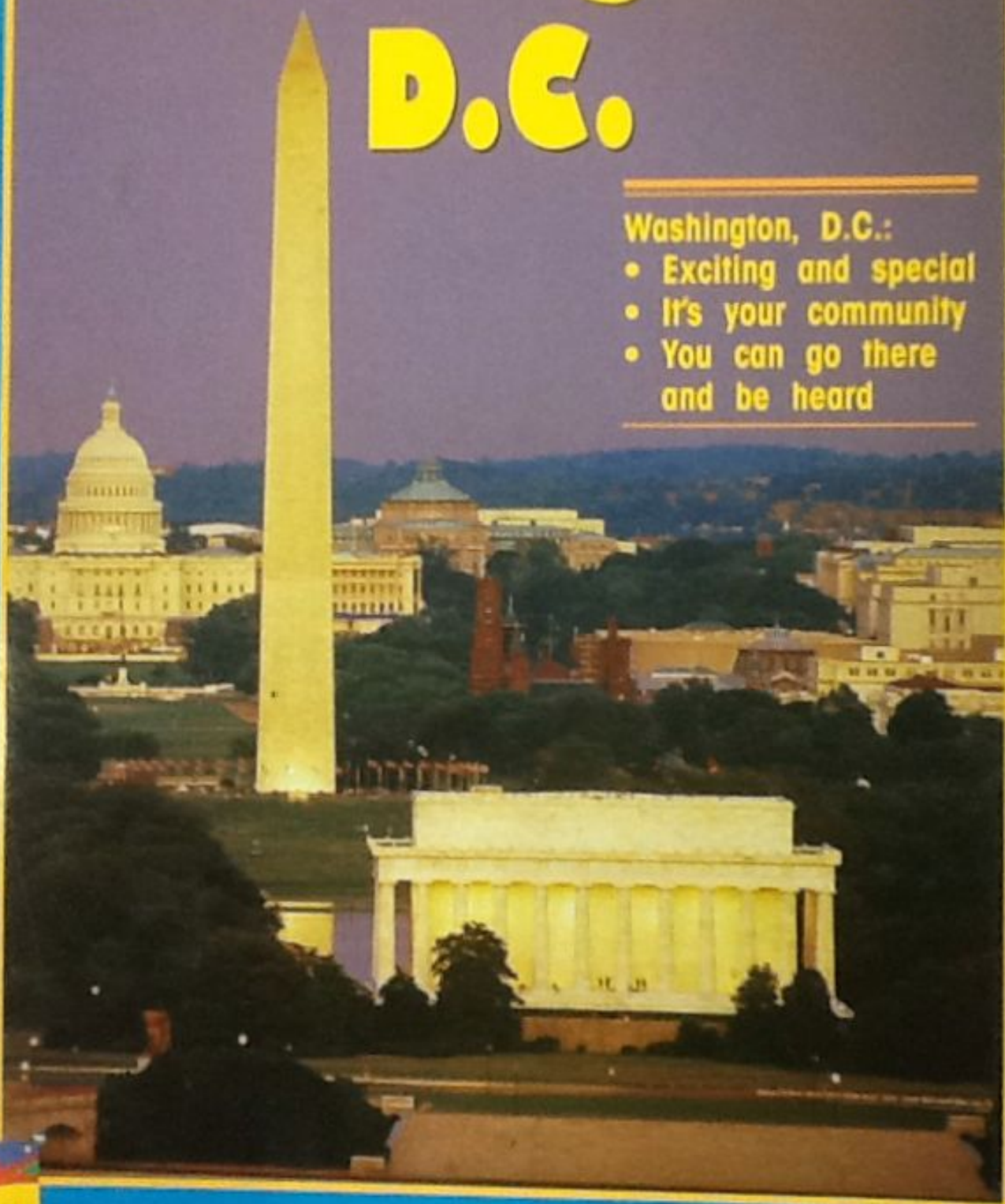


The Community of Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C.:

- Exciting and special
 - It's your community
 - You can go there and be heard
-

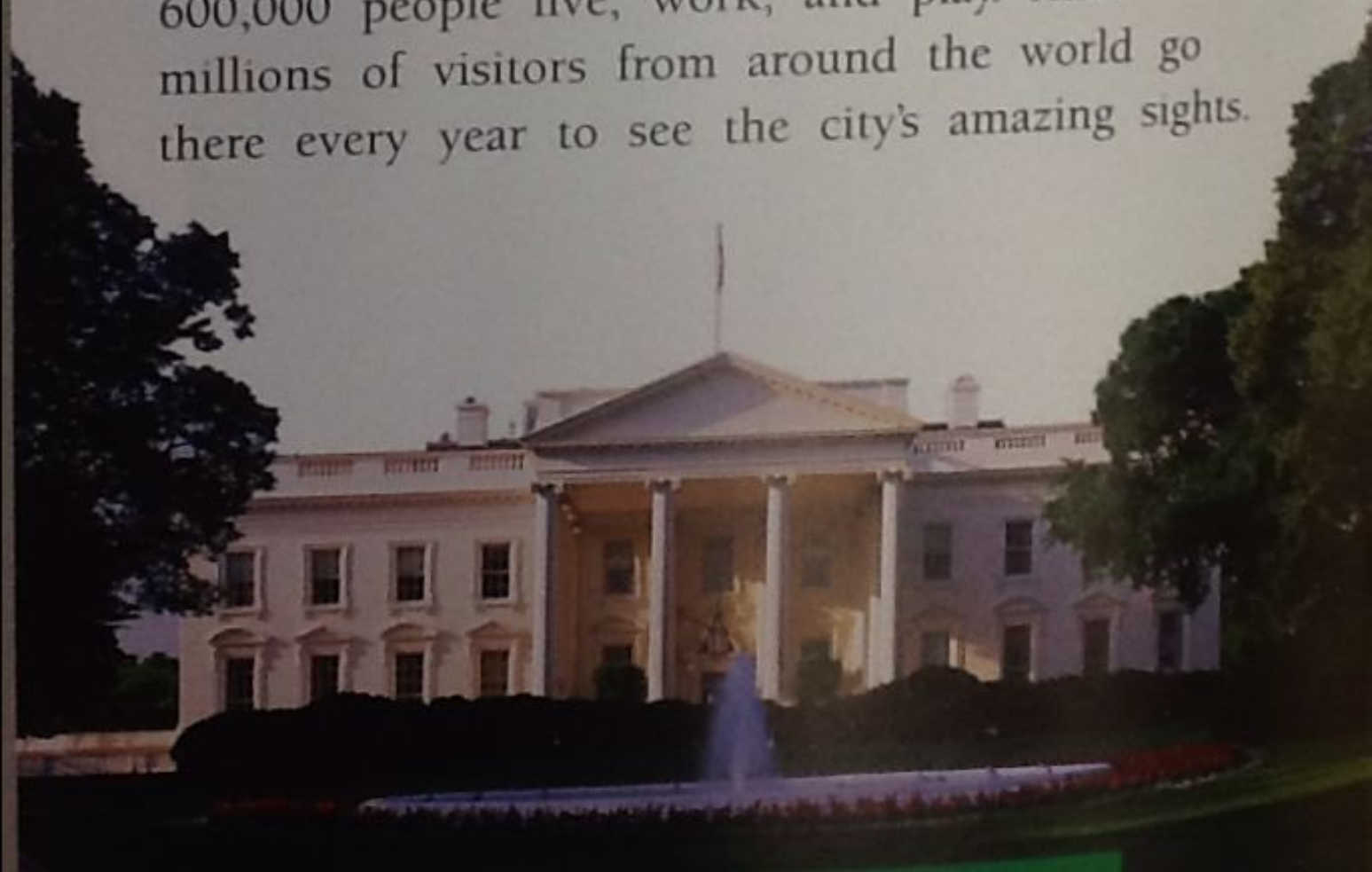


BERNICE RAPPOPORT

Introduction

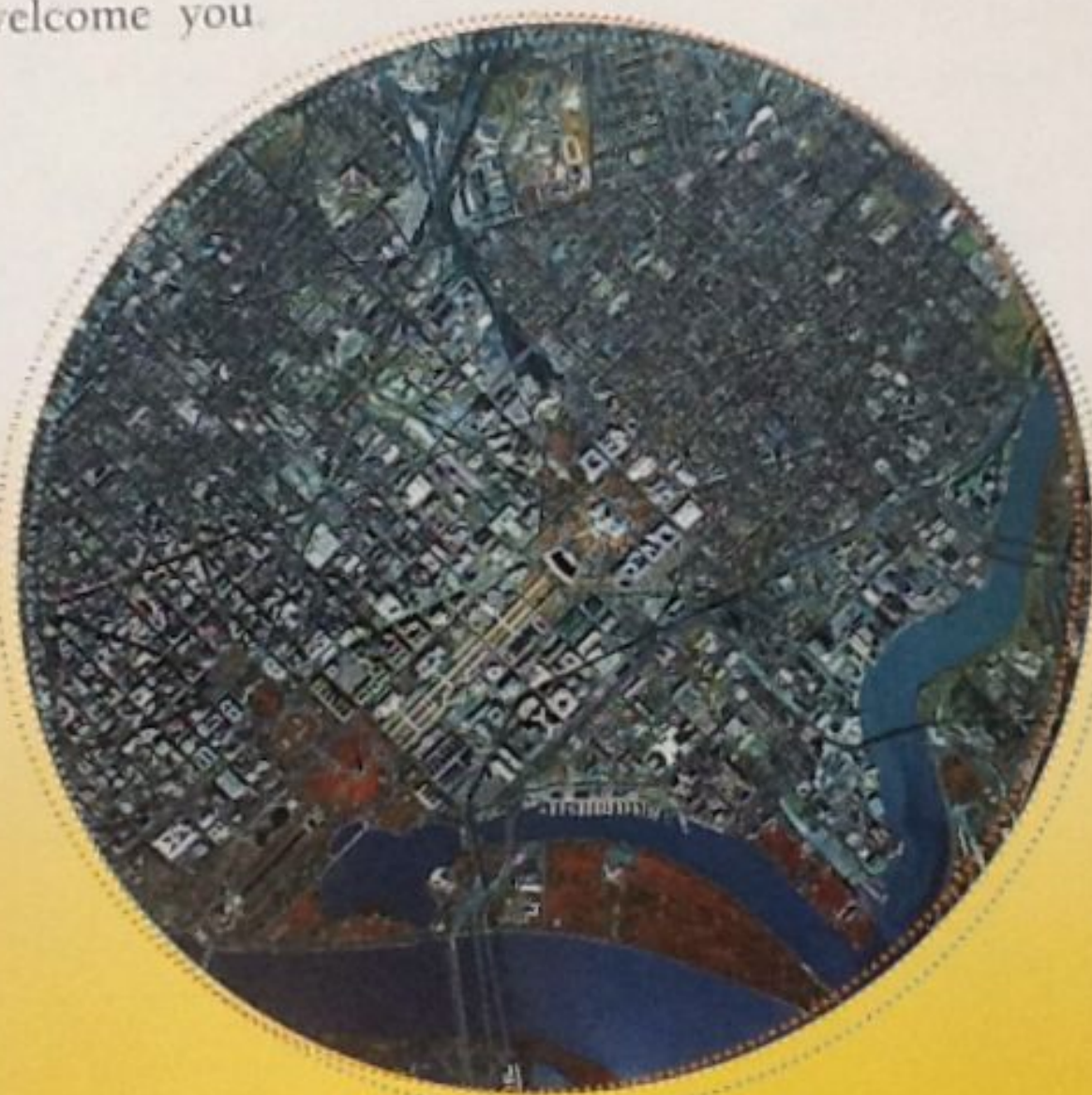
Washington, D.C. is a special city. It's the **capital** (KAH-pih-tuhl) of the United States, home of the government. The president lives there in the White House. People from all over the country go to Washington, D.C. to be heard by government leaders.

Washington, D.C. is also a special **community** (kuh-MYOO-nih-tee), or place. It is where 600,000 people live, work, and play. And millions of visitors from around the world go there every year to see the city's amazing sights.



In this book, you will find out how the city of Washington, D.C. was born and how it grew. You will learn why Washington, D.C. is a community for everyone.

Then, you will explore the sights and sounds of the city today. Let's get started! Washington, D.C. is your city, too, and it is waiting to welcome you.

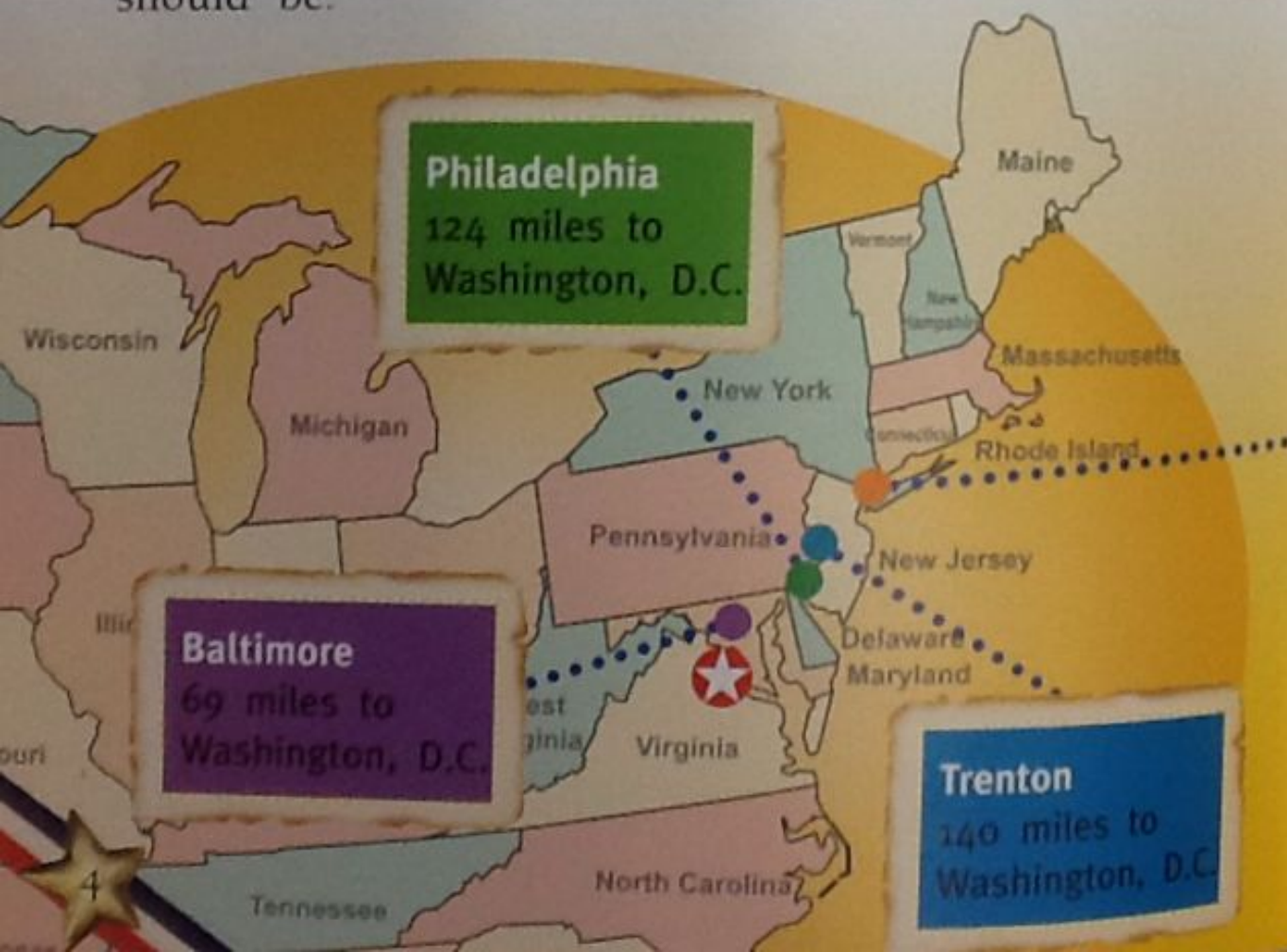


▲ Washington, D.C. is not part of any state.
The initials "D.C." stand for District of Columbia.

A City Is Born

What would you put in the city of your dreams? Would you have highways and airports? Shopping malls and skyscrapers? People did not dream of those things 200 years ago when Washington, D.C. was built.

In 1787, the United States was a brand-new country. The leaders needed one main place to work. But people could not agree on where it should be.



Finally, they chose the middle of the United States. They said that the capital city could not belong to any one state. It would belong to every state.

Leaders asked President George Washington to pick the place. He picked land along the Potomac (puh-TOH-mihk) River. It was between Maryland and Virginia. He believed that the river would help create new businesses.

Many people did not agree with his choice. The place had lots of swamps—soft, wet land. It had no roads, but it had lots of bugs. Some of the bugs could make people sick. The list of “no’s” grew.

New York City
204 miles to
Washington, D.C.

The star shows
the location of
the capital city.

1 Solve This

Use the map on page 4.
How much farther is it
from Washington, D.C. to
New York City than it is
from Washington, D.C. to
Baltimore?

Math Point

What steps did
you take to solve
the problem?

So, President Washington gave his assistant, Tobias Lear (toh-BY-uhs LEER), a special job. Washington asked him to write about the city that wasn't built yet.

Lear wrote that the Potomac River could become a busy place for trade. Lear listed other facts that excited readers about a new city.



▲ Washington, D.C. in 1801

Who would plan the new city? President Washington chose Pierre L'Enfant (pee-AIR lahn-FAHNT). He was a French **architect** (AR-kih-tehkt), a designer of buildings. He had served in Washington's army. L'Enfant's plan had wide streets and parks. It had a long, grassy area called a mall.

Many people were unhappy. This city would cost too much. Also, people did not like working with L'Enfant. In time, he was fired. He took his plans with him.

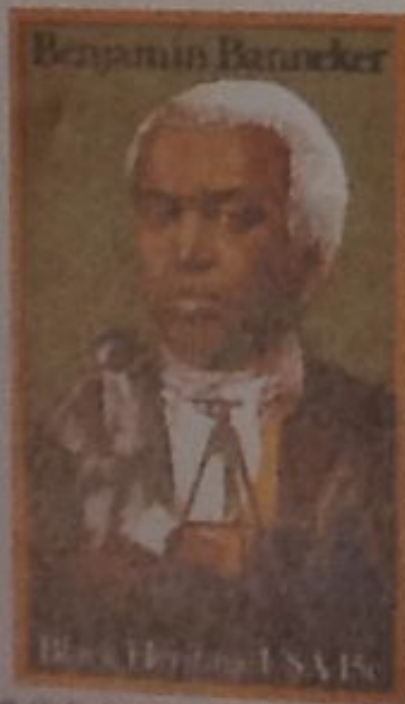
Primary Source

This is L'Enfant's plan. The streets were named for the states.

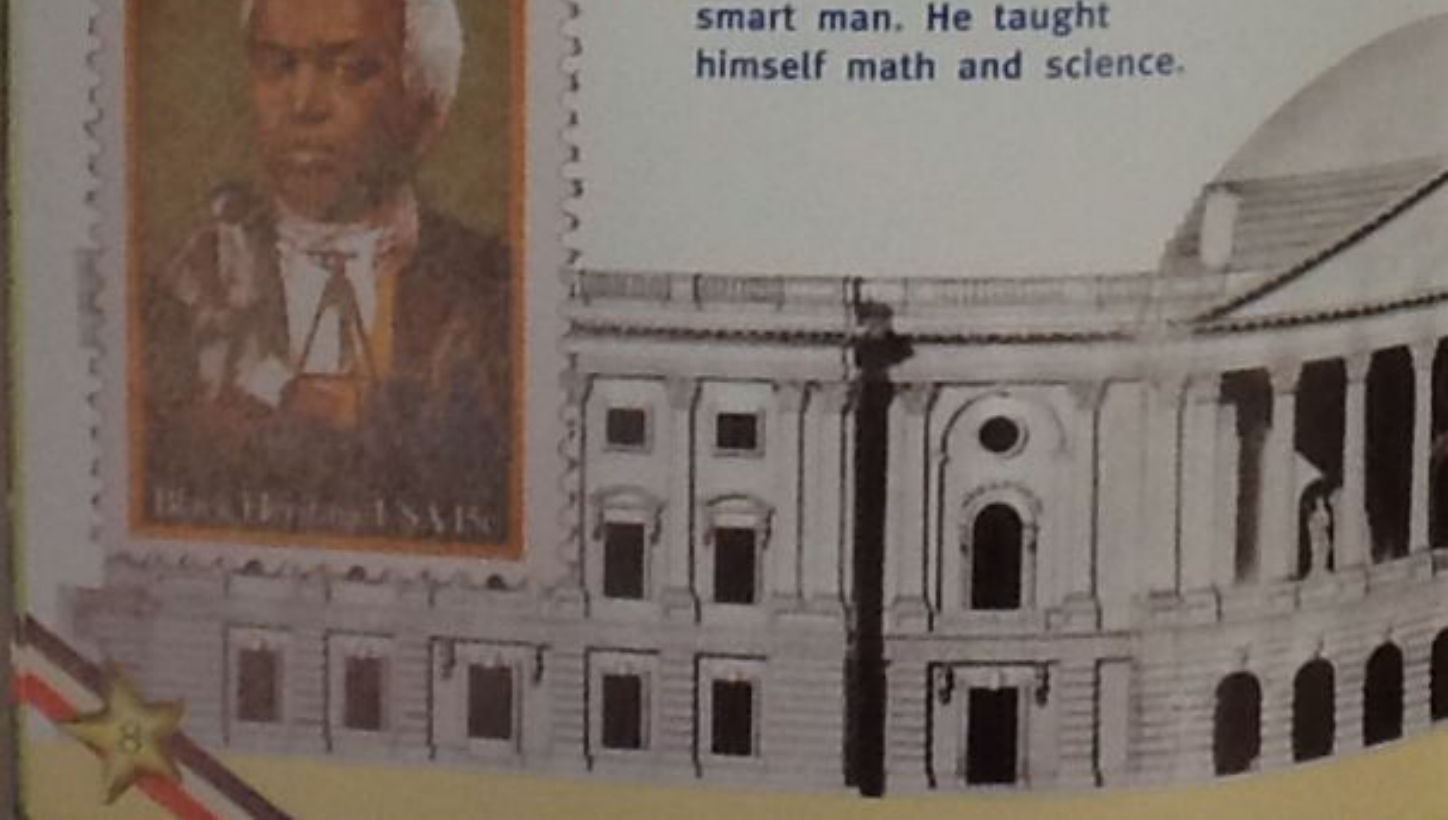


Andrew Ellicott and his assistant, Benjamin Banneker (BEHN-juh-mihn BAN-ih-kuhr) took on the job. They were **surveyors** (suh-VAY-uhrz). They knew how to measure land areas and draw up plans.

But after L'Enfant left, Banneker and Ellicott had a big problem. They did not have the final plan for the new city. So, Banneker drew the plans from memory! He saved the government lots of time and money and made an important contribution to United States history. A postage stamp was made in his honor.



◀ Benjamin Banneker was a smart man. He taught himself math and science.



The capital city was supposed to be ready by 1800. But it wasn't. The work went slowly. That June, about 126 people moved into the city anyway. They were the nation's government workers.

By November, the **Capitol** Building was still not finished. Government leaders worked there while construction went on.

Primary Source

Contests were held for best design for the president's house and the Capitol Building. Here are two ideas for the Capitol. The winning design is at the bottom.



The City Grows

Washington, D.C. was the new center of government. But it did not grow into a big city until the 1870s. The government needed more workers so people moved there to get jobs. Many of the new arrivals were African Americans. Many had been slaves and now were free.

People worked as builders. They got jobs in shops, schools, and hospitals. Still more worked for the government.

Point

Think About It

Imagine that you are one of the first people to move to Washington, D.C. Why have you moved there? Where are you working?



As the city grew, people needed public transportation to get to their jobs. At first, they rode horse-pulled trolleys (TRAH-leez). Later, they rode electric trolleys.



2

Solve This

The chart shows the population of Washington, D.C. between 1800 and 2000.

- Which year shows the greatest population?
- Which years show a loss of population?

Math  Point

How did you use place value to solve this problem?

Year	Population
1800	14,023
1890	230,000
1900	278,000
1920	437,571
1940	663,091
1960	763,956
1980	638,432
2000	572,059

Washington, D.C. has continued to grow. It is one of the biggest cities in the country. Today, more than four million people live in suburbs (SUHB-erbz) near the city. They live in one community and work in another. They play in both!

People in the Washington, D.C. area now travel by bus, car, and train. About 650,000 people ride the Metro every day. The Metro is a fast-moving train. Inside the city it runs underground. Outside the city it runs above the ground.

3 Solve This

Which type of transportation is twice as fast as the horse trolley?

Math Point

Explain how you used the table to solve the problem.


Type	Speed
Horse trolley	5 mph
Electric trolley	10 mph
Metro	30 mph
Car	60 mph

Most jobs in Washington, D.C. are still with the government. But there are many other types of jobs. The chart below shows where people work.

4 Solve This

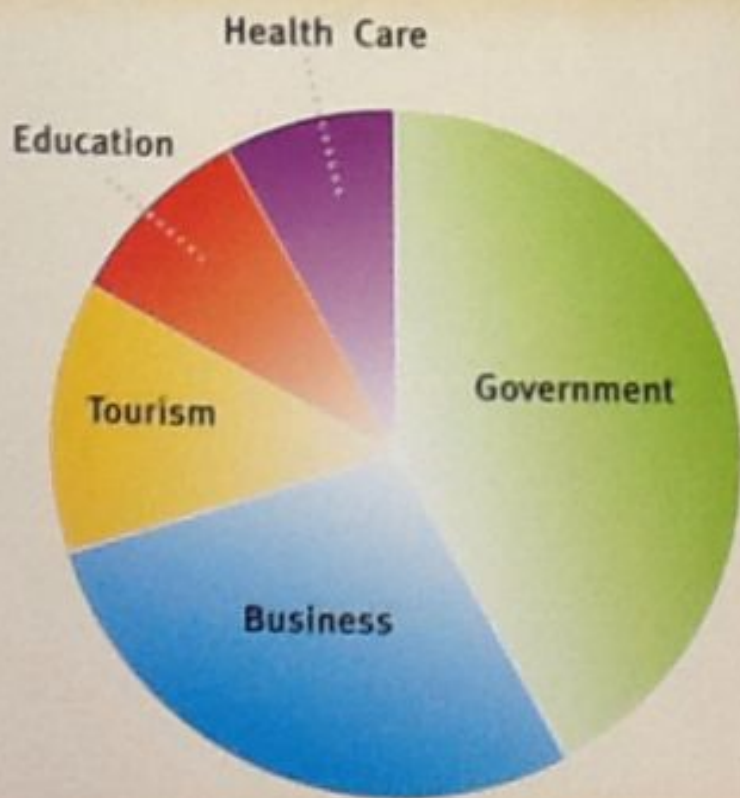
The pie chart shows that most jobs are with the government.

- Which jobs are the second most?
- Are the most jobs in the government, or in all the other places put together?

Math Point  How did you find the answer for b?

Where People Work

The information is from the year 2000.



Visiting the City

Washington, D.C. today is a busy place filled with amazing sights. The city offers countless activities to do indoors and out. Millions of people from all over the world visit each year.

When in Washington, D.C. you can visit buildings where government leaders work. You might get to see some of them in action. Lawmakers meet at the Capitol. The most important judges in the country work in the Supreme Court.



▲ the White House

◀ the Supreme Court Building


Would you like to see how paper money and stamps are printed? Visit the Bureau (BYOO-roh) of Printing and Engraving (ehn-GRAY-vihng). You can see the original Declaration of Independence (deh-klah-RAY-shuhn ov in-dee-PEHN-dehnss) and other important historical papers at the National Archives (AR-kighvz).

5 Solve This

It costs about four cents to make each paper bill. How much does it cost to print 10 one-dollar bills? Ten one-hundred-dollar bills?

Math Point

Does your answer seem reasonable?

The Bureau  of Printing and Engraving produces about 8 million pieces of paper money worth \$100 billion each year.



Washington, D.C. is home to some of the world's finest museums (myoo-ZEE-uhmz). Each has a special focus: history, science, or art.

The Air and Space Museum has more visitors than any museum in the world.

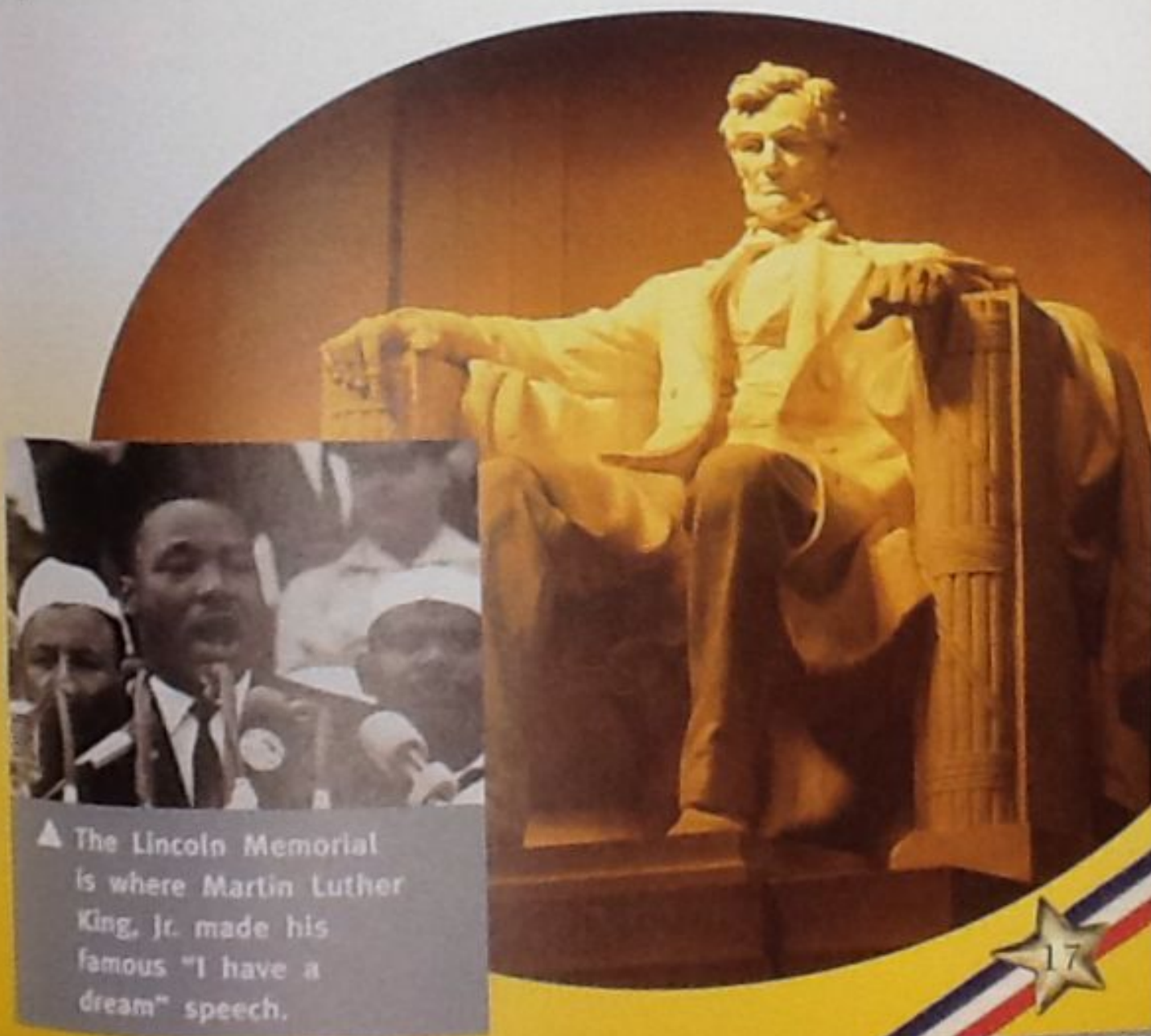


◀ The National Museum of the American Indian is the newest museum in Washington, D.C.



Washington, D.C. has many monuments and memorials. A **monument** (MAHN-yoo-mehnt) is a building that honors people or events. A **memorial** (meh-MOH-ree-uhl) helps people remember men and women who died in different wars.

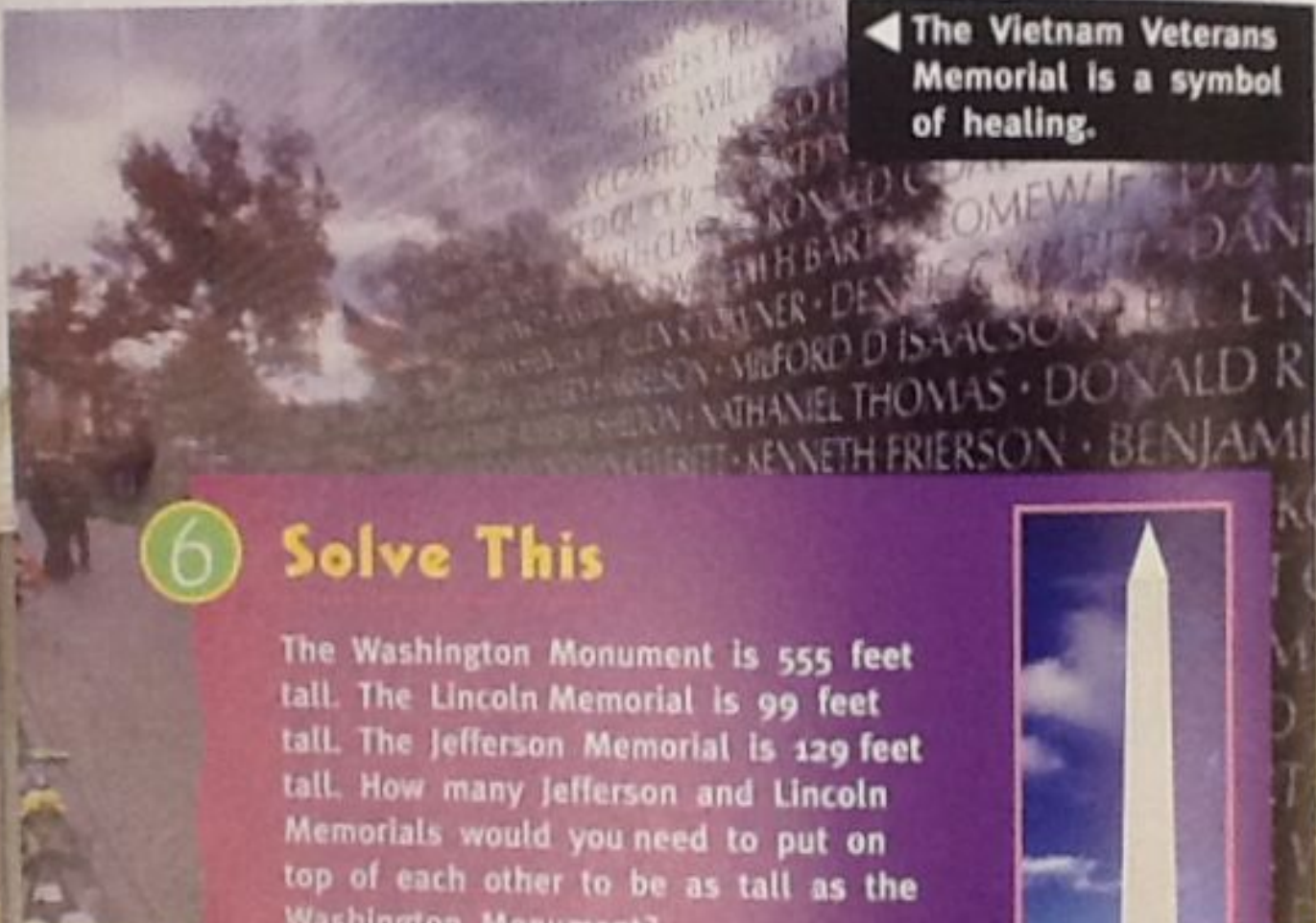
The Lincoln Memorial honors President Abraham Lincoln. He ended slavery in the United States. Many celebrations and protests have taken place here.



▲ The Lincoln Memorial is where Martin Luther King, Jr. made his famous "I have a dream" speech.

The Washington Monument honors George Washington, the first president of the United States. It is taller than any building in the city.

The Vietnam **Veterans** (vee-EHT-nahm VEH-tuhr-ehns) lists the names of all Americans killed in the war or missing in action.



◀ The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is a symbol of healing.

6 Solve This

The Washington Monument is 555 feet tall. The Lincoln Memorial is 99 feet tall. The Jefferson Memorial is 129 feet tall. How many Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials would you need to put on top of each other to be as tall as the Washington Monument?

Math  **Point**

How can you check your work?



The National Mall is often called "America's backyard." It is a long park where people meet. Parades, celebrations, and other special events are held there. And as in any community park, people hang out and have fun.

Many of the most popular places to visit in Washington, D.C. are along the Mall.

The National Mall is a long park between the Capitol and the Washington Monument.

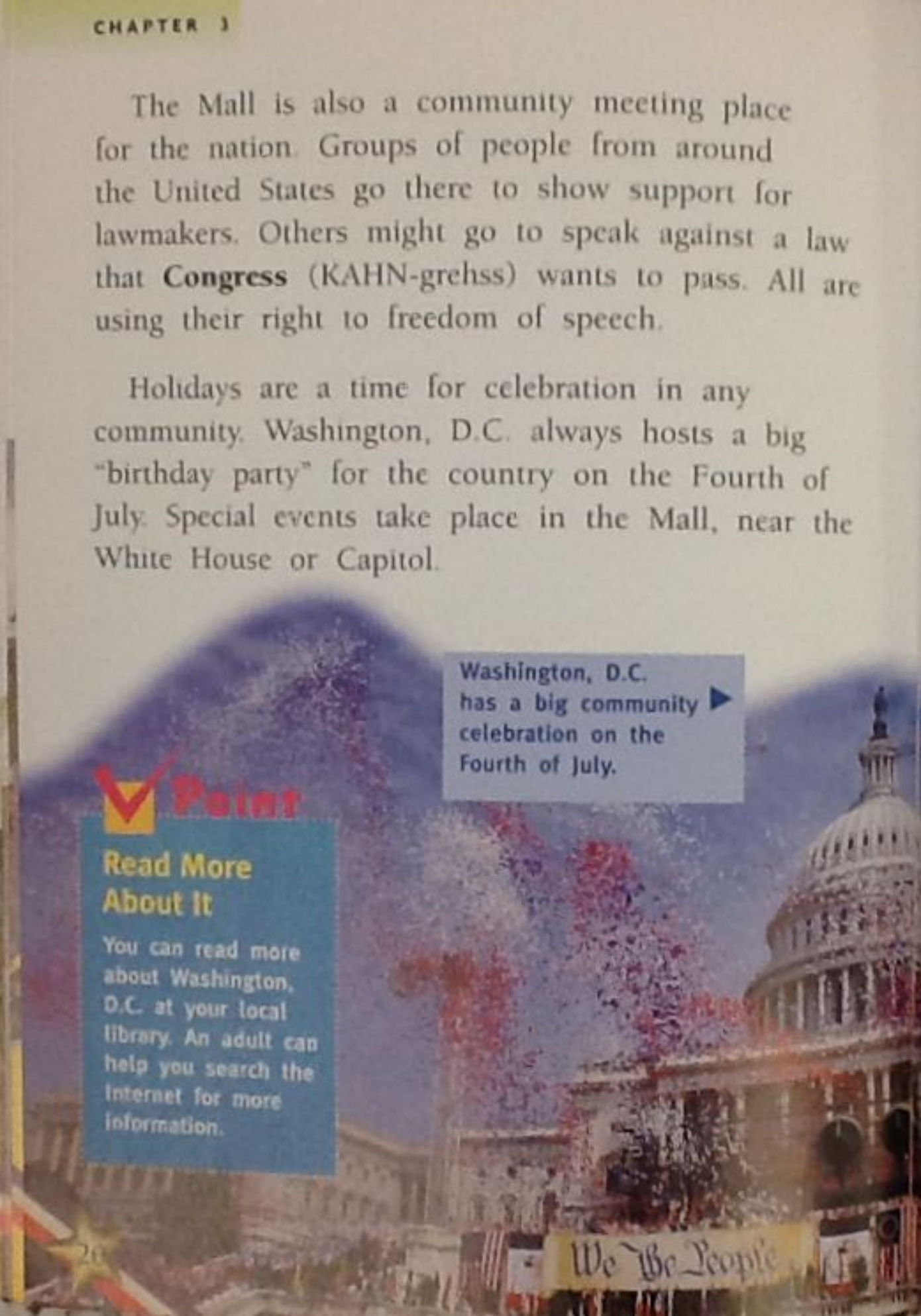


It's a Fact

Not far from the Mall are about 3,000 cherry trees. They were a gift of friendship from Japan.

The Mall is also a community meeting place for the nation. Groups of people from around the United States go there to show support for lawmakers. Others might go to speak against a law that **Congress** (KAHN-grehss) wants to pass. All are using their right to freedom of speech.

Holidays are a time for celebration in any community. Washington, D.C. always hosts a big "birthday party" for the country on the Fourth of July. Special events take place in the Mall, near the White House or Capitol.



Washington, D.C.
has a big community
celebration on the
Fourth of July.

Point

Read More About It

You can read more about Washington, D.C. at your local library. An adult can help you search the Internet for more information.

We Be People

Conclusion

The city of Washington, D.C. does not belong to any one state. But it is a place where anyone who visits can feel at home.

This map shows some of the places you read about. Use it to tell a friend why the capital of the United States is everyone's community.

