

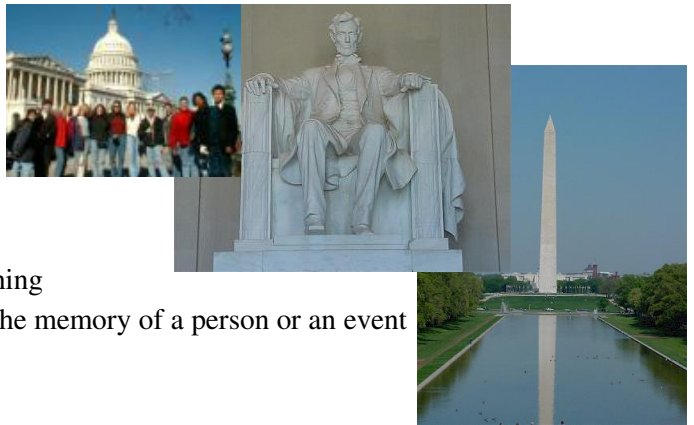
# Washington D.C.

## Pre-reading

Questions: What do you know about Washington D.C.?  
What would you like to know about it?

Definitions: Symbolize – to represent or stand for something  
Memorial – something that serves to honor the memory of a person or an event  
Chamber – an enclosed place

## Reading



16 Surrounded by the states of Maryland and Virginia on the Potomac River is our nation’s capital,  
34 Washington D.C. It is named after the first President of the United States, George Washington. The city is  
51 the central hub of our national government. It is also a place of rich history and beauty.  
68 Washington D.C. is home to the highest governing bodies in the U.S. The centers of all three  
84 branches of government are housed in the city. The Senate and House of Representatives, the legislative  
101 branch, make laws at the Capitol. The U.S. Supreme Court Judges are housed in the Supreme Court  
118 Building. This judicial branch of government enforces the law. The President of the U.S. lives and works  
134 with his staff at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, more commonly known as the White House. This executive  
138 branch interprets the law.  
154 Washington D.C. is also the site of many national landmarks and museums. Tourists from all over  
176 the world visit the city each year. The National Mall is a large, open area in the center of the city. It  
183 features many famous **monuments** to American leaders.  
200 At the west end of the Mall is the Washington Monument. This four-sided stone structure honors  
219 the “founding father” of the United States, George Washington. The first stone was laid on July 4, 1848. It  
242 opened to the public in the fall of 1888. In total, there are 36,491 stones. At 555 feet 5 1/8 inches high, the  
260 Washington Monument towers over everything in the city. It is one of the tallest masonry structures in the  
261 world.  
277 Fifty flags, symbols of the fifty states, surround the base of the Monument. An elevator takes  
295 visitors to the top of the structure where windows offer views of landmarks such as the Lincoln Memorial,  
302 the White House and the Capitol building.  
316 The Lincoln Memorial, built between 1914 and 1922, honors Abraham Lincoln, our 16<sup>th</sup> President.  
335 He was President during the Civil War (1861-1865). The theme of the building represents the Union. The  
353 columns surrounding the walls symbolize the 36 states in the Union at the time of Lincoln’s death. The  
373 names of the 48 states in the Union (when the memorial was completed in 1922) are carved on the walls  
379 along the outside of the memorial.  
394 The inside chamber contains a statue of Lincoln. He is seated facing the Washington Monument  
414 and the Capitol. The statue of Lincoln is 19 feet high and weighs 175 tons. The chamber also houses two  
430 huge stone tables. One is engraved with Lincoln’s Second Inaugural Address, and the other with the  
443 Gettysburg Address. Two large murals portray Lincoln’s principles of freedom, justice and unity.  
458 The Reflecting Pool is located on the Mall between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln  
477 Memorial. This 2000 by 160 foot pool contains 7 million gallons of water. It offers a beautiful place for  
490 reflection on our country’s past, and allows one to ponder our country’s future.

## Understanding

1. Who is described as the “founding father” of the U.S.? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the three branches of government? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Where is each branch housed? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does each branch do? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. How many states joined the Union after Lincoln’s death? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does the word **monument** mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What’s the difference in meaning between capital and capitol? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is one of the most famous street addresses in the U.S.? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_

## Writing

Option A: Summarize the reading in your own words.

Option B: Write about a place you would like to visit in the nation’s capital. Why that place?

Option C: If you’ve visited or lived in Washington D.C, write about what you liked or didn’t like about the city.

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