham Lincoln/John F Kennedy Coincidences

Lincoln was elected to Congress in 1846.
Kennedy was elected to Congress in 1946.

Lincoln was elected president in 1860.
Kennedy was elected president in 1960.

Lincoln's vice president was Andrew Johnson, a Southerner on a compromise ticket.
Kennedy's vice president was Lyndon Johnson, a Southerner on a compromise ticket.
Both Johnsons were senators.

Andrew Johnson was born in 1808.
Lyndon Johnson was born in 1908.

John Wilkes Booth was born in 1839.
Lee Harvey Oswald was born in 1939.

Both were assassinated on a Friday.
Both were shot in the back of the head.
Both were sitting next to their wives when they were shot.

Both assassins were from the South.
Both assassins were shot to death in unusual and highly suspicious circumstances before being brought to trial.

John Wilkes Booth and Lee Harvey Oswald both have 15 letters.
Andrew Johnson and Lyndon Johnson both have 13 letters in their names.
Lincoln and Kennedy both have seven letters.

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

In his 1941 State of the Union Address, as the nation prepared for war, President Franklin D. Roosevelt spelled out "Four Freedoms" as a reminder of what we must fight for.

From the days of his first Presidential campaign, during the depths of the Great Depression, Roosevelt spoke directly to the people. "I pledge you, I pledge myself," he said in his 1932 acceptance speech, "to a new deal for the American People." Four years later, he proclaimed that "this generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny." Throughout his presidency, 1933-1945, he addressed America by radio in what became known as fireside chats. Each idea, each phrase, was underscored by courage and optimism that inspired no less in the people he served.

More than 50 years after Roosevelt's death, his own words call out from the walls of his memorial as if he were somehow present. Those who know FDR only as a historical figure will recognize these words by their association with great and catastrophic events. For the many Americans who lived through the Roosevelt years, the words recall personal struggles and triumphs during 12 years that seemed like a lifetime.

The Memorial is one of the most expansive in the nation and is divided into four outdoor galleries, or rooms, one for each of FDR's terms in office. It is also the first memorial to honor a First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

"We must scrupulously guard the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens, whatever their background. We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization".

FDR January 8, 1949

The Holocaust Museum



'Holocaust,' an Old Testament sacrificial term, is used by historians to describe the massacre of 6 million Jews by the German Nazi regime during World War II. Adolf Hitler gave top priority to removing the Jews from Germany.

Between 1933 and 1938, the Nazis boycotted Jewish businesses, established quotas in Germany's professions and schools, forbade intermarriage between Jews and Gentiles, and instituted the first concentration camps at Oranienburg, Buchenwald, and Dachau. They did this while the rest of the world looked on. In November 1938, stormtroopers burned 267 synagogues and arrested 20,000 people. Germany's Jews were also required to pay an atonement fine of \$400 million for damage to their own property. After World War II began in September 1939, 3 million Polish Jews were subjected to a Blitzpogrom of murder and destruction. Reinhard Heydrich, an aide to Heinrich Himmler, issued a ghetto decree that month. Jews were progressively fenced off from the rest of the population. During the next three years, Jews represented more than half of those murdered as undesirables in concentration camps. Methods of killing at Auschwitz and other camps included cyanide or carbon monoxide gas, electrocution, phenol injections, flamethrowers, and hand grenades.

**First, they came for the Communists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Communist
Then they came for the Socialists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Socialist
Then they came for the trade unionists
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a trade unionist
Then they came for the Jews
And I did not speak out
Because I was not a Jew
Then they came for me
And there was no one left
To speak out for me**

Iwo Jima Memorial



The Iwo Jima Memorial is the largest bronze statue ever cast. This 78-foot memorial commemorates all the Marines who have died in battle since 1775. Felix W. de Weldon created the piece from the Pulitzer Prize-winning photograph by Joe Rosenthal showing the American flag being raised on Mt. Suribachi during WWII.

The statue shows five Marines and one Navy corpsman who raised the American flag on Mt Suribachi, where more than 5,000 Marines died defending the island of Iwo Jima in 1945. The figures stand 32 feet high; their rifles measure 16 and 12 feet long. The US flag flies there 24 hours a day. The United States Marine Corps (USMC) motto is *Semper Fidelis*, which is Latin for "always faithful." It was adopted in 1883 by Colonel Charles McCawley, the 8th Commandant of the Marine Corps, and is considered a code of honor. The motto symbolizes the Marines' commitment to the Corps, America, and their fellow Marines, embodying the Marine Corps' values. It's also said to represent the unbreakable bond Marines share through every battle they face.

Do You Know...

- Iwo Jima is part of the Volcano Islands archipelago in southern Japan. Mount Suribachi is an extinct volcano on the southwestern portion of the island.

There were a total of 70,000 US soldiers and 18,000 Japanese soldiers at the Battle of Iwo Jima.

6,281 US soldiers died, while nearly all of the Japanese soldiers died.

27 US soldiers were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the highest military award for valor in combat.

As you drive around the memorial, it gives the appearance of the flag being raised. Try it!

The Jefferson Memorial

The Jefferson Memorial, with its soaring white rotunda and white marble columns, reflects Thomas Jefferson's architectural preferences. Built in the rounded form of Rome's Pantheon, the memorial features the sculpture of Jefferson, who worked on the Declaration of Independence. Inside, Rudolph Evans' 19-foot bronze statue of Jefferson stands on a six-foot pedestal of black granite. Four surrounding panels are inscribed with selections from Jefferson's writings. For approximately ten days in the spring, the memorial serves as a vantage point to view Washington's famous cherry blossoms.

Jefferson is considered to be one of the last of the Renaissance men. He was George Washington's Secretary of State, a vice president, the third president of the US, and the author of the Declaration of Independence. He wrote the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom and brokered the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, which nearly doubled the size of the United States. If that isn't enough, he was also an expert architect, a musician, an inventor, and the founder of the University of Virginia.

Jefferson's left hand holds the Declaration of Independence. Two bound books and a wreath, a symbol of victory, lie at his feet. Two bound books —perhaps representing the collection that he donated to the Library of Congress. What is Jefferson looking at? The statue faces north towards the White House, which he lived in as our Third President. Jefferson also looks toward the monument to his fellow Virginia revolutionary, George Washington. Some point out that Jefferson may be keeping a wary eye on Alexander Hamilton, his great political foe.



How Far Have You Come?

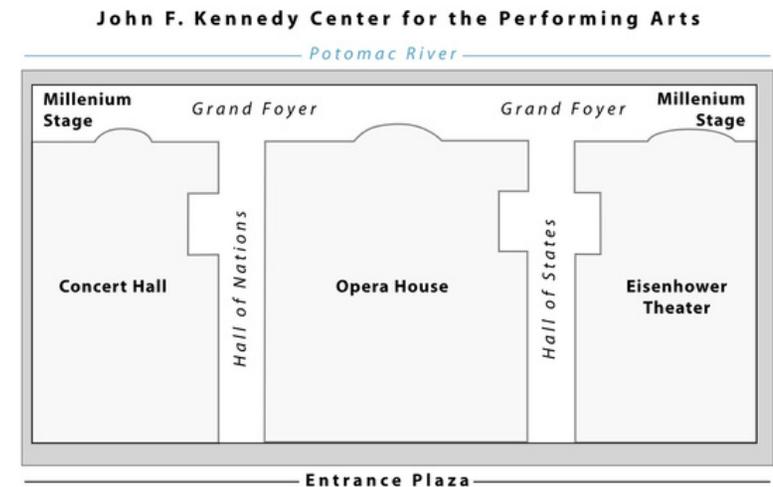
New York City	228
Cleveland	375
Cincinnati	480
Detroit	508
Indianapolis	560
Chicago	682
St. Louis	841
Tallahassee	870
Memphis	877
Miami	1054
New Orleans	1087
Minneapolis	1109
Dallas	1329
Bismarck	1413
Denver	1691
Salt Lake City	2085
Phoenix	2347
Los Angeles	2662
Seattle	2764

The Kennedy Center

The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., was created by an act of Congress as a memorial to the slain president. The center officially opened on September 8, 1971, with the world premiere of Leonard Bernstein's controversial *Mass*. The center was furnished in part by generous gifts from countries throughout the world. Gifts from 32 foreign countries included 3,700 tons of marble from Italy; chandeliers and light fixtures from Austria, Ireland, and Sweden; silk for wall coverings from Thailand; and several original works of art, including two Matisse tapestries from France. The center contains a concert hall (seating 2,750), opera house (2,200), the Eisenhower Theater (1,142), and the Terrace Theater (500), as well as three restaurants and conference space.

The center has become a national cultural institution. It regularly presents programs by eminent U.S. music and dance organizations, as well as by famous groups from abroad, including the Bolshoi, Vienna, and La Scala opera companies. The American Film Institute, the Performing Arts Library section of the Library of Congress, and the American Film Institute are also located there.

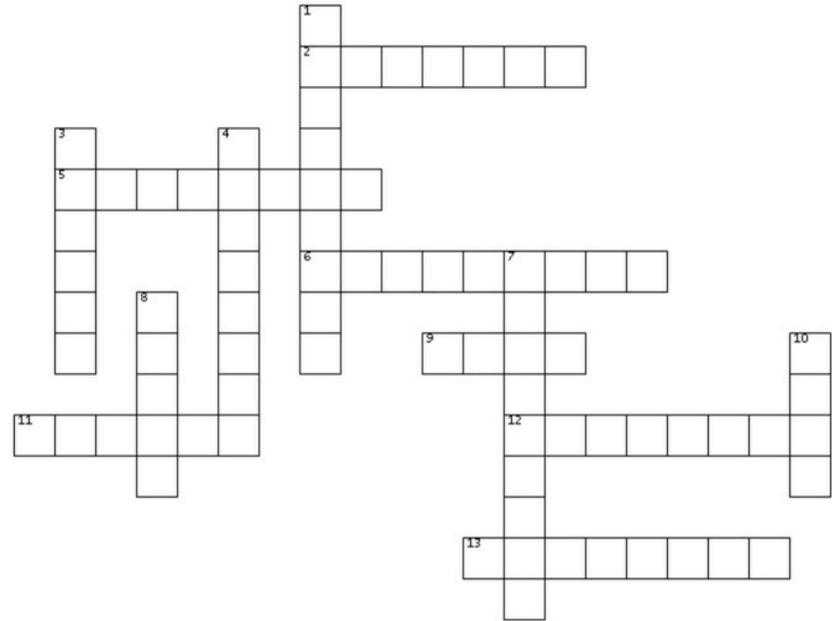
The Grand Foyer is 60 feet high and 630 feet long - you could lay the Washington Monument on its side in there and still have 75 feet to spare! There are 16 hand-blown Orrefors crystal chandeliers (a gift from Sweden) suspended in the Grand Foyer - each one is 15 feet long and weighs one ton! The Hall of States displays flags from all 50 states, the 5 U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia, hung in the order in which they entered the Union. In the Hall of Nations, flags are hung representing every country with which the U.S. has diplomatic relations. The rooftop terrace has an amazing view of the city of Washington, DC.



Korean War Memorial

Dedicated in July of 1995, the Korean War Memorial was created to honor veterans of the Korean War, 1950-1953. It is a tribute to thousands of Americans who served in what is not called a war but a "conflict." Americans who served in Korea during the 1950s were part of a United Nations army attempting to keep Communist North Korea from overtaking South Korea.

Located directly across the Reflecting Pool from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, this powerful memorial has many unique features. The powerful central feature is the column of troops, consisting of a multi-service formation of nineteen soldiers arrayed for combat. They are clad in ponchos with the cold winter wind at their backs, heading toward their symbolic objective: the American flag, which waves aloft at the highest point of the Memorial. An etched mural wall, 164 feet long, recognizes the totality of the Armed Forces effort. Thousands of photographic images show the men and women of the Korean War and symbolize the vast effort sustained by the foot soldiers. The American flag is surrounded by a black granite reflecting pool of still water. On the wall, an inscription reads, "Freedom is not Free." The memorial is a grand and glorious salute to all who served.



ACROSS

- Home of an ambassador
- Location of the Declaration of Independence
- Mountain on Iwo Jima
- FDR's dog
- Often called the forgotten war
- The oldest US Navy shore facility
- It consists of two branches

DOWN

- He donated many books to the Library of Congress
- Most popular attraction at the National Zoo
- His statue sits outside the National Academy of Sciences
- Our national cemetery
- The Bureau of Engraving prints it
- The doctor who treated Booth's broken leg

Library of Congress

The Library of Congress was created in 1800 to provide "such books as may be necessary for the use of Congress." Over the succeeding years, and supported largely by funds set aside by Congress, it has grown to become the national library of the United States.

It serves all government branches and the public at large. Since the 1870s, it has also overseen the American copyright system. It publishes the National Union Catalog, which is a basic bibliographic and catalog source. The Library's Congressional Research Service prepares reports on any topic at the request of a member of Congress.

The Library's collections include over 32 million books and 61 million manuscripts, including the personal papers of most U.S. presidents up through Calvin Coolidge. It also holds maps, music, art prints, photographs, motion pictures, videotapes, newspapers, pamphlets, recordings, and other materials, totaling more than 110 million items.

Because of its copyright function, it receives a copy of every book copyrighted in the United States. The American Folklife Center, administered by the library, collects and preserves American folklore; it supports research projects and presents performances and exhibitions of folk music, arts, and crafts. The Library, initially housed in the Capitol, had most of its books destroyed when the British shelled the building during the War of 1812. The major step in rebuilding the collection was taken in 1815 when Congress purchased the 6,000-volume personal library of Thomas Jefferson.

FUN FACT:

If you spent 1 minute looking at each item in the Library of Congress for 8 hours a day, 5 days a week, it would take you 648 YEARS to see everything



Lincoln Memorial

The Lincoln Memorial, completed in 1922, was designed by Henry Bacon in the style of the Parthenon. Inside the Lincoln Memorial, Daniel Chester French's massive 19-foot statue of Abraham Lincoln sits looking out over the Mall and the city. The 36 columns represent the states in the Union at the time of Lincoln's death. The statue is flanked by the words of Lincoln's greatest speeches, The Gettysburg Address and The Second Inaugural, carved on the walls. In the memorial's foreground is the Reflecting Pool, mirroring the Washington Monument and the Capitol in dramatic evening illumination. The Reflecting Pool has been the site of numerous celebrations and demonstrations, including the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington, which climaxed with Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech given to 250,000 people crowded around and in the pool. King stood on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.



Did You Know...

- *Lincoln remains the tallest person to serve as president, at 6' 4".
- *Lincoln was the first president to be born outside of the original thirteen colonies.
- *Lincoln was the only president to receive a patent for a device for lifting boats over shoals.
- *Lincoln's son, Robert, who was in Washington when his father was killed, was also on the scene when President Garfield was shot in 1881 and when President McKinley was assassinated in 1901.
- *Lincoln was the first president to wear a beard.
- *Lincoln had the largest shoe size documented. He wore a size 14!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Memorial

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C., honors the civil rights leader and his message of equality and freedom. In 1963, he was named Time Magazine's "Man of the Year," and in 1964, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Toward the end of his life, Dr. King refocused his work to include ending poverty and the Vietnam War. He was assassinated in 1968.

The memorial is located at 1964 Independence Avenue, SW, which is a reference to the year the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was passed. The memorial was dedicated on August 28, 2011, which was the 48th anniversary of the March on Washington.

The 30-foot high memorial was inspired by the line from King's "I Have a Dream" speech, "With this faith, we will be able to hew out of a mountain of despair, a stone of hope." It features large granite structures, the "Mountain of Despair" and the "Stone of Hope," which visitors walk through to reach the sculpture of King. The memorial also includes a wall with quotes from King's civil rights career that reflect his ideals of justice, democracy, peace, and love.

The memorial is the first to honor an African American on the National Mall.



Mount Vernon – Home of George Washington



Mount Vernon, the treasured estate of George and Martha Washington, is not only America's most popular historic home but also one of our country's oldest ongoing preservation projects. Washington's elegant mansion has been meticulously restored, from the paint colors on the walls to the actual arrangement of the furnishings, many of which are original. With their bright greens, rich blues, handsome wood graining, dimity, and satin window hangings, the rooms reflect the ambiance and the history of an exciting era in our nation's past.

The exhibition area contains more than 30 acres of beautiful gardens and wooded grounds just waiting to be explored. Close by the mansion are the outbuildings where much of the day-to-day domestic activity on the plantation took place. Bread was baked, wool and flax fibers were woven into cloth, laundry was washed and ironed, paints were mixed, and meats were cured.

A short walk takes you to the tomb where George Washington is buried, along with his wife, Martha, and other family members. The slave burial ground, marked by a memorial to the men and women who worked hard to make Mount Vernon a productive plantation, is located nearby. The estate also includes a museum, where many personal possessions of the Washingtons are in display.

Smithsonian Institution

The Smithsonian Institution is a collection of sixteen scientific and cultural institutes, as well as the National Zoo. All but two of the museums are in Washington (the others are in New York City). Nine of the Washington museums are on the National Mall between the US Capitol and the Washington Monument. The Smithsonian Institution was created by an act of the US Congress in 1846 from the bequest of British scientist James Smithson for "an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." It is governed by a board of regents, including the vice president, chief justice, three senators, and three representatives.

FUN FACTS ABOUT THE SMITHSONIAN'S COLLECTION:

- 157 million objects total
- 356 aircraft
- 16 million postage stamps
- 400,000 coins



National Museum of African American History and Culture

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is a national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. It provides an opportunity to learn about the richness and diversity of the African American experience and how it has shaped this nation. This museum was established by an Act of Congress in 2003 and was opened to the public in 2016 as the 19th museum of the Smithsonian Institution. Highlights of the museum include Harriet Tubman's hymnal, Nat Turner's bible, a plantation cabin from South Carolina, a guard tower from Angola Prison, Chuck Berry's red Cadillac convertible, and works by prolific artists such as Charles Alston, Elizabeth Catlett, Romare Bearden, and Henry O. Tanner.



National Air & Space Museum

The National Air and Space Museum traces the history of human flight and space exploration. The most amazing thing about this museum's collections is the technological process it shows. Most often, museums are thought to be a collection of old things, while the National Air and Space Museum houses a collection of new & old things. In the span of one long human lifetime, the history of flight has gone from the Wright Brothers' 1903 flight to Mission Control, breathlessly awaiting news as the Pathfinder Rover began its sojourn on Mars. Highlights include the Wright Brothers' original biplane, Charles Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis, the Apollo XI command module that took the first men to the moon, and an actual moon rock.

Museum of American History

The National Museum of American History opened to the public in January 1964 as the Museum of History and Technology. In October 1980, its name was changed to the National Museum of American History to better represent its basic mission—the collection, care, and study of objects reflecting the experience of the American people.

It was the sixth Smithsonian building on the National Mall in Washington, DC. The museum offers three floors of exhibitions that explore the rich diversity of American history, from “After the Revolution: Everyday Life 1780 -1800” to “Information Age: People, Information, and Technology.” One of the main attractions is the original “Star Spangled Banner,” the flag that flew over Fort McHenry during the War of 1812, inspiring our National Anthem, which was written by Francis Scott Key. There are a myriad of pop culture items, including Dorothy’s red slippers from The Wizard of Oz and Mr. Rogers’ sweater.



National Museum of Natural History

Exploring the National Museum of Natural History is a lot like taking a nature walk, but in some ways, it’s even better. Here, under one big roof, is a whole world of nature and human life waiting to be discovered.

From the tiniest insects of today to the largest dinosaurs of 100 million years ago, and from the native people of Asia to those of North America, this museum represents a warehouse of the remarkable. Amazing exhibits reveal the history of the Earth, the history of life, nature’s diversity, and human culture. Some highlights include the blue 45.5-carat Hope Diamond in the Hall of Gems, moon rocks, a 13-foot, 12-ton African bush elephant, the Insect Zoo, the “Living Coral Reef,” and a 92-foot model of a Blue Whale. Other interesting exhibits include the Dinosaur Hall and the American Indian Life exhibit.

Order of Presidential Succession

If a U.S. president cannot carry out the duties of the office, the responsibilities are passed to another government leader in a specific order.

The president of the United States may be replaced if he or she:

- Becomes incapacitated
- Dies
- Resigns
- Is unable to hold office
- Is removed from office

The U.S. Constitution and the Presidential Succession Act of 1947 outline the presidential order of succession. The line of succession of cabinet officers is in the order of their agencies’ creation.

1. Vice President
2. Speaker of the House
3. President Pro Tempore of the Senate
4. Secretary of State
5. Secretary of the Treasury
6. Secretary of Defense
7. Attorney General
8. Secretary of the Interior
9. Secretary of Agriculture
10. Secretary of Commerce
11. Secretary of Labor
12. Secretary of Health and Human Services
13. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
14. Secretary of Transportation
15. Secretary of Energy
16. Secretary of Education
17. Secretary of Veterans Affairs
18. Secretary of Homeland Security

R D E G H E C B T B J L N F I L M O R E X P B E S
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D J U U C Q R H H R Q A R I A A M G N A V X E T L
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T K N Y O S I E J U E R O F U A X T Q D N L Y I H
T B J O V T E W D H E H Z C B I U D Y Z L R O Z C
W P M I T X L K V V H D I F N U X E Y U U L C Q Q
Y Q W P R N D N O J A C K S O N C K M H O B A M A
B I D E N T I O T O U P A J Z Q G H T L J C V U A
Y G Q U B C H L F Y X O T O P L J R A V X Y A W N
D N A L E V E L C O L L H S X E A F O N A V Q M C
Z L E S E F V F M S R K B M V H C A W J A O L P H
R Q Z R K E X L W P U D V N N C H L B X Y N N L O

Adams
Arthur
Biden
Buchanan
Bush
Carter
Cleveland
Clinton
Coolidge
Eisenhower
Jefferson

Filmore
Ford
Garfield
Grant
Harding
Harrison
Hayes
Hoover
Jackson

Kennedy
Lincoln
Madison
McKinley
Monroe
Nixon
Obama
Pierce Polk
Reagan

Roosevelt
Taft
Taylor
Truman
Trump
Tyler
VanBuren
Washington
Wilson

The Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of the United States, composed of a chief justice and eight associate justices, is the highest court in the American judicial system. Its establishment was provided for in Article III of the U.S. Constitution. Its duty, as stated over the doors of the building, is to ensure "equal justice under the law."

Justices are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. The Constitution does not stipulate the size of the Court, leaving that determination to congressional statute. The familiar nine-member bench has been constant in size since 1869. It began with six members in 1789 and had as many as ten justices during 1863-66. The Supreme Court is primarily a court of appeals. Cases generally reach the Court either from the lower federal courts or from state Supreme Courts.

**The first African-American justice was Thurgood Marshall (1967-1991). The first woman to serve on the court was Sandra Day O'Connor (1981-2006). The only former president to serve was William Howard Taft (1921-1930).



Current Supreme Court Justices

Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The Wall, as it has come to be known, was dedicated in 1982. Its two long black granite walls, angled at 125 degrees and pointing to the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, were conceived by Vietnam veteran Jan Scruggs and designed by Yale student Maya Lin. Our country struggled over the morality of the war, and it was believed that this memorial would help the nation heal the wounds the conflict created. The project cost \$7 million, but no tax money was used. Donations completely funded the memorial.

The reflective wall is inscribed with the names of nearly **60,000 Americans** who died or remain missing in Vietnam. The names of the soldiers start in the middle with the first casualty and then move east. It restarts in the middle and moves west. Each name is preceded by either a diamond or a cross. If the death is confirmed, a diamond is used. If the person was a prisoner of war (POW) or missing in action (MIA), then a cross is used.

A statue of three soldiers stands near the Wall. It was created by sculptor Frederic Hart and installed in 1984. Emblems of the five branches of the military are inscribed on its base.

The statue depicts three American servicemen and the items they carried. The soldiers look toward the Wall as if in tribute to their fallen comrades. To the south of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall is the Vietnam Women's Memorial. It commemorates the 265,000 women who served during the war, many of them nurses and other specialists. The bronze statue stands 15 feet tall and shows three uniformed women attending to a wounded soldier. It was installed in 1993.



Washington Monument

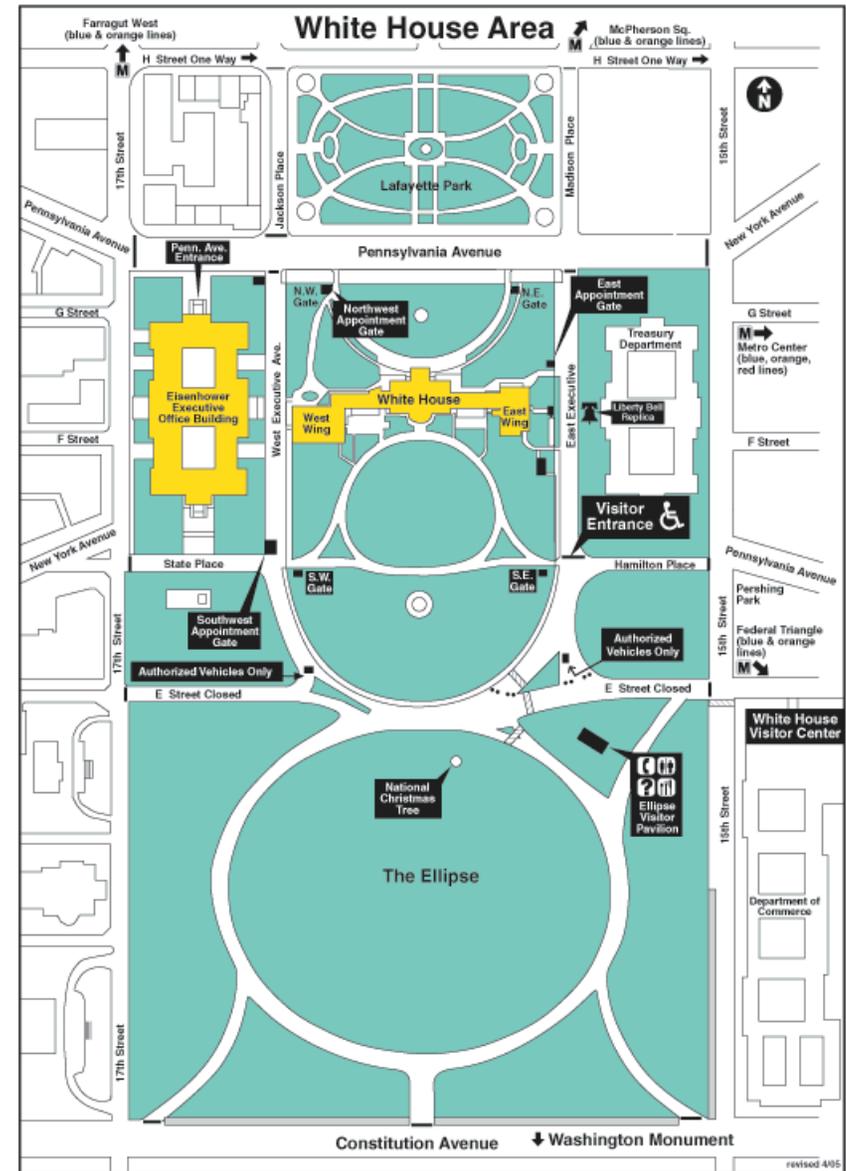
The centerpiece of the Mall, the Washington Monument, was dedicated to the first United States president. Construction was approved in 1783 by the Continental Congress. Pierre L'Enfant designed the site, and Washington approved it. The monument is shaped like an Egyptian obelisk and is made of marble, granite, and bluestone gneiss. In 1848, the cornerstone was laid, and construction began, but it was discontinued due to a lack of funds caused by the Civil War. You might notice that the tint of the stone changes at about 160 feet from the base. Construction was resumed in 1877 with stone from a different quarry. Finally, in 1888, more than 100 years after its construction was approved, the Washington Monument was opened to the public. The monument stands 555 feet, 5.5 inches tall, with walls 15 feet thick at the base and 18 inches thick at the top. An elevator takes you to an observation deck at 500 feet, offering a commanding view of the city. On a clear day, viewers can enjoy 30 - 40 miles of visibility. The states are represented by the fifty flags surrounding the base of the monument.

The White House

The White House, the official residence of the President of the United States since 1800, is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. It has been the residence of every president since John Adams. The first cornerstone was laid in October of 1792. The White House has been completely gutted twice. The first time was during the War of 1812, when it was burned down by the British. The second time was during the Truman administration. In 1848, the building, deemed structurally unsound, was gutted, and its interior structure was replaced with steel framing, within which the original rooms were reconstructed. Since 1961, each First Lady has contributed to a continuing effort to refurbish the interior. The enhancements have made the White House a veritable museum of decorative arts of the first quarter of the 19th century.

As of August 2024, the US president's salary is \$400,000 per year, paid monthly, plus a \$50,000 expense allowance. In 1965, Congress authorized the Secret Service (Public Law 89-186) to protect a former president and his/her spouse during their lifetime unless they decline protection. Former presidents receive a pension of \$226,300. The pension begins immediately after a president departs from office.

- There are 132 rooms, 32 bathrooms, and six levels to accommodate all the people who live in, work in, and visit the White House. There are also 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, seven staircases, and three elevators.
- At various times in history, the White House has been known as the "President's Palace," the "President's House," and the "Executive Mansion." President Theodore Roosevelt officially gave the White House its current name in 1901.
- The White House receives approximately 6,000 visitors a day.
- The White House requires 570 gallons of paint to cover its outside surface.
- For recreation, the White House has a variety of facilities available to its residents, including a tennis court, a jogging track, a swimming pool, a movie theater, a billiards room, and a bowling lane.

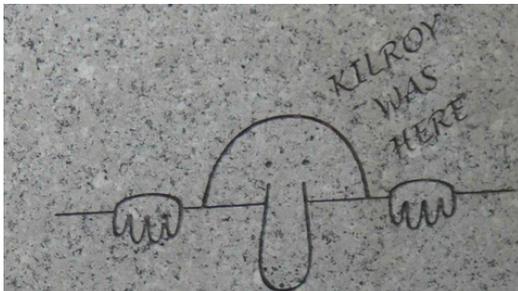


The World War II Memorial

On April 29, 2004, the National World War II Memorial opened for public viewing, exactly one month before the formal dedication ceremony on May 29, 2004, which included a four-day "grand reunion" of veterans on the National Mall. The memorial honors the 16 million Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home. Most deaths occurred in Europe fighting the Nazis, with approximately a quarter of that number lost in the Pacific while fighting Japan.

More than 100 million soldiers from 50 different countries were involved in this war, one that lasted from 1939 to 1945. The war was fought on many fronts - land, sea, and air. 296,601 aircraft, 71,060 ships, and 86,388 tanks were employed in the war effort. The countries involved were divided into two groups: the Allies and the Axis. The Allies included the United States, Britain, France, Russia, and China, while the Axis included Germany, Italy, and Japan. Architect Friedrich St. Florian designed the memorial. The memorial is an elliptical stone plaza that contains a water pool with fountains to create a serene, contemplative environment. Pillars form a ring that represents the U.S. states and territories. Two tall pavilions mark the center points on the north and south sides of the plaza. They incorporate bronze baldachins, bronze columns bearing American eagles, World War II victory medals, and inscriptions noting the victories in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters of operations. The memorial also features the Freedom Wall, located on the west side of the plaza, which has 4,048 gold stars. Each star represents 100 Americans who died in the war, and the message "Here we mark the price of freedom" is written in front of the wall. The Second World War is the only event commemorated on the Mall's central axis.

"Kilroy was here", accompanied by a cartoon drawing of a man looking over a wall, was a popular piece of graffiti drawn by American troops in the Atlantic Theater and then later in the Pacific Theater. It became a universal sign that American soldiers had come through an area and left their mark.



"Kilroy was here", accompanied by a cartoon drawing of a man looking over a wall, was a popular piece of graffiti drawn by American troops in the Atlantic Theater and then later in the Pacific Theater. It became a universal sign that American soldiers had come through an area and left their mark. The myths surrounding it are numerous and often center on a German belief that Kilroy was some kind of super spy who could go anywhere he pleased. There are two Kilroy inscriptions hidden in the memorial, tucked in the corners of both the Atlantic and Pacific sides. Can you find them?

Washington, DC Trivia

1. Which three Presidents died on the Fourth of July?
2. What name is given to the helicopter in which the President flies?
3. Who was the first President to die in office?
4. What institution is nicknamed the nation's attic?
5. Who was the "Coonskin" Congressman?
6. What was the name of the play Abraham Lincoln was watching as he was assassinated?
7. Which presidents signed the US Constitution?
8. Who was the first President inaugurated in Washington, DC?
9. When did a US President first appear on TV?
10. Whose estate became part of Arlington National Cemetery?

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Answers

Arlington National Cemetery: Guess Who?

1. Abner Doubleday
2. John F Kennedy
3. Joe Louis
4. Pierre Charles L'Enfant
5. John Glenn
6. William Howard Taft
7. Audie Murphy
8. Lee Marvin
9. Rene Gagnon
10. The Challenger Astronauts
11. Dr Walter Reed
12. Robert Kennedy

Trivia

1. John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe
2. Marine One
3. William Henry Harrison
4. The Smithsonian Institute
5. Davy Crockett
6. *Our American Cousin*
7. George Washington and James Madison
8. Thomas Jefferson
9. FDR at the World's Fair 1939
10. Confederate General Robert E Lee

Crossword Puzzle

