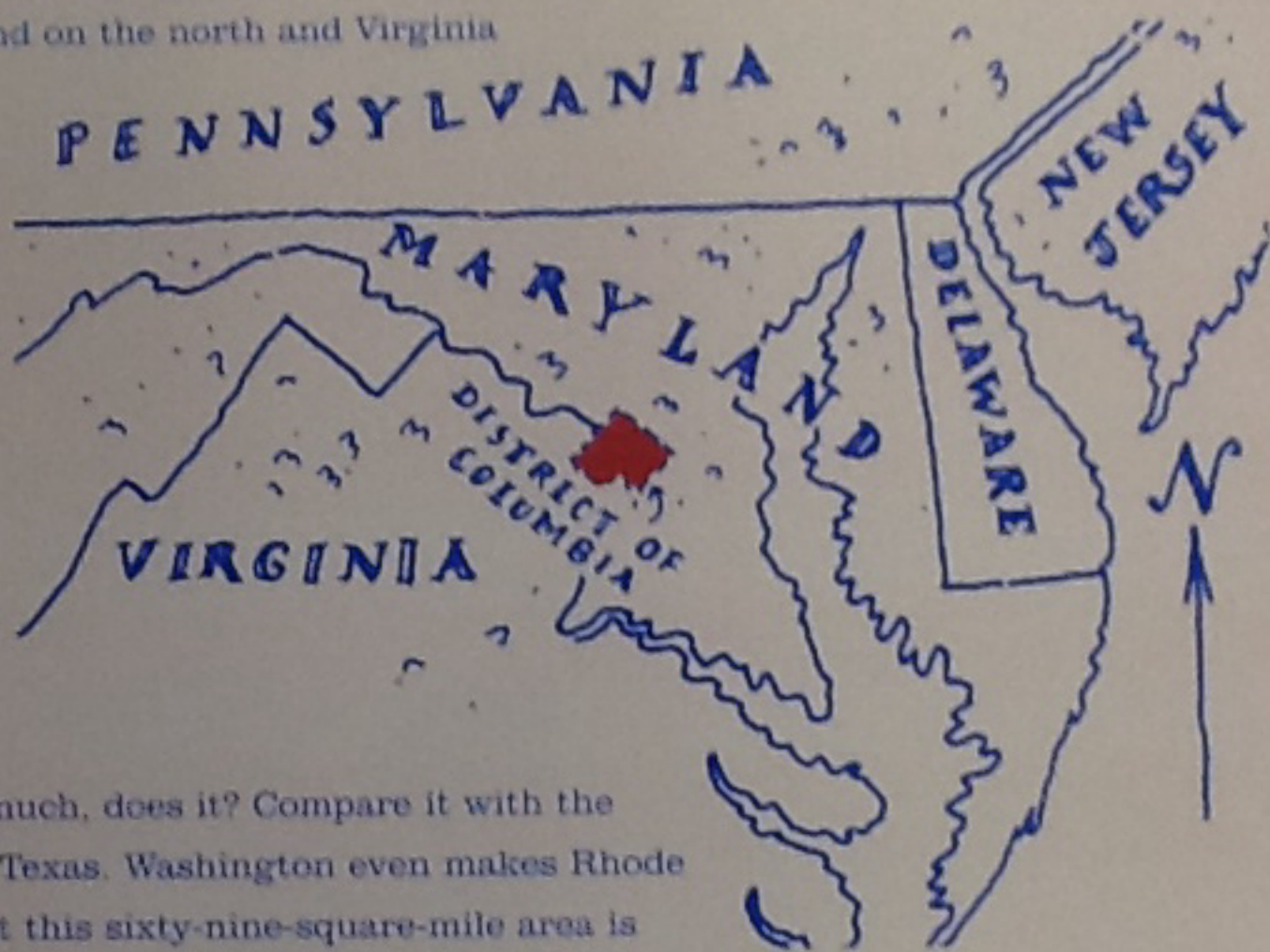


Welcome to Washington, D.C.

Can you locate Washington, D.C., on a map of the United States? It's that diamond-shaped dot on the East Coast bordered by Maryland on the north and Virginia on the south.



It doesn't look like much, does it? Compare it with the size of California or Texas. Washington even makes Rhode Island look huge. Yet this sixty-nine-square-mile area is the capital of the country, the headquarters of the federal government, and the home of embassies that represent countries all over the world. Every year Washington is visited by royalty, heads of government, business leaders, and seventeen million tourists.





Did You Know?

More than 170 countries have embassies in Washington. Many of them line a section of Massachusetts Avenue known as Embassy Row. You can spot them because the flag of the country flies out front.

A trip to Washington, D.C., has lots of surprises and adventures in store—things that you can't see or do anywhere else in the world. You'll have the chance to witness government in action and learn how bills, such as setting the highway speed limit or the amount of taxes an American family pays, are passed. You may even meet your own senator.

You'll find out where the president and first lady live. And you'll see the highest court in the nation and the largest library in the world.

If you're a fan of James Bond, you'll enjoy learning that there are more spies in Washington than in any other city on Earth. You'll see a real-life spying device—a camera hidden in a button—and get the chance to decipher a secret code.



And money—you'll see more money than Uncle Scrooge could hoard in a lifetime when you visit a printing plant that manufactures the country's bills.

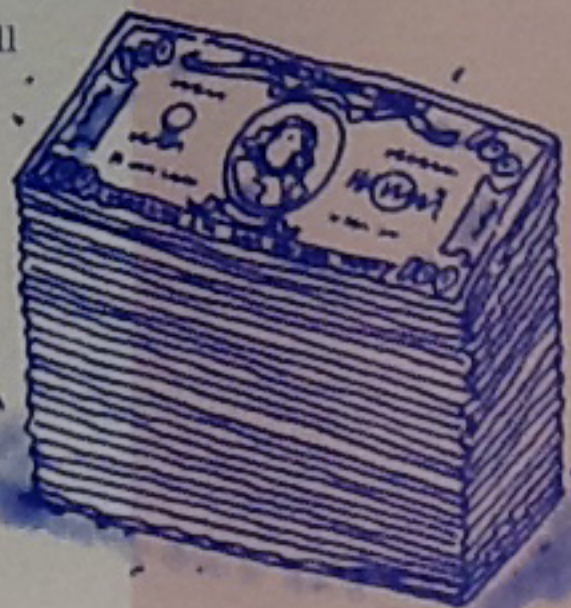
You'll also get a chance to step back in history. You can visit places where time stands still; places where colonial families and farmers till soil and churn butter just like they did 400 years ago. You can even eat gingerbread made from the recipe of George Washington's mother, Mary Washington. You'll see a replica of George Washington's teeth and solve the mystery question: Were they really made of wood?

You can see the Declaration of Independence, the gun that killed Abraham Lincoln, a fence made from Civil War muskets, cannonballs still lodged in houses, and the church pew where Civil War general Robert E. Lee sat.

And that's just the beginning. There are many other thrilling sights: the ruby slippers worn by Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*, Thomas Edison's lightbulb, and Thomas Jefferson's bible. Or how about the largest blue diamond in the world, a real dinosaur egg, or a human hair ball pulled out of a young girl's stomach?

Did You Know?

July 4, 1776, is known as the date of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This isn't quite true. It was adopted on July 4, but it wasn't actually signed until August 2, 1776.





Do you want to see the *Kitty Hawk Flyer*, the plane that flew Orville and Wilbur Wright into the history books? Or walk through *Skylab*? Or touch a piece of the moon? You can do all these things on your trip, if time allows.

Did You Know?

Washington, D.C., was not always the name of the capital. It was originally called Federal City.

George Washington never wanted to name the new capital Washington, out of modesty.

In 1912, the city of Tokyo, Japan, gave three thousand cherry trees, or sakura, to the United States. That's where Washington's cherry blossoms originate.

Test Yourself

Q: What city was the first temporary capital of the United States?

A: Philadelphia

But first, here's a little more information about Washington, D.C.

Where do you think they got the name Washington? If you said from George Washington, the first president of the United States, you were right.

But do you know what "D.C." stands for? It means District of Columbia, named for Christopher Columbus. Washington, D.C., is not a state. People who live in Washington, D.C., do not have legislators in Congress who can vote on their behalf. Washingtonians have one delegate who can speak for them, but that delegate can only vote in smaller committee meetings.

Look closely at the Washington, D.C., license plate for an expression of the locals' discontent: "Taxation without Representation." For many years, residents of Washington, D.C., weren't even allowed to vote for president. But in 1964 that changed, and now they can.

There aren't just Americans in Washington, D.C. There are people from all over the world. Almost every country has a representative in Washington, in addition to many foreign students and businesspeople. There are important schools for government and international politics, and a great deal of scientific research is done in this city. As you can probably guess, Washington has more news reporters than anywhere else, too. Newspapers and radio and television stations gather and send news all over the world from the nation's capital.

Washington, D.C., is a large and important city, but it doesn't look like most American cities. Why? Look at the buildings. There are no skyscrapers! That's because there's a rule against a building being taller than the width of the street in front of it plus twenty feet. This was done to ensure that no building was higher than the dome of the Capitol.



The Government Today

Today, Washington, D.C., bustles with activity. More than 300,000 people work for the federal government in Washington. That's more people than live in the entire city of Buffalo, New York!

The White House

The most famous government employee, of course, is the president. The president and first lady live at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Their elegant home was not always called the White House. It was originally called the President's House. A short time later, newspapers started calling it the White House because of its walls (painted white to cover smoke damage from the War of 1812). But it wasn't until 1903 that President Theodore Roosevelt had the letterheads changed to White House.



Historic Tours of America c/o John Deoney, Blacking Advertising

Did You Know?

George Washington is the only president who never lived in the White House. He died the year before it was finished, in 1799.

...
When Theodore Roosevelt was in office, his lively children used the East Room for roller-skating.

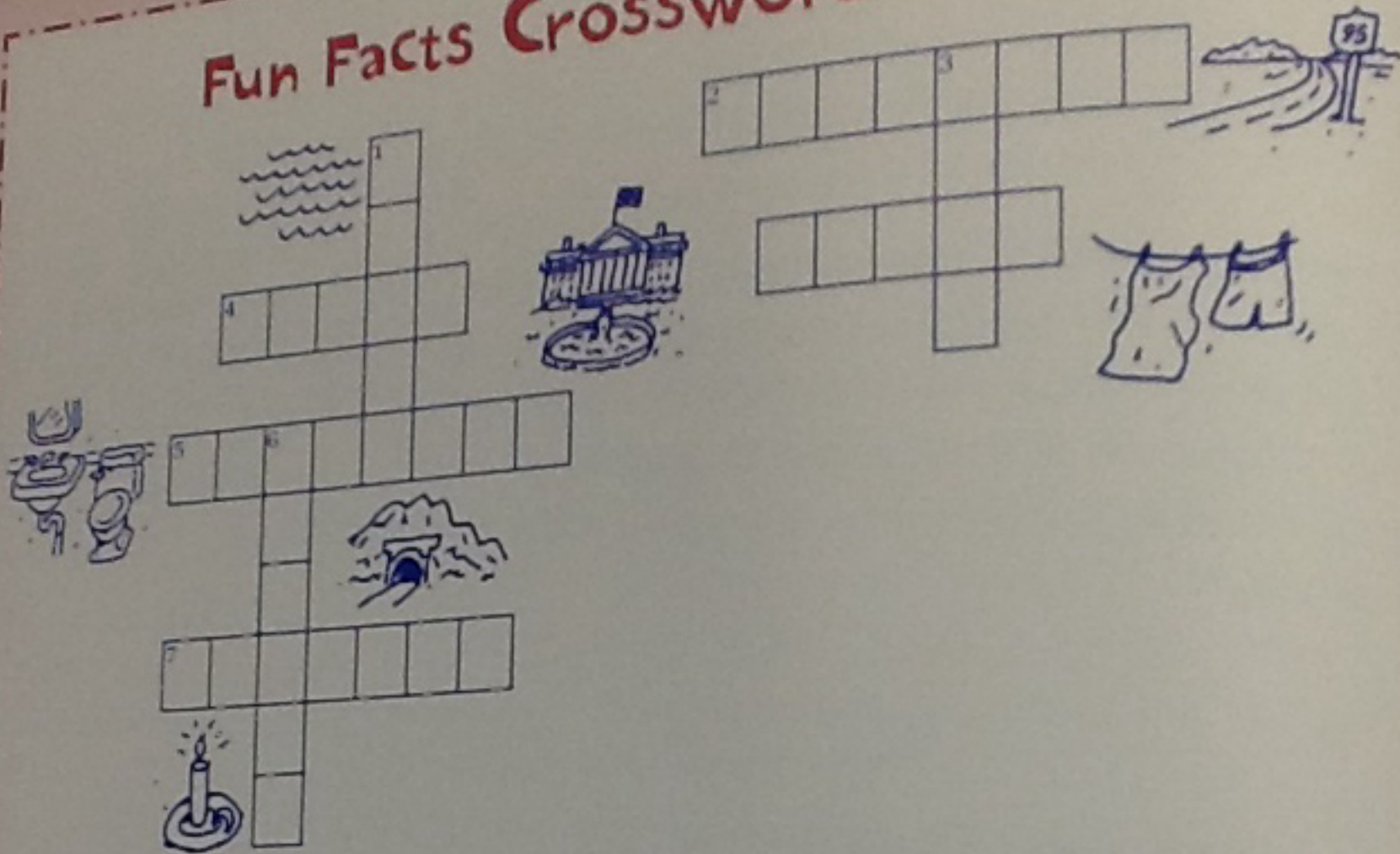
...
It takes 570 gallons of paint to cover the outside surface of the White House.

The **White House** is a lot bigger than it looks. It has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, 28 fireplaces, 8 staircases, and 3 elevators. For recreation, it has a tennis court, a jogging track, a swimming pool, a movie theater, and a bowling alley!

If you were able to get tickets in advance through a member of Congress, you'll get a twenty-five-minute tour of the most historic public White House rooms: the Green Room, Blue Room, Red Room, the State Dining Room, and the East Room—where the president holds press conferences and other large gatherings. In the East Room hangs a famous portrait of George Washington. First Lady Dolley Madison saved the painting during the War of 1812 when the British burned down the White House. It has been in the White House longer than anything else.



Fun Facts Crossword Puzzle



Fill in the blanks with the correct words. The pictures will give you a hint.

1. Running _____ wasn't installed in the White House until 1834, when Andrew Jackson was president.
2. A "zero milestone," from which point all distances on U.S. _____ are measured, is located on the ellipse just south of the White House.
3. John and Abigail Adams, the first residents of the White House, hung their _____ out to dry in the East Room.
4. Thomas Jefferson competed in a national contest to design the _____, but his plan was not chosen.
5. The first _____ wasn't built in the White House until 1878.
6. It is possible to go in and out of the White House without being seen. There is a _____ to the Treasury Department.
7. The White House was lit by _____ until 1848, when gaslight was installed. Finally, electric lights were added in 1891.

Did You Know?

VIP means Very Important Person.

...
The cast-iron dome of the Capitol will expand and contract as much as four inches on days of extreme temperatures.

You can look online or call to find out if Congress is in session. But why not use another method? Whenever the House or Senate is meeting, a flag flies over that chamber. And at night, a lantern on the roof is lit when either is in session.

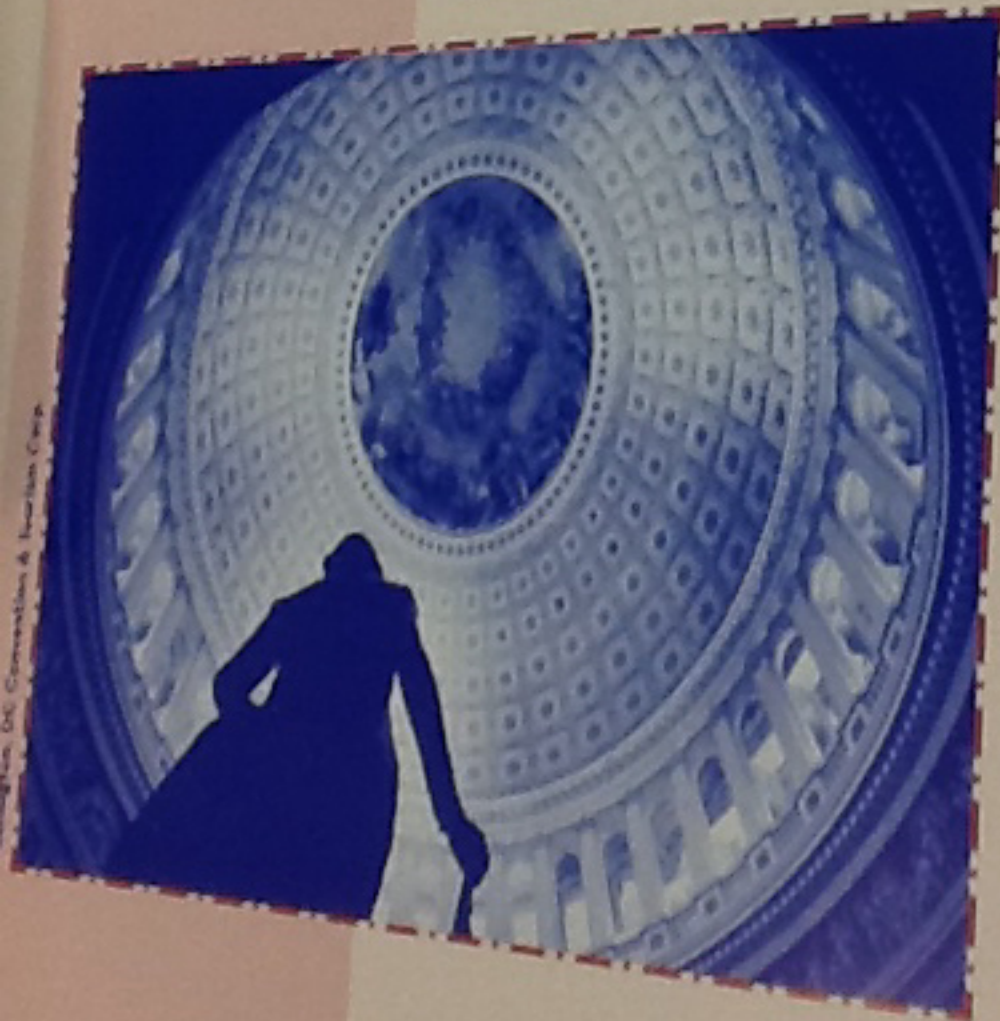
The Capitol has a long history. Its most famous feature is the iron dome on top, which weighs nine million pounds and is the third largest in the world. The inside of the dome, or *rotunda*, is painted with scenes from American history. The artist painted someone's face (perhaps his own) in a tree trunk on one of the panels. Can you find it?

From the rotunda, on your way to the House of Representatives side of the Capitol, you will pass through Statuary Hall. This hall has statues of prominent people

donated by each state.

See if you can find your state's hero.

At one time, representatives met in this room. Ask a guide to demonstrate the mysterious echo the room makes. Find the plaque on the floor marking where John Quincy Adams suffered a



Did You Know?

The acoustics were so bad in Statuary Hall, the original chamber of the House of Representatives, that massive red curtains were hung to help muffle the echoes.

...

Bean soup has been served in the House of Representatives' Members' Dining Room since 1904 when Speaker of the House Joseph Cannon became outraged one day when he couldn't get it. He ordered that bean soup be placed on the menu every day. And so it has been.

...

When the House is in session, a silver inkstand is placed on the Speaker's table. This same stand has been put out since 1818.

Notice the saltshaker-like bottles on the desks of the hundred senators. They once contained pounce, which was used to blot ink. Many of the Senate desks date back to the early 1800s when the Capitol was rebuilt after being burned in the war. Some bear the initials of the legislators who sat in them. Jefferson Davis's desk has a patch on the side where a Union soldier struck it with a bayonet. Daniel Webster's desk does not have the extra writing box on top. And in every Congress since 1965 when Senator George Murphy started the practice, there has been a "Candy Desk" full of candy for senators to enjoy.

Boxes filled with snuff, a form of tobacco popular years ago, used to sit on ledges near the Senate speakers' platform. The boxes are still there, but the snuff is gone.

Do you see teenagers delivering messages in the two chambers? They are called *pages*, and you could become one. They attend a special school in the Library of Congress from 6:30 A.M. until about 10:30 A.M., then run to the Capitol to work while Congress is in session. To become a page, you need to apply and be chosen by your senator or representative. The competition is tough. Fewer than a hundred pages are chosen each year.

Test Yourself

Q: Who was the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court?

A: Sandra Day O'Connor who was appointed by President Reagan in 1981.

Did You Know?

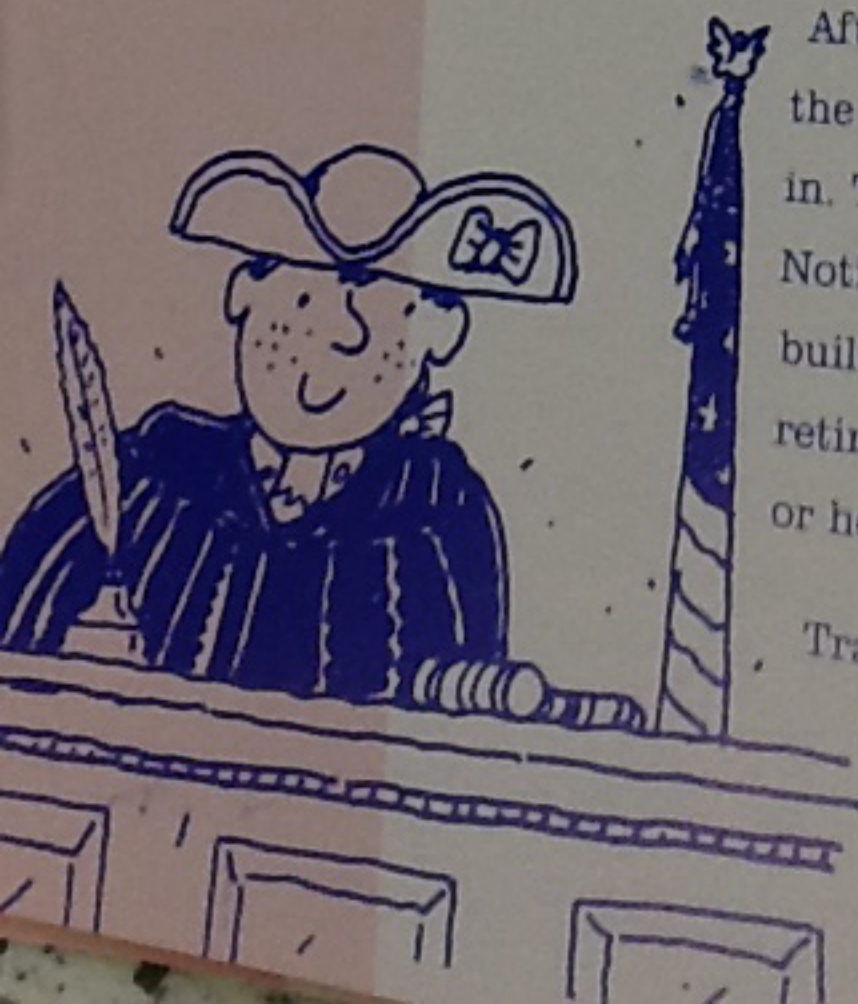
Nine thousand cases are brought to the Supreme Court each term. But the justices select only one percent, or ninety, for consideration.

In most courts there is only one judge. But the Supreme Court has nine judges, called justices, who together decide cases. These justices are appointed by the president and approved by the Senate to serve in this job for life, or until they choose to retire.

From October through April, the court hears cases for two weeks at a time. It then switches to private meetings for the next two weeks. In May and June, the justices hear no new cases but meet to announce decisions.

The job of the Supreme Court justices is to apply the Constitution to new situations and decide if decisions made by lower courts, by Congress, and by the president are in keeping with the principles of the Constitution.

If you want to see the court in action, it's a good idea to arrive well before 10:00 A.M. since the chamber holds fewer than two hundred observers.



After the marshal opens the session, the justices, dressed in black robes, file in. The chief justice sits in the center. Notice the chairs, which are custom built to fit each justice. When a justice retires, the others buy the chair for him or her as a parting gift.

Tradition is very important in this court. White feather pens are still

Did You Know?

The library adds about ten thousand items to the collection every day.

...

The library contains the world's largest collection of comic books: one hundred thousand issues.

The oldest comic book in the collection is *Popular Comics* from February 1936.

...

Four hundred sixty languages appear in the library's collection.

...

The original library contents were burned in August 1814 by British troops. Retired President Thomas Jefferson offered to sell his personal library as a replacement. Congress accepted, so Jefferson's library laid the foundation for today's Library of Congress.



The Great Hall through which you enter is breathtaking with its fancy dome, statues, murals, inlaid floor, carvings, and columns. When the first of the three buildings, the Thomas Jefferson Building, was completed in 1897, it was described as the "most beautiful building in the world."

Many historic documents are preserved here, including Thomas Jefferson's rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, letters written by George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, as well as the contents of his pockets on the night he died. There are diaries and notebooks kept by Alexander Graham Bell, who invented the telephone; magic scrapbooks of Houdini; and personal papers of comedian Groucho Marx and other famous people.

There's also a collection of 2,100 early baseball cards from 1887 to 1914. These cards were originally distributed in cigarette packs. Legendary figures and events such as Ty Cobb stealing third base for Detroit, Tris Speaker batting for Boston, and pitcher Cy Young are included.

The library's smallest book is *Old King Cole*. It measures $\frac{1}{25}$ -inch x $\frac{1}{25}$ -inch, or about the size of the period at the end of this sentence. You need a needle to turn the pages! And you've probably heard of Stradivarius violins—the finest in the world. Well, the Library of Congress has one of these, too. These valuable items are not on display, but people doing research can study them.

Famous Documents

Do you know what the missing words are to the famous lines of these historical documents?

Declaration of Independence (second paragraph)

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all _____ are created _____ that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable _____ that among these are Life, _____, and the pursuit of Happiness.

Constitution (preamble)

We the People of the _____ in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish _____ insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general _____ and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of _____

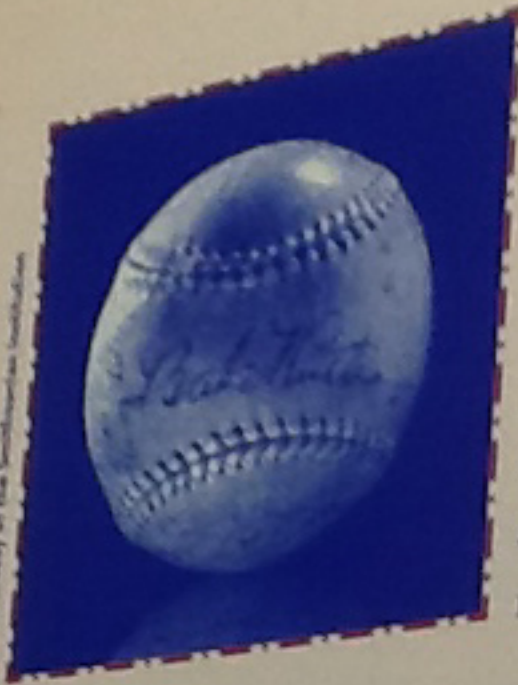
Bill of Rights (the First Amendment of the Constitution)

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of _____ or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of _____ or of the _____; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

National Museum of American History

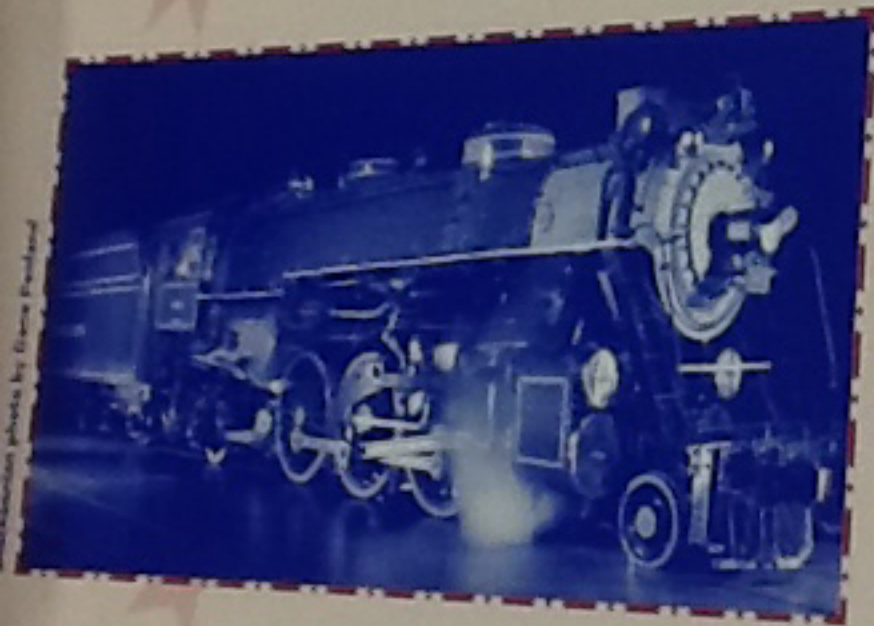
The original Star-Spangled Banner, the flag that flew over Fort McHenry in Baltimore during the British attack in the War of 1812, can be seen at the **National Museum of American History**. In fact, this museum is chock full of Americana.

Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution



You will also see Ben Franklin's walking stick, the microphone Franklin D. Roosevelt used for radio broadcasts, and Abe Lincoln's hat.

Photograph courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution



You'll learn about inventions that changed the way Americans live: Thomas Edison's electric lightbulb and first record player, Eli Whitney's cotton gin, Henry Ford's Model T car, a real 280-ton steam engine, and an atom smasher.

You're sure to get a kick out of the display of gowns worn by first ladies through the years. Notice how small some of the women were 150 years ago!

Did You Know?

The earliest evidence of life is 3,500 million years old. To see it, look in the Earliest Traces of Life Gallery.



Photo courtesy of the Smithsonian Institution

National Museum of Natural History

As you enter the **National Museum of Natural History** you'll meet a gigantic, twelve-ton African bush elephant (stuffed, of course). It is the largest elephant ever taken from Africa.

In the Kenneth Behring Family Hall of Mammals you will find close to three hundred stuffed animals from all over the world. The eleven-foot-long Bengal tiger is believed to be the largest ever killed in India. You will learn about how mammals evolved by adapting to changing habitats. Look for "Morgie," one of the Earth's first mammals, who lived during the time of the dinosaurs, 210 million years ago.

Dinosaur Hall is a treasure house of fossils and prehistoric bones. You can't miss the replica of the

Did You Know?

The size of gemstones is always measured in carats. One carat weighs 200 milligrams.

Test Yourself

Q: What is the most common color of topaz?

A: (wee!) blue or green. Yellow. (But they can also be white.)

Q: What is a meteorite?

A: A meteorite is a stony or metallic body that falls to the Earth from space.

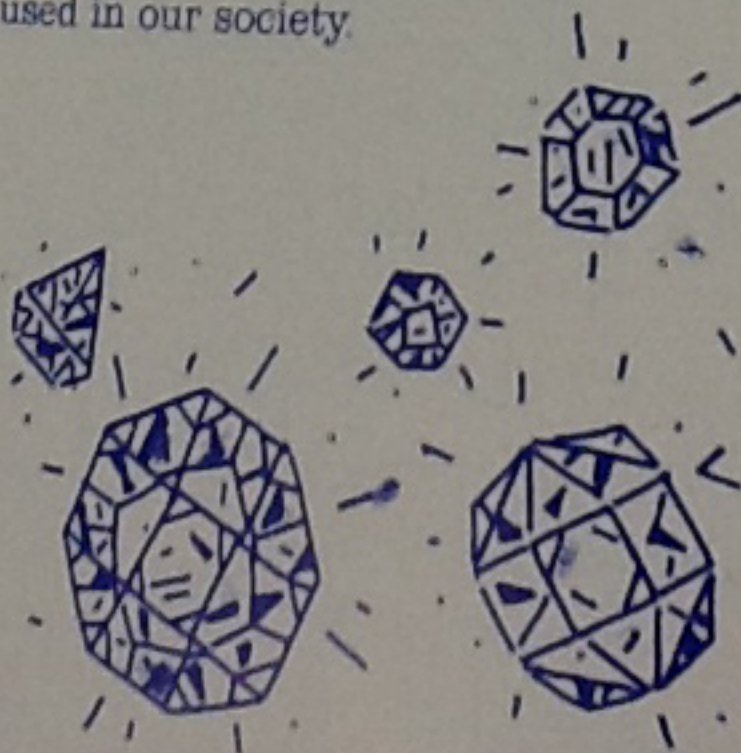
Q: Where do meteorites come from?

A: Most come from asteroids. A few come from the moon and Mars and many of the smallest meteorites are dust from comets.

A highlight of the Museum of Natural History is the Janet Annenberg Hooker Hall of Geology, Gems, and Minerals. Any fortune-teller would be jealous that the world's largest crystal ball, more than twelve inches in diameter and 106 pounds, is here. A more recent acquisition is an extremely rare 23.1-carat Burmese ruby. How about wearing a necklace the size of the Hope Diamond? It's 45.5 carats and the largest blue diamond in the world.

The diamond necklace that French emperor Napoleon gave to his wife, Marie Louise, is in this exhibit, as is her crown with 950 diamonds, and the earrings worn by French queen Marie Antoinette before she was beheaded during the French Revolution.

Don't leave without a trip through the colorful Crystal Gallery, where you will learn everything you need to know about crystals. Take a walk through a re-created copper mine and see how minerals and ores are formed, mined, and used in our society.



Where Are All the Animals?

The National Zoological Park

Washington isn't just a city of historical figures, diplomats, and politicians. There are other famous residents—of the four-legged variety. For instance, you can see Kandula, the young Asian elephant who weighed 335 pounds when he was born at the zoo in 2001, and Komodo dragons, the largest living lizards, reaching lengths of more than ten feet and weighing over 300 pounds.



These creatures and many others can be found at the **National Zoological Park**, located in Rock Creek Park. The best time to visit is in the early morning or the late afternoon, when the animals are most active.

The first thing to do when you arrive at the zoo is to stop by the Visitor Center for a map and a list of programs being offered that day.

The giant pandas from China and their baby, Tai Shan, are among the most famous residents of the zoo. You'll find them, along with a number of other animals, in the Asia

Did You Know?

There are around 2,400 animals from four hundred species at the National Zoo. About 20 percent of these species are endangered.

where orangutans communicate with biologists through touch-screen computers.

One way to get close to the animals is through the walk-in Flight Cage where you can mingle with one hundred different kinds of birds.

The National Zoo even has a Kid's Farm, where you can see and pet all your favorite farm animals. You can also play on a huge toy pizza while you learn about how the ingredients for pizza are grown.

