


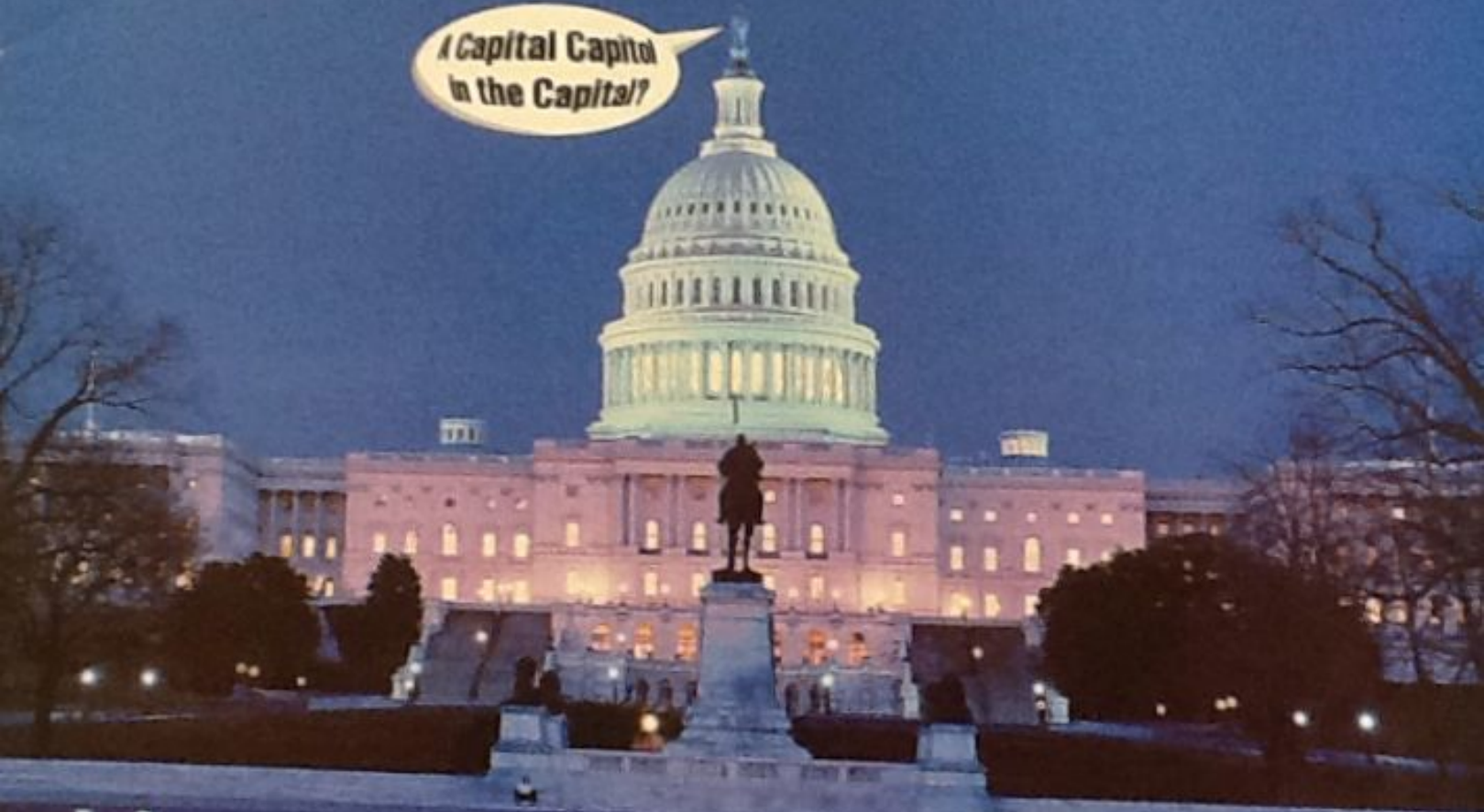


**KIDS  
DISCOVER**

Visit the  
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vault

# Washington, D.C.

*A Capital Capitol  
in the Capital?*



What has 5  
stories, 5  
sides, and 5  
acres in the  
middle  
?

**KNOWIT!**



**ROLLING EGGS  
ON THE  
WHITE HOUSE  
LAWN**

**WHERE  
TO PET A**



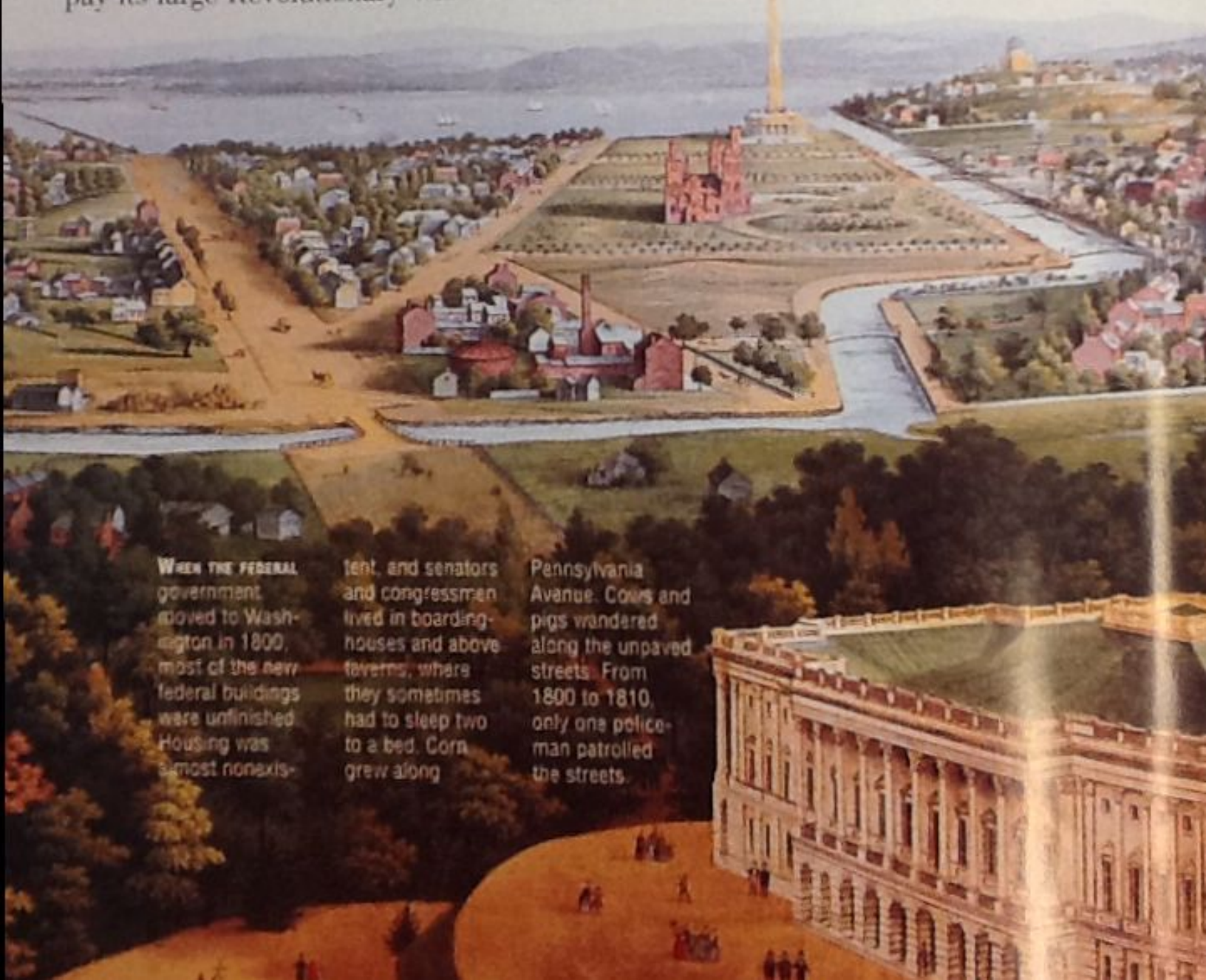
# The District of Columbia

Talk about moving around a lot! In the late 1700s, the United States government was shifted from Philadelphia to New York and then to Princeton, New Jersey. Congress just couldn't seem to settle on a permanent home for the new nation's government. Southerners wanted the capital in the South. Northerners wanted it in the North. One night Thomas Jefferson of Virginia and Alexander Hamilton of New York struck a compromise. The North would agree to locate the new capital in the South if the federal government would pay its large Revolutionary War debts. In

turn, the North would not raise serious objections to slavery.

Maryland and Virginia each gave the government land along the Potomac River for the new capital, which would not be part of either state. Congress named the area the District of Columbia, in honor of Christopher Columbus, but people called it Washington, in honor of the country's first president. Today, the city is Washington, District of Columbia, or D.C. for short.

Washington is a bustling international city, a tourist mecca, and home to over 600,000 citizens. Come take a tour of Washington, D.C.—past and present.



**When the federal government** moved to Washington in 1800, most of the new federal buildings were unfinished. Housing was almost nonexistent,

and senators and congressmen lived in boarding-houses and above taverns, where they sometimes had to sleep two to a bed. Corn grew along

Pennsylvania Avenue. Cows and pigs wandered along the unpaved streets. From 1800 to 1810, only one policeman patrolled the streets.



## ACCORDING TO GEORGE

No street in Washington contains the letter J.



► As the nation's capital, Washington is an international city. Many embassies are there. An embassy is the home of an ambassador, or government representative, of a foreign country. At right is part of the Canadian embassy.

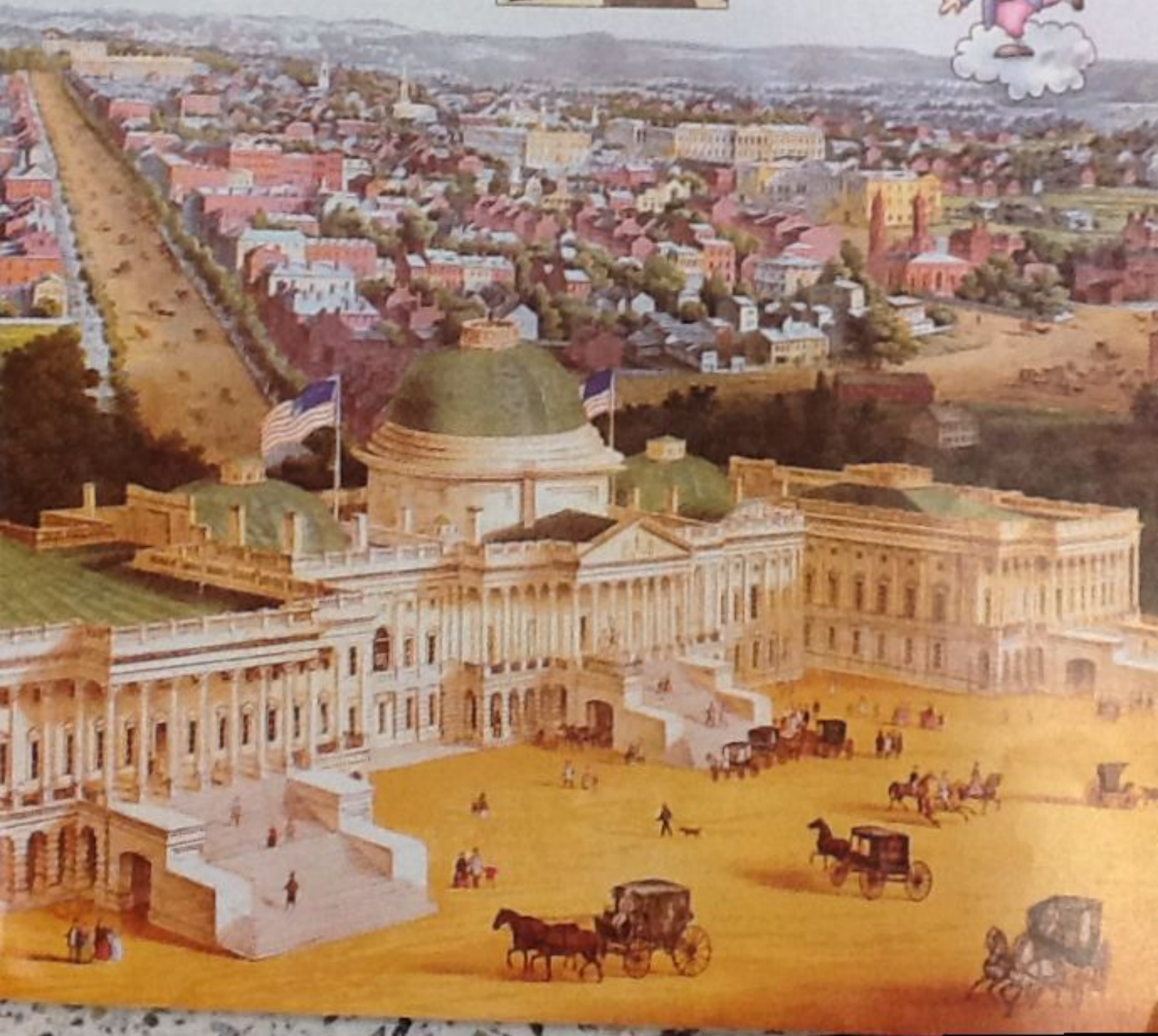


◀ By 1960, Washington was the first major U.S. city to have a majority of African American residents. Over the years, Washington's government has changed, though Congress has always maintained much control over the city.

Today Washingtonians elect their own mayor, but they have only a nonvoting representative in Congress. Civil rights activist Jesse Jackson wants Washington to become a state so that it can have voting representatives in Congress.

## ACCORDING TO GEORGE

Washington is home to over 30 embassies—each with its country's flag flying out front.





# Building a Capital Capital

It seems only right that the nation's capital should be named after George Washington. After all, he picked the exact spot along the Potomac where the new city was to be built, and he chose engineer Pierre Charles L'Enfant to design it. L'Enfant, a Frenchman who had fought on the side of the American colonists during the Revolutionary War, envisioned a city "magnificent enough to grace a great nation."

L'Enfant's plans were a little too grand for some, who called him "that spend-thrift Frenchman." When a prominent citizen began to build a house where he had planned an important square, L'Enfant ordered the house torn down.



**A DURING THE GREAT Depression of the 1930s,** jobs were scarce. President Franklin D. Roosevelt created jobs

by undertaking an ambitious public building program. The National Gallery of Art was built then.



◀ **AT THE FOOT OF Jenkins Hill,** Powhatan Indians had once built a council house. L'Enfant called the hill "a pedestal waiting for a monument," and decided to put the Capitol there. (*Capitol* is the building; *capital* is the city; *capital* also means "excellent.") In 1800, when Congress moved to D.C., only part of the building was finished. Into it crowded the House of Representatives, the Senate, the Supreme Court, circuit court, and the Library of Congress. In 1851 Congress decided to expand the Capitol. By 1861, when the Civil War broke out, the building was still not finished. Despite the threat to the nation, President Abraham Lincoln ordered work to continue, saying, "If the people see the Capitol going on, it is a sign we intend the Union shall go on."



**A OPENED IN 1976,** the Washington Metro is one of the newest and cleanest subway systems in the country.



**A THE TREASURY Building,** burned in 1814, was not rebuilt until 1835. President Andrew Jackson, fed up with discussions about where it should be located, stormed out of the White House

and said, "Build it here," "here" being next to the White House. There it was built, destroying L'Enfant's plan for a clear view from the president's mansion to the Capitol.



**A L'ENFANT** envisioned a capital city with lots of open-air spaces, and today the city abounds with parks both large and small. In 1912, the city of Tokyo, Japan, gave Washington three thousand Japanese

cherry trees. They were planted along the Tidal Basin, originally built as a flood-control measure. To this day, visitors flock to Washington during the early spring to see the cherry blossoms.

When L'Enfant didn't produce a map of Washington for the city's commissioners, they decided they had had enough. They prevailed upon George Washington to fire L'Enfant, and he did.

To the rescue came surveyor Andrew Ellicott and his assistant Benjamin Banneker, a free black man, who was an accomplished astronomer and mathematician. Both had worked with L'Enfant. As the story goes, Banneker was able to redraw L'Enfant's plans from memory. Using Banneker's drawings and his own notes, Ellicott prepared a usable map, and the building of Washington proceeded.

Like Rome, however, Washington was not built in a day—or even a century, and changes are still taking place. Let's see how the Federal City has grown up.



### A GUIDE TO GEORGE

Washington, D.C., was not the first capital of the U.S. Philadelphia was.



Y L'Enfant's layout for Washington was symbolic. To represent the separation of powers between the president and Congress, L'Entant separated the Capitol and the president's residence by a mile and a half. To show the importance of the people's represen-

tatives, he had streets radiate from the Capitol. The streets are laid out in a rectangular grid. Layered over the grid is a series of broad avenues which run diagonally across the city. They bear the names of states. Three of the most prominent are Virginia, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania, named for states that played a crucial role in the nation's formation.



Y For the new capital, George Washington chose a spot a few miles up the Potomac River from his

home, Mount Vernon. It was a one-hundred-square-mile tract, partly in Maryland and partly in Virginia. By 1846, only the Maryland side of the river had been developed, so Virginia asked for its 30.75 square miles back. The government agreed. Today, however, many government buildings are located in nearby Virginia.



...ORY OF COLUMBIA.

...the ...



# At Home in the WHITE HOUSE

Imagine living in a house where the roof leaks, the walls aren't plastered, and the "yard" is a large expanse of mud. That's what the presidential mansion was like when John and Abigail Adams became its first residents in 1800. Without a yard for drying laundry, Mrs. Adams had wet sheets hung in the large drafty reception hall at the east end of the house.

Construction on the house proceeded, and by the time James Madison took office in 1809, the house was presentable enough for his charming wife, Dolley, to preside over lavish parties at which she often served ice cream, making it a popular treat in the U.S. The Madison parties came to an abrupt end when the British attacked Washington in 1814 and burned the presidential mansion.

The rebuilt house was painted white to cover the scorched stone. From then on it was unofficially known as the White House. President Theodore Roosevelt, who served from 1901 to 1909, finally made the name official when he had it printed on his stationery.

In its 197 years, the White House has undergone many changes. Today, it has 132 rooms and 20 baths. Forty-eight of the rooms and 14 of the baths are in the president's private quarters.



← **REMINISERS OF** past presidents fill the White House. In one of the bedrooms stands Abraham Lincoln's extra-long bed with a coverlet crocheted by Mrs. Calvin Coolidge. A

centerpiece in the State Dining Room—a large mirror surrounded by figurines that can be used as candleholders or small vases—was ordered from France by President James Monroe.



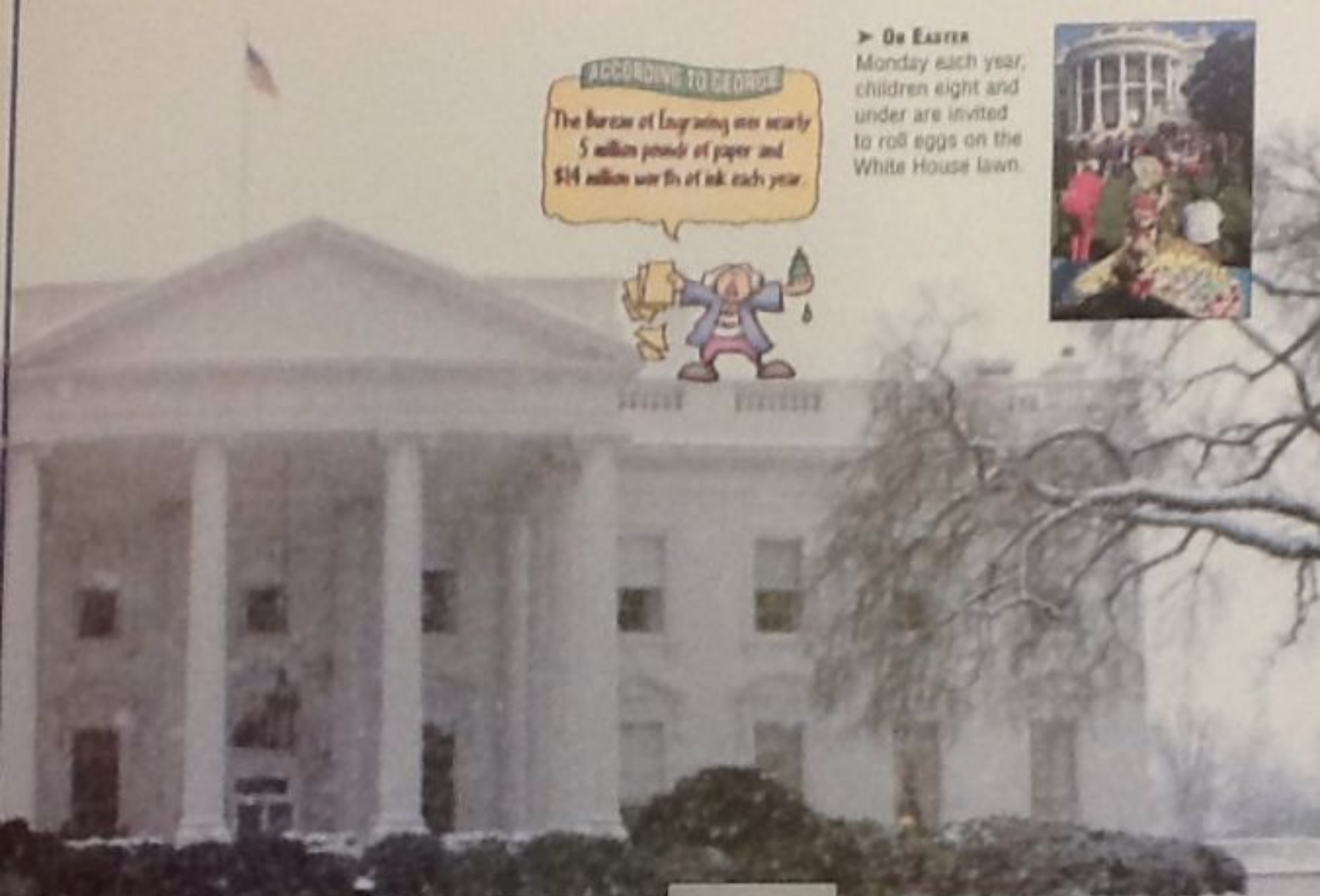
▲ **THE EAST ROOM**, where Abigail Adams once hung laundry, is the largest room in the White House. Here hangs the

famous Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington that was saved from destruction by Dolley Madison, who cut it out of its frame, rolled it up, and spirited it out of the city when British troops attacked in 1814. Used for official receptions, ceremonies, and press conferences, the East Room has also been the scene of several White House weddings.

▼ **THE PRESIDENT'S** Oval Office was added to the West Wing of the White House in 1909 by President William Howard Taft. John F. Kennedy's children liked to visit him there.







**ACCORDING TO GEORGE**  
 The Bureau of Engraving uses nearly 5 million pounds of paper and \$14 million worth of ink each year.



► **ON EASTER**  
 Monday each year, children eight and under are invited to roll eggs on the White House lawn.



▲ **OVER THE YEARS,** many presidents added "modern" conveniences to the White House.

Andrew Jackson had running water piped in. James Polk installed gaslights, which Benjamin Harrison replaced with electricity. Alexander Graham Bell demonstrated the telephone to President Rutherford B. Hayes, and Thomas Edison showed him a phonograph. Soon the White House

boasted these inventions. The many structural changes, however, weakened the building. When Harry S. Truman took office in 1945, engineers found that the White House "was standing up purely by habit." Between 1948 and 1952 much of the building was gutted and rebuilt.



▲ **OFFICIAL ROOMS** include the colorful Red Room, Green Room, and Blue Room. The president often receives guests in the Blue Room. The White House Christmas



tree is placed there during the holiday season. In June of 1886, Grover Cleveland became the only president to marry in the White House in the Blue Room.

▲ **BESIDES BEDROOMS** and sitting rooms, the president's private quarters also include a dentist's office, a movie theater, a medical clinic, a barber-shop, and more.

## WHITE HOUSE KIDS

Many children and grandchildren of presidents have enlivened the White House.

► **THOMAS LINCOLN** (nicknamed Tad by his father) shot a toy cannon at the door during Cabinet meetings.



▼ **THEODORE ROOSEVELT** had a lively brood, known as the White



House gang. They rollerskated and bicycled in the East Room. Some of them once snuck a pony onto a White House elevator to visit their sick brother.

► **ONE OF GROVER** Cleveland's daughters had a candy bar named after her—the Baby Ruth.





► **STANDING ON THE** steps of the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963, the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his "I Have a Dream"

speech to more than 200,000 people in the largest civil-rights demonstration in U.S. history.



► **THE KOREAN WAR** Veterans Memorial includes 19 ghostly gray sculptures of soldiers in ponchos advancing across a field. Also featured is a black granite wall with a mural of support groups, such as nurses.



#### ACCORDING TO GEORGE

Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, and James Monroe were among the first five presidents. And they all died on July 4!



► **AT 556 FEET AND** 5 1/8 inches, the Washington Monument is the tallest masonry (stone, brick, or concrete) structure on earth and Washington's only skyscraper. The monument was begun in 1848 with private funding. Construction stopped when money ran out in 1860. Author Mark Twain said the uncompleted

monument looked like "a factory chimney with the top broken off." When the monument was finally finished in 1884, the steam elevator was considered too risky for women and children, who were required to walk up the 898 steps. Today everyone must take the elevator to the top, but you can take a 45-minute tour walking down.

► **COMPLETED IN** 1922, the Lincoln Memorial honors the man who has been called our greatest president. Inside a structure that looks like an ancient Greek temple is the famous statue of the seated

Lincoln by Daniel Chester French. From the vantage point of Lincoln's eyes, the entire Washington Monument can be seen in the Reflecting Pool that separates the two memorials.





# MONUMENTAL WASHINGTON

Washington, D.C., is full of monuments and memorials to special people and events in U.S. history.

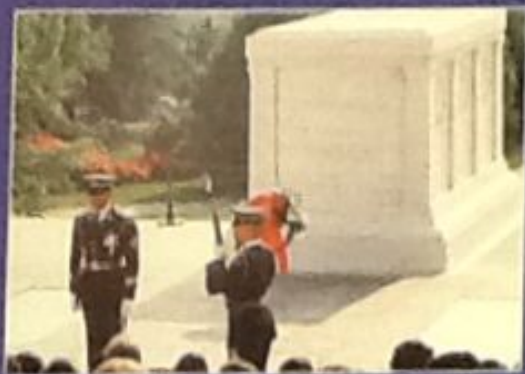


◀ **THIS MEMORIAL TO** Thomas Jefferson, the nation's third president and the author of the Declaration of Independence, was completed in 1943, the two hundredth anniversary of his birth. When plans

were announced to build the memorial on the Tidal Basin, protesters chained themselves to the Japanese cherry trees for fear they would be destroyed by the construction. In fact, only a few of the trees died.

► **ARLINGTON** National Cemetery, across the Potomac River from D.C., is the burial place of more than 230,000 veterans and their dependents. The Tomb of the Unknowns, honoring the U.S.

war dead, contains the bodies of four unidentified soldiers, one each from World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. At the tomb, a soldier stands guard around the clock.



## THINK PIECE!

Suppose you could design a monument to honor some person or event in U.S. history. Who or what would you memorialize? What would the monument look like? Where in Washington, D.C., would you place it?



▲ **DURING WORLD** World II, a group of marines struggled heroically to raise the U.S. flag atop Mt. Suribachi on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima. A photographer caught the

stirring moment. Later the scene was portrayed in the largest sculpture ever cast in bronze. It stands in Arlington National Cemetery as the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial.

▲ **THE VIETNAM** Veterans Memorial is a V-shaped wall of polished black granite inscribed with the names of all 57,692 U.S. military personnel who died or were declared missing in action in Southeast Asia between 1959 and 1975. Some visitors to the memorial leave flowers, war medals, notes, and pictures near specific names.

Winner of the national contest to design the memorial was Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year-old student at the time. Even though she earned only a B- from her art professor, her work proved to be one of the most successful monuments in the city. Attendance is higher there than at any other memorial.





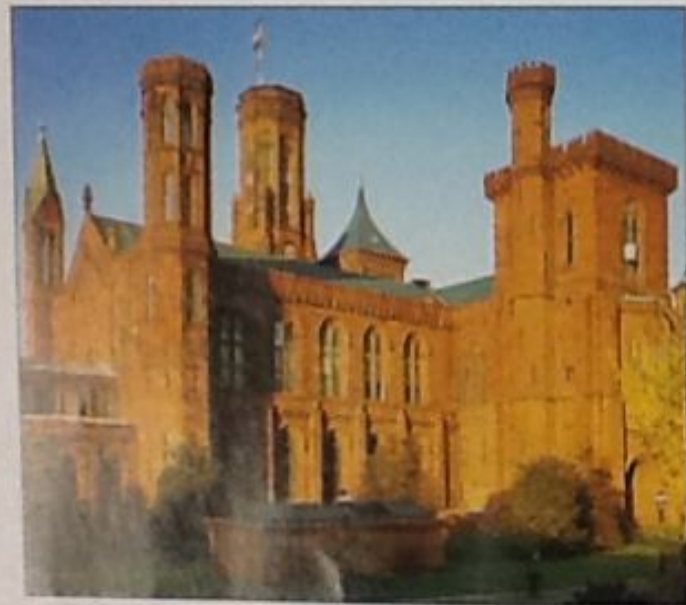
# The Nation's Attic

In 1835, the United States received some startling news. An Englishman named James Smithson, who had never set foot in the United States, had left half a million dollars to the country to establish the Smithsonian Institution "to increase . . . knowledge among men." Three years later, 105 bags of gold coins arrived.

The nation's leaders were perplexed by the gift and debated first of all whether to accept the money and then how to use it. Finally, in 1846 Congress passed an act

establishing the Smithsonian Institution to be both a museum and a research organization. The Smithsonian's first building was completed in 1852. Today the institution includes 14 museums in D.C., two in New York City, five research facilities, and the National Zoo. A new museum, the National Museum of the American Indian, which will incorporate one of the New York museums, is scheduled to open in D.C. in 1998.

So many of the nation's treasures are preserved in the Smithsonian museums that the institution has been called the Nation's Attic.



**A** The first Smithsonian building to be completed is nicknamed the Castle because of its design. Today it holds offices and an information center. Though James Smithson never visited the United States during his lifetime, his remains were brought here and buried in the Castle's North Foyer.



**A** WANT TO SEE Alexander Graham Bell's first telephone? How about gowns worn to inaugural balls by First Ladies? Interested in George Washington's gold-and-ivory false teeth or

Dorothy's ruby slippers from *The Wizard of Oz*? These and thousands of other artifacts of American history and culture are housed in the National Museum of American History.



**A** THE ANACOSTIA Neighborhood Museum is devoted to the history of African Americans. The Griffiths family of Washington, D.C., contributed personal items passed down from

generation to generation from the early 1900s through the 1960s. Items such as dolls, old letters, cookbooks, schoolbooks, and old jewelry boxes holding bus tokens and

political buttons, are a rich reminder of daily life for much of the 20th century. The mural above is from a neighborhood exhibit entitled "Whose Art Is It Anyway?"

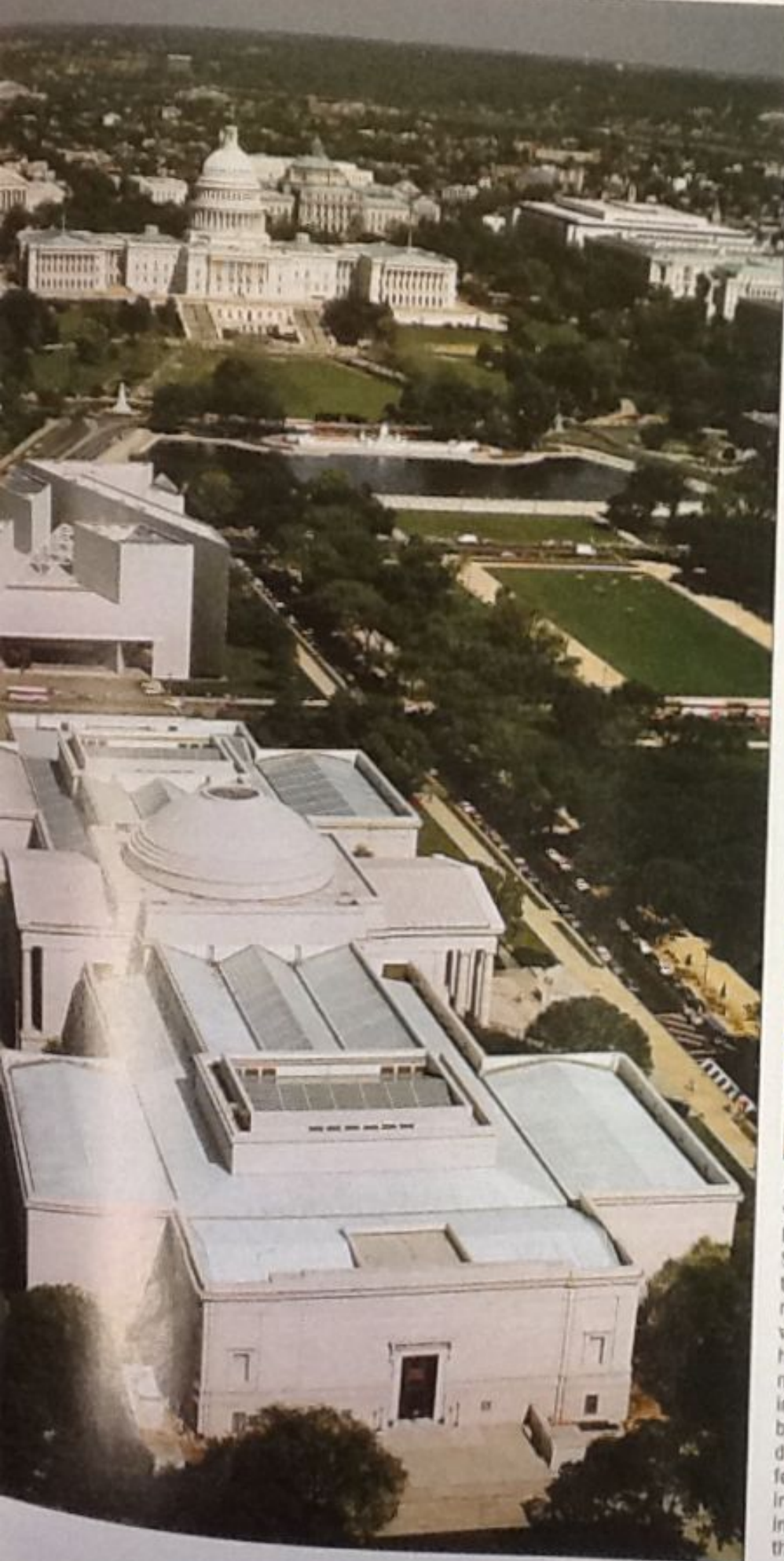


**A** EXHIBITS RELATED to the natural world crowd the National Museum of Natural History. At one door, visi-

tors are greeted by a 13-foot-tall African elephant; at another entrance stand two gigantic totem poles carved

by Northwest Coast Indians. Inside the museum are dinosaur skeletons, a model of a blue whale, the largest blue diamond in the world, and a live-insect zoo, where you can watch tarantulas being fed, observe a foot-long centipede, and pet a hissing cockroach.





◀ **NINE OF THE** Smithsonian's museums are located on or near the Mall, an expanse of green lawn that runs from the Capitol to the Washington Monument. Part of L'Enfant's

original design for the city, the Mall is the site of the annual Festival of American Folklife, a kite festival, the national independence Day celebration, and the Million Man March of 1995.



▲ **POSSIBLY THE** National Zoo's most famous resident is Hsing-Hsing, a giant

panda given to the children of the U.S. by the People's Republic of China in 1972.

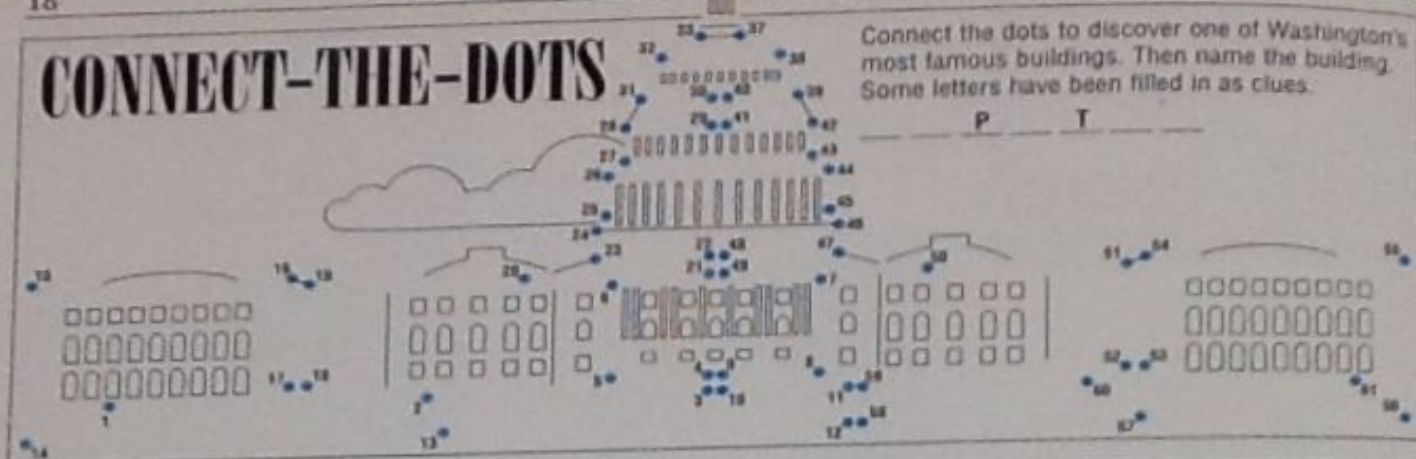


▲ **WITH 10 MILLION** visitors a year, the National Air and Space Museum is the most popular museum in the world. Here are historical flying machines including: the plane flown by Amelia Earhart during the first female solo crossing of the Atlantic, in 1932 (above), the Wright Brothers'

first plane, hanging as high as the altitude it reached on the first flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina; the *Spirit of St. Louis*, in which Charles Lindbergh made the first nonstop solo flight across the Atlantic; and the Apollo landing module, in which humans first landed on the moon.



# CONNECT-THE-DOTS



Connect the dots to discover one of Washington's most famous buildings. Then name the building. Some letters have been filled in as clues.

P T

## SCRAMBLED PRESIDENTS

Unscramble the names of some presidents. The letters in circles will spell out the first name of the first First Lady.

1 DONSAMI

2 NUMTAR

3 VEERLOSOT

4 NOSHINTWAG

5 JOSCANX

ANSWER:



## FAMOUS PLACES



On the map of Washington, D.C., five important places have been shaded in black and identified with a letter. Identify each place by matching its letter to its name in the list.

1. WHITE HOUSE
2. LINCOLN MEMORIAL
3. WASHINGTON MONUMENT
4. CAPITOL
5. VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

## I Scream, You Scream, the Presidents Scream for Ice Cream

Dolley Madison may have made ice cream popular in the United States, but U.S. presidents—before and after her—served it in the White House as well. Here are some ideas for serving ice cream with a presidential twist. Why not make your next party a presidential ice cream fest?

1 There is no record of Martha Washington serving ice cream, but George was very fond of nuts. So crush up any kind of nuts and mix them into your ice cream for a President Washington special.

2 Thomas Jefferson served ice cream in the White House before Dolley Madison did. One guest described a dessert Jefferson served as "ice cream brought to the table in the form of small balls, enclosed in cases of warm pastry." You can serve ice cream in little cups made of baked pie dough.

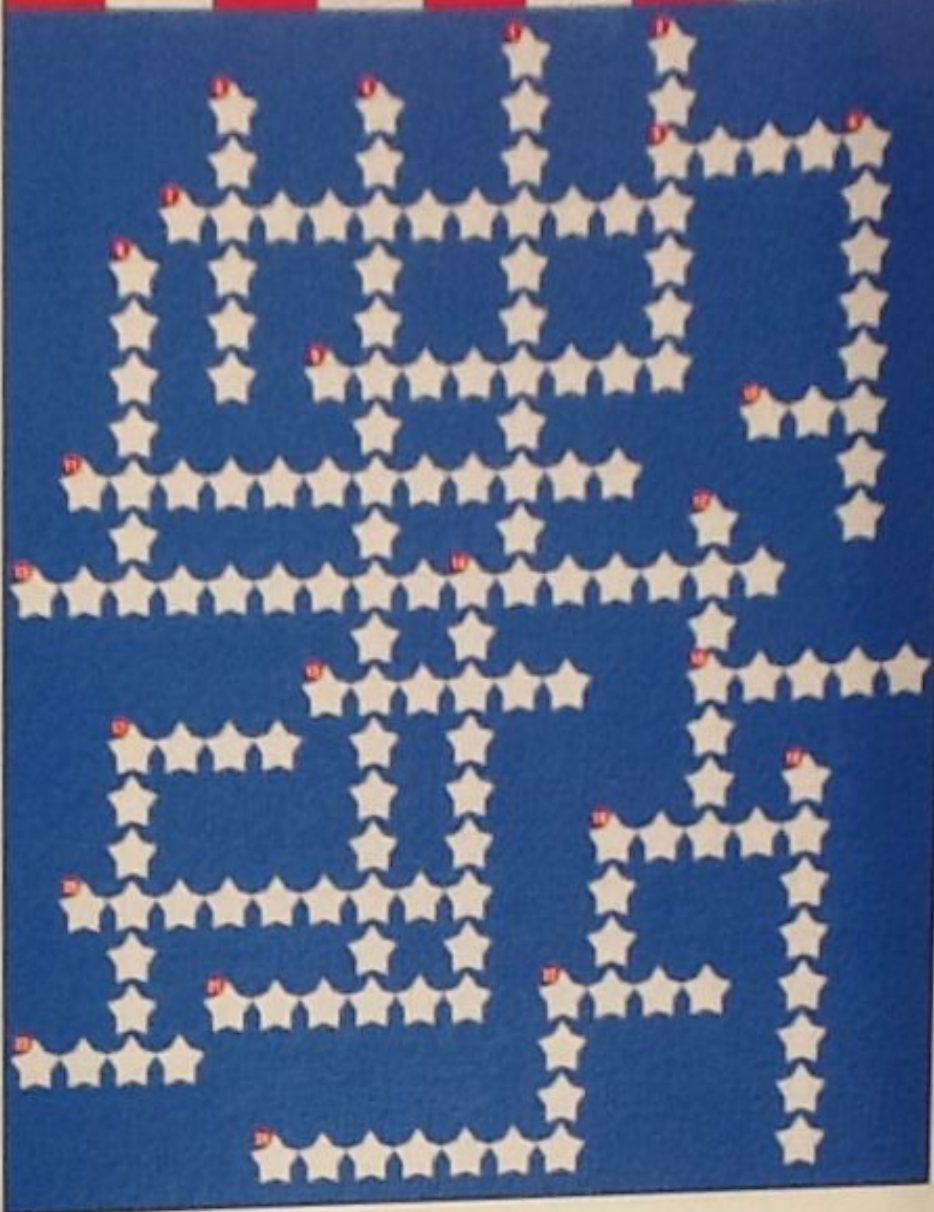
3 Dolley Madison liked to dress up vanilla ice cream with different flavors. One of her recipes calls for mixing apricots into the ice cream. Another involves adding crushed peppermint candies. You can experiment with adding both of these to store-bought vanilla ice cream.

4 Theodore Roosevelt's children used Washington's occasional snowstorms to make snow ice cream. Here's how to recreate the taste. For two servings, mix one cup milk, one teaspoon vanilla, and one teaspoon sugar. Chill two glasses in the freezer. Fill each half full of fresh, clean snow and pour the milk mixture over the snow.

5 Several other presidents have liked ice cream with fresh fruit added. Woodrow Wilson favored strawberries, while Herbert Hoover liked mashed mango mixed with pineapple juice. Which fresh fruits could you add to ice cream?



# D.C. X-WORD



## Down

1. The Nation's Attic
2. Collections of art or artifacts are found here
3. Famous trees along the Tidal Basin
4. Tribute to our first president (2 words)
6. First surveyor of the capital
8. Civil War president
12. French designer of Washington, D.C.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ National Cemetery
17. Washington's main river
18. Explorer honored by D.C.'s name
19. Lawn running from the Capitol to the Washington Monument
22. \_\_\_\_\_ of Rights

## Across

5. National Air and \_\_\_\_\_ Museum
7. Law-making branch of government
9. Tomb of the \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Jima
11. Supreme law of the land
13. Mathematician, astronomer, and assistant to Washington's designer (2 words)
15. First name of person who rescued George Washington's portrait
16. Theater where Lincoln was shot
17. Young employee of Congress
19. Washington's subway
20. Made "White House" the official name of the president's home
21. \_\_\_\_\_ Luther King, Jr.
22. Color of one of the White House's state rooms
23. \_\_\_\_\_ Creek Park
24. \_\_\_\_\_ City—another name for Washington

