

Jamestown, Williamsburg, Washington, D.C. 2k22!



Well #Padawans, #Untouchables, #Explorers, #Romans, #Serfs4Life, #ThirdEstate, #Davis7, it is now time for us to explore some of the destinations for our 7th Grade Trip. This year, we are going to Jamestown, VA, Williamsburg, VA, and Washington, DC! We're going to spend the next week and change preparing ourselves for that journey and to learn some background about the nation's first permanent English settlement, first colonial capital, and our nation's capital!



Jamestown, Virginia. Est. 1607

As we've talked about earlier this year, there was an Age of Exploration. That Age of Exploration eventually turned into an era of colonization. A **colony** is a group of people living in an area that is politically or socially connected to a homeland or parent nation. In 1606 two companies were established [**London** and **Virginia**] to set forth a new era in European exploration – permanent colonization.

For England, Jamestown -- the first successful permanent colony, was the opening of the Columbian Exchange for *their* nation. England saw Spain and Portugal's success in Florida, the Caribbean, and South America and wanted their shot at colonization. Now, England had the chance to make a profit from the newly founded lands of the Americas. The colony was sponsored by the Virginia Company of London, a group of investors who hoped to profit from the experiment. It was a **joint-stock company**. People in England invested money in the company to create a colony and if the company does well and the colony makes a profit, *they* do well, and if the company does poorly, *they* lose money. The purpose of the Virginia colony was to make money, spread English beliefs and customs, and to open up trade to the western hemisphere.



In April 1607, 105 colonists and 39 sailors crowded together in three small sailing ships finally arrived in present-day Jamestown. The three ships the colonists traveled on were the *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery*, and their journey would travel nearly 7400 miles. They departed from England in December 1606 and reached the Virginia coast in late April 1607. Think about the hardships these settlers faced as they travelled thousands of miles across a vast ocean to start a new life...Think about how difficult the journey across the ocean was. They ate salted meat and fish. They ate a hardtack biscuit and immediately threw away the rancid cheese and butter they brought along with them. Even the drinking water, after a few weeks in storage, stank so much that man had to hold his breath in order to swallow it.

We will visit Jamestown and discover what life was like in the 1600s. We will see replicas of Native American housing, the Jamestown fort, the ships that brought the settlers over to the “new world”, and daily life in colonial America.



If the colonists only knew what they were in for when they set up their “settlement” they might have just turned back and gone home. They arrived at present-day Jamestown and they had to *build* a settlement. There were no established homes, roads, trails, etc. *They* needed to build a fort, homes, EVERYTHING! They set up a triangular fort-like settlement along the river next to a malaria-infested swamp without adequate freshwater. They didn’t realize at the time the water was contaminated, so they found out the hard way.

The London Company (logos above) sent a few craftsmen, one blacksmith, two bricklayers, one mason, one surgeon, and a sailmaker. They were hardly experienced travelers. The colonists failed to bring enough tools to build their homes too! Most men did nothing but search for gold in their first few months thinking they would find riches and then be able to sail back to England. Because of this obsession to find riches and spices, which did not exist in this area, they were ill-prepared for the months to come. They didn’t find gold. They didn’t find riches. They were not used to the climate. They struggled to find food. They had it rough...Are you excited to go now?

While many settlers at Jamestown worked, just as many did not, making it a rough beginning for the settlers and eventually they began fighting the local Native American tribe as well (the Powhatan tribe). At first, the Powhatan tribe looked at these foreigners with both fear and intrigue. Never before had these natives seen a white person. They had never seen people on massive ships, with metal tools, dressed the way they were...They looked at these people as aliens. Smith traveled up the river and eventually met the chief of the Powhatan. Trade relations were then established, but they were not good ones. In those first few months, whites invaded Powhatan villages and stole food from the natives. In the first violent instance, the Powhatan surrounded the village where 11 Englishmen were wounded, one boy was killed, and the colonists were struck with fear. Once John Smith took over, better relations were made and the natives helped the colonists plant crops and find food.



The name “John Smith” has become somewhat legendary over the years. The 27 year old colonist of Virginia may have led Jamestown, but he was once a noisome apprentice. Captain John Smith became the colony’s leader in September 1608. He was the fourth leader of the colony and he was a tough leader. Smith saw the laziness of the nobles and settlers at Jamestown and he established a “**no work, no food**” policy. “*Those who shall not work, shall not eat*” were Smith’s words. Smith had been instrumental in trading with the Powhatan Indians for food. By Winter 1607, 50 English colonists died at the hands of the natives either by attack or held as captives.

In December 1607, Smith and a dozen men were hunting along the river when natives surprised attacked. They killed two men and captured John Smith. Taken from small village to village, Smith was a high profile catch because of his importance to Jamestown. As Powhatan warriors were about to club Smith's head, the 13 year-old Pocahontas intervened. Smith's life was spared and he would later return to Jamestown and trade relations would be restored. However, in the fall of 1609 Smith was injured by burning gunpowder and left for England. Smith never returned to Virginia, but promoted colonization of North America until his death in 1631 and published numerous accounts of the Virginia colony, providing invaluable material for historians.



In the winter of 1609-1610 the temperatures dropped to staggeringly low temperatures. Rats, too, ate much of the stored food. This was considerably ironic since rats were *not* native to North America. The rats who ate the English settlers' food were unwanted visitors brought by the ships themselves. John Smith had also gone back to England because he was in a gunpowder accident in the settlement and needed to be medically treated for his injuries. Smith would never return to Jamestown. Because of his absence, leadership faltered. Known as the “**Starving Time**” the settlers had little food, failed to grow any adequate crops, and were

drinking bad water. Trade relations with the Powhatans went poorly because of recent skirmishes and a drought hit the area. The Powhatan refused to trade with the settlers and this contributed to their demise.

A ship was supposed to resupply the settlers in early 1610, but the ship wrecked near Bermuda. Starvation led to sickness and things got so bad in the colony that men resorted to eating rats, chickens, cows, horses, shoe leather, and tree bark. Things got SO bad that the men began robbing the graves of their fellow settlers. Yes. Cannibalism...

Jamestown had 500 settlers in the colony in September 1609, but by Spring 1610 there were only 60 people left... Just when the colonists decided to abandon Jamestown in Spring 1610, settlers with supplies arrived from England, eager to find wealth in Virginia. This group of new settlers arrived under the second charter issued by King James I. This charter provided for stronger leadership under a governor who served with a group of advisors, and the introduction of a period of military law that carried harsh punishments for those who did not obey.

When the English arrived in 1607, they were not the only inhabitants of the territory. About 14,000 Algonquin Indians, the Powhatan, comprised about 30 different groups of natives in the area. Their head chief,



Wahunsonacock, was their primary leader. The Powhatan lived in villages with houses built with the reeds and sticks in the area. They did NOT live in teepees. The Powhatan hunted deer, they fished, and they farmed corn, squash and beans. Most of their clothing was made of deerskin and their tools were mainly made of bone and wood. When the English arrived, their trade expanded and the natives mainly received metal tools, glass, and small trinkets.

The land the English chose for Jamestown already belonged to someone else. Most of the area of Virginia where Jamestown is located are flowing rivers and small waterfalls. The tribe here: The Powhatan, had been in the region since Rome ruled the earth. They fished, they farmed, and they hunted and they gathered from the land. The image to the left is a yehakin, where the Powhatan lived. A Yehakin is *not* a tipi.



A yehakin is a hut-like structure built with reeds, sticks, and grass to look like a permanent structure. Inside the Yehakin is where Powhatan families lived. The walls were lined with animal furs/hides, benches/beds were erected inside so that people would not sleep on the floor, and a fire pit was often created in the center of the structure for cooking and warmth. You can see a number of tools, weapons, and hides inside this yehakin.

As the English settlements slowly spread further inward and upriver, the Powhatans were forced to move away from the fertile lands they once called their homes. This created conflict. In 1613, the colonists took Chief Powhatan's daughter hostage. She was Pocahontas. Hoping to trade her for English prisoners held by the tribes, the English refused her freedom and finally, her father refused to negotiate. Pocahontas would remain in the English village. She befriended John Rolfe, and the two married in 1614. Her marriage with John Rolfe created a short-lived peace between the two and she would even travel to England with Rolfe where she gave birth to a child, but later died in 1617. This is Pocahontas in the image to the right...She doesn't *look* like a Native American...?



The worst incident between the two peoples happened in 1622. After Chief Powhatan's death, his brother took leadership of the Indians in the eastern part of Virginia, and he ordered an attack on the white settlement. Colonists had been stealing crops and goods from the natives for years and when leadership changed in 1622 so, too, did the views on the relationship between the settlers and natives.

The attack began on the English tobacco farms and settlements. More than 300 settlers were killed and the massacre as it was called resulted in the English retaliating. The English took revenge by burning the natives' corn stocks, destroying canoes and houses, and breaking all of their fishing equipment. The English also took a more aggressive measure to defend white settlements and for the next ten years white settlers continued to encroach on the Powhatans' lands...



A colony needs to either make money or export something of value to the parent-nation in order to be successful. In order to make some money for the Virginia Company, settlers tried a number of small industries, including glassmaking, wood production, and pitch and tar and potash manufacture.

In 1613, John Rolfe brought with him a Spanish tobacco seed that would become the first cash crop for the Jamestown settlement. Rolfe, who later married Powhatan's daughter Pocahontas, was the first to establish a profitable product for England. Growing tobacco required large amounts of **land**

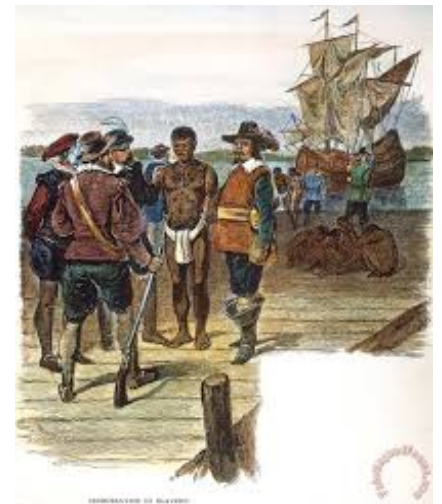
and **labor**. This new crop led to a rapid growth of the Virginia colony. Settlers moved onto the lands occupied by the Powhatan Indians, and increased numbers of indentured servants came to Virginia.

To meet the demand for cheap labor, the colony began importing Africans. The first documented Africans in Virginia arrived in 1619, where 19 Africans arrived in Jamestown via a Dutch Warship. They were from Angola, West Central Africa, and had been captured during war with the Portuguese. While these first Africans may have been treated as indentured servants at first, the practice of owning Africans as slaves for life appeared by the mid 1600s when the first slave laws were written in the colony. The number of African slaves increased significantly in the second half of the 17th century, replacing indentured servants as the primary source of labor

By the early 1700s, the Virginia Assembly (the colonial government) had passed a set of Black Codes, or slave laws, which institutionalized life-long slavery and stipulated that offspring of a female inherited their enslaved status from their mother.

Other Slave Codes/Laws in Jamestown, VA

1. 1662 - Slavery officially recognized by law
2. 1662 - Children born to a slave mother inherently become slaves
3. 1670 - Blacks or Indians could no longer own white indentured servants
4. 1680 - Anti-insurrection act passed punishing slaves who rebelled
5. 1680 - Blacks could no longer congregate in large numbers or remain at another plantation for longer than 4 hours
6. 1692 - Negroes must give up ownership of horses, cattle, or hogs



Since Jamestown was the first successful permanent English colony, it is not surprising that they had another first in 1619. The first representative government in British America began at Jamestown in 1619 at the **House of Burgesses**. A burgess is simply a big word for a representative. This means Jamestown had a house of representatives.



These colonists met at the request of settlers who wanted input in the laws governing them. Because it was hard to receive information from Great Britain, the colonists wanted their own local laws and this House of Burgesses created them. The building to the right of this paragraph is the House of Burgesses building that we will see at Williamsburg.



Colonial Williamsburg®



Another destination on our 7th grade trip will be to Colonial Williamsburg. This is the town of Williamsburg, VA, preserved as it would have been in the 1600-1700s. Here, the **FIRST** colonial government was established in the **House of Burgesses** building. Williamsburg was a town of blacksmiths, cloth makers, wigmakers, soldiers, farmers, tanners, hat makers, pub owners, taverns, printers and paper makers, and other smaller stores...

At one point in the 1700s, Williamsburg was the most important town in the 13 colonies, in the largest colony, Virginia. Williamsburg is home to the College of William and Mary and to the Virginia colonial government run by George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, James Monroe, James Madison, and George Wythe.

[Williamsburg/Intro Video](#)

Williamsburg was probably one of the most modern towns of the colonial era. From the 1600s-1700s, Williamsburg thrived socially, economically, and politically. Williamsburg had an apothecary (hospital/druggist), gunsmiths, blacksmiths, brickmakers, milliners (clothing), farmers, furniture-making, cobblers, carpenters, lawyers, doctors, printers, tailors, silversmiths, wheelwrights, gardeners, and wigmakers.



Some of the people who lived in Williamsburg were America's Founding Fathers: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, George Wythe, Benedict Arnold (traitor!), Patrick Henry, Marquis de Lafayette, James Monroe, Martha Washington and Richard Henry Lee.

Colonial Williamsburg was a vibrant colonial **city**. It was also an important place during the American Revolution. In 1750, the British Empire in America included almost two million free and unfree Europeans and Africans living in 23 different colonies from Newfoundland to Jamaica. Most people don't realize that it wasn't *just* 13 colonies in America.

The British were not alone: French, Spanish, and Native American empires *competed* with the British for control of North America. The resulting clash of empires from 1754 to 1763 was a global conflict that created a British American world unprecedented in its size, the diversity of the nations it contained, and in the potential for conflicts among its peoples. At Williamsburg, men like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, James Monroe, George Wythe, and James Madison began developing their radical opinions of separation from the British crown...

For most of the 1700s, the majority of colonial Americans considered themselves English and Virginians or Marylanders or Pennsylvanians or New Englanders first, and Americans second. Colonists were very proud to call themselves Englishmen, however they felt a certain independence in how they lived their lives. They did not think of themselves as “Americans” quite yet. The people of Williamsburg struggled with issues of slavery, religion and hierarchical social structure. They also shared cultural standards such as language, manners, and material expectations with such strength that it took the American Revolution to divide them.

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C. gets its name from both George Washington & Christopher Columbus. The first white settlements in the area was in 1699 by English colonists. Until 1790, the territory was simply a part of the Maryland and Virginia colonies. In the **Compromise of 1790** between northern and southern states just after the Constitution was written, the territory of Washington was created as the nation's capital.



Washington DC would be the keystone (center point) in between both geographical areas of the nation (North and South). George Washington himself signed the bill into law creating the nation's capital city. While president, Washington never lived in Washington, D.C. The nation's capital *was* New York City and *then* Philadelphia but in July 1790 construction began on the *new* city that would be the *new* capital of the U.S.

Washington, D.C. has quite the history. John Adams became the first president to *live* in the city when he moved into the president's mansion in November 1800. James Madison became the first president to flee the city because of a foreign invasion when the British marched in and torched the city in 1814. In the early 1800s, slavery was a popular trade within the nation's capital and would eventually be outlawed in 1850. During the Civil War, Washington was under military control to prevent southerners from invading the capital.

Washington, D.C. is home to the Congress, the Supreme Court, the president, elected officials, Cabinet members, diplomats, and ambassadors from foreign nations. There are over 100 museums and monuments within the city. Most of the city is actually owned and managed by the National Park Service and the city has witnessed many historical events.

Other than being home to the U.S. government, DC is home to the [Smithsonian Institution](#). When you visit the Smithsonian, you're entering the world's largest museum, education, and research complex. Created in 1846 by [James Smithson](#) and President James K. Polk, the Smithsonian Institution is a set of museums created and managed by the federal government. When Polk signed the law creating the museum it was set up to be a series of libraries and museums: *"for the increase and diffusion of knowledge," is a group of museums and research centers administered by the Government of the United States"*



Some of the Smithsonian Museums listed below...



African American Museum



African Art Museum
950 Independence Avenue



Air and Space Museum



Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center



American Art Museum

8th and F Streets, NW



American History Museum

14th Street and Constitution



Natural History Museum



Portrait Gallery

8th and F Streets, NW



Postal Museum

2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE

Some cool exhibits presented by the Smithsonian that you may not think about...
(You don't *need* to click on these...Just wanted to share 'em!)

[Superheroes!](#)

[Hip-Hop History](#)

[March Madness](#)

[History of Women's Suffrage](#)

[African-Americans Fighting in World War I](#)

[The American Buffalo: Artwork](#)

[Neil Armstrong's Spacesuit that Landed On the Moon](#)

[The Space Race of the 1950s-1960s](#)



[Mount Vernon](#), the home of George Washington!

Little is known about George Washington's childhood. There are those popular fables that he chopped down a cherry tree and that he never told a lie. I doubt either of those are true. What kid doesn't lie??? As a child, Washington had **very little education**. He was taught by private tutors, but he really only learned basic subjects of reading, writing, and mathematics. After Washington's father died, he received little education afterwards and he last attended school at the age of 15.



Between the ages of 17-21, Washington became a land surveyor in Virginia. A **surveyor** is someone who examines/measures the land to mark off boundaries, borders, or markings. George Washington (1732-99) then fought in the French & Indian war against the French and Indians in the 1750s.

Mount Vernon is the home of George Washington. Overlooking the majestic Potomac River, Washington and his wife were exceptionally blessed both financially and politically. Built in 1735 by his half-brother, Washington himself acquired the home in 1754 and slowly turned it into a 21 room residence.

George Washington began running Mount Vernon in 1754, and over the next 45 years slowly enlarged the dwelling to create the 21-room residence we see today. Washington supervised each renovation, advising on design, construction, and decoration, despite being away much of the time.

After the French and Indian War he was commander in chief of the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War (1775-83) and served two terms as the first U.S. president, from 1789 to 1797. During the American Revolution, he led the colonial forces to victory over the British and became a national hero. Washington was America's most respected general in the Revolutionary War and he defeated some of Great Britain's largest army forces.

From 1775-1776 the 13 colonies created a small government where members from each colony met in Philadelphia to discuss the troubles in the colonies. This was called the Second Continental Congress. At the Second Continental Congress meeting in 1775-1776, Washington showed up to the meeting in his military uniform. He showed up in this uniform to prove that *he* was a *leader* and that his military leadership would be important to the colonists who wanted to revolt against Great Britain. Within months of the meeting, Washington was unanimously selected to lead the new "Continental Army" of the colonists. He then went to Boston to lead this army to victory over the British in 1775-1776.

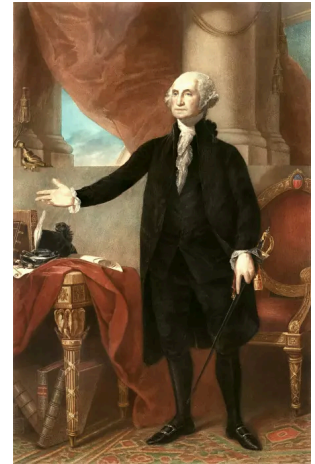
While in Boston, Washington was joined with some Native Americans, freed blacks, and colonists from New England and his home colony of Virginia. Washington was not commanding an "army". He commanded "citizens" who wanted to fight for independence from Great Britain. During the Revolutionary War, Washington led his troops to victory in battles against the British at Princeton & Trenton, New Jersey when his men famously crossed the Delaware River on Christmas Night, 1776. (the picture) When his men surprised the British and Hessian (German) troops the next day it proved that he was brilliant military strategist and he even hired spies to send messages and steal information regarding the British.

In 1781, Washington led his forces against the largest British army and defeated them in Yorktown, Virginia. Washington was *the* leader who *won* the Revolutionary War.



After the Revolutionary War, in 1787, Washington retired from everything. He said he no longer wanted to serve and that he wished to retire. Two years later, Washington was elected president of a convention in Philadelphia that wrote the U.S. Constitution. Two years later, Washington became America's first president. Washington knew as the first president of the United States that he had a tough job.

No one had ever been president of a nation. He did not have a predecessor, so there were not any real *rules* or guidelines for how to be the President of the United States. He had to determine which nations to be friends with: France or Great Britain. Washington had to determine how to put down an angry rebellion of farmers in Pennsylvania in 1794. Washington had to figure out how to manage a new nation. He was tasked with something very few people have ever been tasked with: **Leading a brand new nation for the first time.** Washington often regarded as one of the nation's greatest leaders, and some say he set the bar for the Presidency. Since *no one* had ever been president, he had to literally create the presidency.



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Washington owned over 100 slaves, bred dozens of horses, and distilled over 11,000 gallons of rye whiskey on his plantation at Mount Vernon. Washington was a true Renaissance man who was a political and social leader for America.

IF you pay close attention to our tour of his home, you will see an actual key to the Bastille (that French prison during the French Revolution) We will also see the bed where Washington died, the chair he sat in while president, the cookhouse where his slaves cooked meals and prepared food, his farm where animals grazed, and the carriage that took him from place to place while president. Less than three years after leaving office, he died at his Virginia plantation, Mount Vernon, at age 67.

Capitol Flick



Welcome to the Capitol! Home to the **Senate** and **House of Representatives**, the Capitol building is where the **Congress** works. Congress' job is to make laws that represent the people. They have passed laws that relocated Native Americans, created public schools, granted African-Americans civil rights, established national parks, granted people affordable healthcare and social security, and declared war on nations like Germany, Japan, and Mexico. The Congress is where "our" voice is heard. WE elect officials to the House of Representatives and the Senate. They represent our voices...

There are 435 members in the House of Representatives and 100 Senators. The House is based on the state population. The larger the state = more representatives. In the Senate, each state has two senators regardless of their size. The Capitol is an incredibly unique building. It is not only home to Congress, but it serves as a living museum of American history.

House of Representatives = 435 members -- based on population → California has 53 & Wyoming has 1

Qualifications to be in the House of Reps

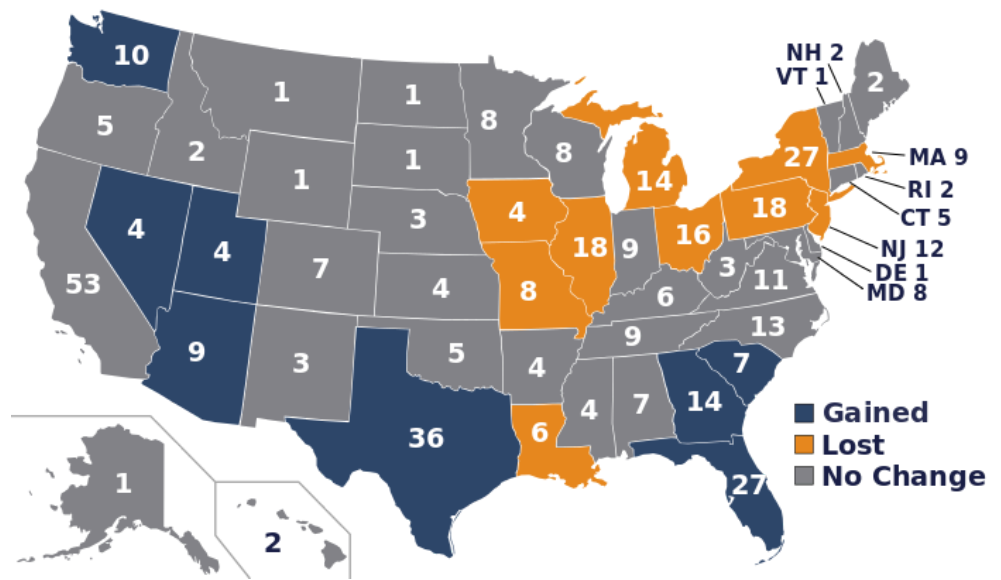
- Members serve 2 year terms
- 25 years old
- 7 year citizen of the United States
- Must live in the state you want to represent

Senate = 100 members -- two

from each state → ALL states are equal

Qualifications to be in the Senate

- Members serve 6 year terms
- 30 years old
- 9 year citizen of the United States
- Must live in the state you want to represent

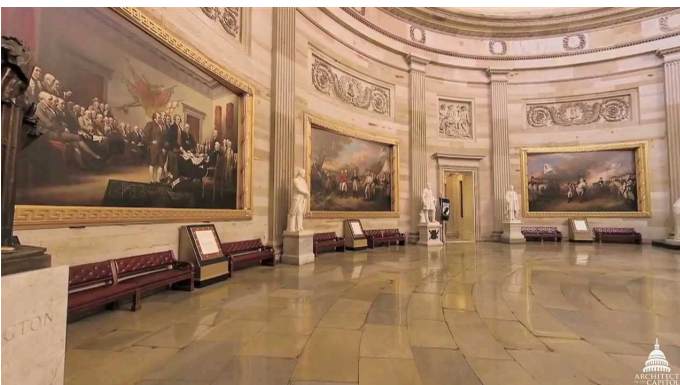


Inside the Capitol

Inside the Capitol building, we'll see a number of things! We're going to walk through a welcome area with statues of important figures from each of the 50 states. Some will be covered in gold, some will be male, some female, some names you will recognize, and some you will never have heard of. Georgia has two statues: Crawford Long and Alexander Stephens. Long was the developer of modern anesthesia and Stephens was a former Vice President to the Confederacy. (Not sure Mr. B agrees with the Stephens statue it's here to the left)

After we watch a flick, we'll then be met with a tour guide who will take us to the famous rotunda. Here, we'll see some massive portraits hanging with an impressive feature on the ceiling of George Washington.

Some of these portraits are: the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the Baptism of Pocahontas, Washington's victory at Yorktown during the Revolutionary War, the Pilgrims landing in Massachusetts, Hernando de Soto's first glance of the Mississippi River, Columbus landing in the New World, & Washington resigning from General of the Revolutionary War. These massive portraits (below) are key moments in the creation of the United States.



Another iconic image in the Capitol Rotunda is the “frieze” of American history. This frieze tells the story of “American history” all the way through the Wright Brothers’ first flight in world history.

The image below is an excerpt of “the frieze” and it is depicting the death of **Tecumseh** and Andrew Jackson winning the Battle of New Orleans in 1815 during the War of 1812. Tecumseh was a Shawnee Native American leader who attempted to unite all of the tribes of the midwest in the 1810s but was unsuccessful.



Monument City

Every city has monuments, but Washington, D.C. may have the MOST and the coolest :) What is a monument? A monument is a statue, building, or other structure erected to commemorate a famous or notable person or event. There are more than 160 memorials and monuments in Washington, D.C. commemorating George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, James Garfield, Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham Lincoln and so on! There are memorials to those who fought in World War II, the Vietnam War, the Korean War, and members of the Marine Corps who raised the famous flag at Iwo Jima. These memorials and monuments are to remind us of our nation's history. They remind us of some of the nation's greatest leaders and some of our most difficult times of war. Let's take a look at a few monuments/memorials we plan on seeing in DC...

Washington Monument -- At 555'5" tall, this obelisk (the shape) is built to commemorate George Washington. Made of marble, granite, and limestone this is the world's tallest obelisk and stone structure. Construction began in 1848 during Zach Taylor's presidency during a July 4th celebration and it was completed in 1884 with a 23 year period in between where no work was done because of lack of funds & the fighting of the Civil War. When it was finished in 1884, the monument was the tallest building in the world.



The top of the monument features a 9-inch aluminum pyramid, which completes the top of the structure as it narrows to a point, is 100-ounces of solid aluminum, part of the monument's lightning protection system. In the 1880s, aluminum was a rare metal, selling for \$1.10 per ounce and used primarily for jewelry. The pyramid was the largest piece of aluminum of its day and was such a novelty that it was displayed at Tiffany's jewelry store in New York before it was placed at the top. You'll notice there are 50 flags around the base of the monument. Each flag represents a U.S. State and inside the monument going up are different stones from each state representing the unity of the nation.



Lincoln Memorial -- Abraham Lincoln is arguably the greatest president in our nation's history. He was tasked with putting the nation back together during the Civil War. A civil war is a war where the civilians/citizens fight each other over political or social issues. In this case, the war was over slavery. Lincoln endured a terrible four years as president where over 700,000 people died during the war. He gave some of the most incredible speeches of his time and all time. His Gettysburg Address is one of the most

quoted speeches in all of the world. Because of Lincoln's greatness as a leader of the nation, he was granted a monument in Washington D.C. during the 1920s.

Finished in 1922, it is the second largest monument built to commemorate a U.S. president. The memorial looks like a Greek temple with marble and it stands 99 feet tall and has some interesting features. There are 36 columns holding up the structure, one for each state in the U.S. while Lincoln was president. Each state is etched into the stone in the order of when they became a state. Georgia was the fourth :). The statue of Lincoln himself is 19 feet tall and is made of Georgia white marble. There are two inscriptions on each side of Lincoln. The two inscriptions are Lincoln's Gettysburg Address & his second inaugural address. BOTH are important because they contain words of freedom for African-Americans during the Civil War.

World War II Memorial -- Sitting in between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument is a newer monument, World War II. This memorial opened in 2004 and consists of 56 granite pillars arranged in a semicircle around a plaza with two massive arches on opposite sides. Each pillar represents the 48 states in the US at the time and the US owned territories. The two arches at each end of the memorial are the two "theaters" where the war took place: Atlantic & Pacific. In front of the arches and pillars is a reflecting pool with 4048 gold stars, each representing 100 Americans who died in the war. In front of the wall lies the message "Here we mark the price of freedom".



Korean War Memorial -- The [Korean War](#) is one of America's least popular, and most forgotten, wars. Called the "Forgotten War", it was an attempt to prevent the spread of communism into the Asian nations of Korea and China. North Korea was a communist area that fell to China's control and the US attempted to prevent its spread into South Korea. In the 1950s, just a few years after World War II, the US found itself involved in another world conflict. The Korean War Memorial is a very powerful one. Finished in 1995, the memorial shows 19 steel statues all over 7

feet tall. The reason for 19 is because when reflected in the adjacent wall the number totals 38. The number 38 is important to the Korean War because the 38th parallel is the border between North and South Korea. The war also lasted around 38 months... On a polished black wall there are over 2500 photographic images engraved illustrating soldiers, equipment, and people involved in the war. The iconic message engraved at the memorial is "Freedom is not free", indicating that the ability to fight for a free nation is costly....



[Vietnam War Memorial](#) -- Ask nearly any history teacher or person who has studied American history and they will tell you that America's least popular war was the Vietnam War. From 1955--1975, the United States engaged in another war between a North and a South of a country in an attempt to prevent the nation from falling into communist hands. The Vietnam War was also a war where the public could actually watch the fighting take place on live television and where high school seniors were being drafted to go off and fight. The memorial has

an interesting history. It was a source of controversy as to how the memorial should have been built and whether a memorial should have been built at all! There is a memorial to the women who helped with the war, the three servicemen statue, and the wall of names. Finished in 1982, the memorial is 246 feet long that cuts into the ground. There are over 58,000 names engraved in the wall representing the number of fallen soldiers and those who are still missing...

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum



The United States Holocaust Museum will be our most difficult destination of the trip. We are all too familiar with the stories of the Holocaust and some of us are *directly* affected by it in our family's histories. Established in 1993, this museum welcomes over 1.5 million visitors per year from school groups to World War II veterans and survivors. This museum features the following items/exhibits that we will see:

- A railcar that once transported Jews to concentration camps
- A replica model of the barracks at Auschwitz
- Shoes collected by the Nazis at a concentration camp
- Images & videos of Nazi political rallies
- "Prisoner uniforms" Jews were forced to wear in the camps
- Daniel's Story of a young boy in Europe
- Torah scrolls saved from Kristallnacht
- Jerusalem stone used to create a memorial
- Uniforms worn by Nazi officials

Without a doubt, this will be a difficult journey for you through the museum. Take what you have learned in your Jewish Studies & Hebrew Classes, the conversations we have had as a school, and the conversations you have had with your family into this museum....

Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum



Flight is the process of moving through the air above the ground. Flight is pretty cool! At the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum you will see many innovations from the history of flight. Leonardo da Vinci was one of the earliest scientists to draw blueprints on a flying machine, but he was unable to make his dream a reality. Flight was a dream that became a reality for the first time in world history here, in the United States.

On December 17, 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright made four brief flights at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina with their first powered aircraft. The Wright brothers had invented the first successful airplane. From there, flight has had a tremendous history. From commercial flights across the country and vast oceans to man breaking the sound barrier to Americans walking on the moon, mankind has had a *tremendous* fascination with flight. At the Air & Space Museum we will see much of this history before us.

There are an **incredible** amount of artifacts at the Air & Space museum. **Some cool things on display...**

- Neil Armstrong's spacesuit
- Replica of Sputnik
- Wright Brothers plane replica from 1903
- Replica of John Lindbergh's plane that flew across the Atlantic Ocean
- Discovery Space Shuttle
- B-29 Bomber Plane that dropped the atomic bomb
- Lunar Module that landed on the Moon
- The *Friendship 7* capsule that took John Glenn around the Earth's orbit (remember Hidden Figures?)
- Freeze-dried food that is eaten in space...It tastes pretty gross, don't buy the ice cream

[10 Greatest Moments in Flight History](#)



[Video 1](#) & [Video 2](#)

The National Museum of African American History and Culture is the only national museum devoted exclusively to the documentation of African American life, history, and culture. It was established by an Act of Congress in 2003, following decades of efforts to promote and highlight the contributions of African Americans. The building's metal work mesh "skin" designed to simulate bronze, is a tribute to ironworkers in the American South, both enslaved and free, past and present.

African-American history in the United States goes back to Africa in the 1400s where many tribes and kingdoms dominated the continent. These African tribes traded with Europeans for weapons, food, and other goods in an attempt to be the most dominant tribe on the continent. As Europeans explored the New World in the 1400s they then resorted, and introduced, race-based slavery. These Africans were captured and brought to North and South America. African-American history is incredibly difficult to comprehend because African-Americans were not "native" to the continents of North and South America. Most of their journeys begin aboard slave ships, working as slaves and indentured servants, and eventually earning freedom from bondage.



NMAAHC is a living building of one of America's unique and vital narratives...the history, connections, and journeys of African Americans within America and around the globe. Every aspect of the African American experience be it slavery, freedom, race, politics, economics, sports, music, and so much more, comes to life through NMAAHC's collections and exhibitions. Twelve inaugural exhibits look at American history, culture, and community through an African American lens.

Slavery and Freedom



It would be blasphemous to not mention the Sports & Culture exhibit from the Museum of African-American history & Culture. Blacks led the way to integrating society, won gold medals in Olympic games held in hostile territory under Nazi control, and used their athletic achievements to protest unequal treatment back home. Here, there are hundreds of items on display from WNBA artifacts to Olympic medals, jerseys, and other artifacts from sports history. Above is the iconic 1968 Mexico City Black Power salute by John Carlos & Tommie Smith after winning gold and bronze in the 200m dash.

The museum boasts a **massive** history of African-American history in the United States. Some of the most visited and popular exhibits include: Slavery & Freedom, Music & cultural influence, Sports history, television & media history, and the Civil Rights movement. A Changing America is one of the exhibits that explores black life through stories of social, political, and cultural experiences. It talks about the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. to the election of Barack Obama. The exhibit even looks at the #BlackLivesMatter social



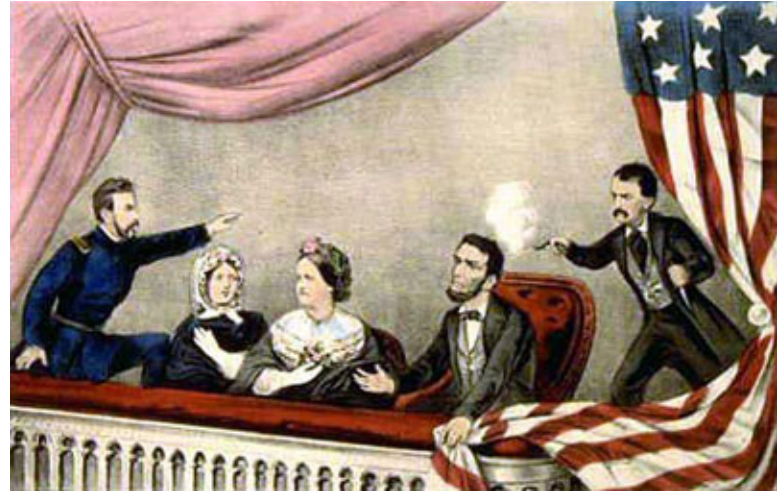
movement from the more recent years. Slavery & Freedom examines the origins of Africans captured from their homelands and forced across the Atlantic Ocean into slavery. It also looks at the lives and contributions of slaves to American history under Presidents Washington & Jefferson. Artifacts include shackles worn by captured Africans, books slaves illegally owned, and even clothing worn by slaves in the South.

← Chuck Berry's red Cadillac...Go on Spotify, Chuck Berry *Johnny B. Good*....You're welcome. Parliament *Flashlight*... Again, you're welcome. :)



← Find this Mothership in the museum...it is awesome. Music from Duke Ellington, Parliament, Dr. Dre, Prince, Michael Jackson, James Brown and more dominate one of the levels in the museum. African-American culture has had a tremendous impact on the culture of the United States, both black and white. Enjoy the different items on display from all eras of musical history in the United States. Mr. B particularly enjoys Earth, Wind, & Fire and Parliament...

Ford's Theatre



On April 14, 1865, the nation's history changed...Abraham Lincoln became the *first* president to be assassinated when 26 year-old John Wilkes Booth fired a bullet into the back of Lincoln's head while attending a show at Ford's Theatre. So what led to this tragic event in American history?...

From 1861-1865, the United States was engaged in a Civil War. A civil war is a war within the nation amongst civilians. The main issue the nation was fighting about was **slavery**. Some southerners argued that it was their "state right" to own slaves and that northern states were oppressing them. Northern states abolished slavery as early as 1788 and as late as 1850, while Southern states heavily relied on slavery in order for their state to make money. Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, and other southern states relied on slaves to pick cotton, tobacco, rice, sugarcane, and other crops that were often shipped to northern states and European nations. Before the Civil War, more money was invested in slavery than any other "industry" and the total value of the four million slaves in the nation exceeded \$2 billion in today's money.

In 1860, Abraham Lincoln was elected the 16th president of the United States. In his inaugural address, Lincoln proclaimed that he would not get rid of slavery and that he had no intention of starting a war over slavery. Southern states saw the election of Lincoln as the first step in a nation that would eventually end slavery. Southern states immediately seceded (left) the Union from 1860 to 1861 and they formed the Confederate States of America. They even set up a capital city in Richmond, Virginia. They had hopes of remaining a separate nation and a nation that kept slavery. Originally, the Union, or northern states, were fighting to bring the southern states back into the Union. They were *not* fighting to free the slaves. In 1863, when Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, some white northern soldiers even left the army because they did not want to free the slaves.

For four bloody years, from 1861-1865, the Civil War ended up killing over 700,000 Americans and was the bloodiest war in American history. When the war finally ended on April 9, 1865, the nation would be a nation without slavery because of the XIII Amendment, which officially abolished slavery. Abraham Lincoln then hoped the nation would be peacefully put back together. To many people's surprise, Lincoln had no intention of punishing the South or the states that fought against the Union. This did not matter to John Wilkes Booth. Booth was a famous actor and southern sympathizer who believed blacks were inferior to whites and that slavery was necessary.



On April 12, 1865, Booth attended one of Lincoln's speeches in Washington, D.C. where Lincoln said he was in favor of giving citizenship to former slaves and even giving these newly freed blacks the right to vote. From Virginia, Booth had always grown up thinking less of blacks, and when he learned Lincoln freed the slaves and wanted to give them citizenship he had heard enough. Booth wanted to kill Abraham Lincoln...

Ever since it was opened in 1863 where it showed many plays to its guests in the Washington, D.C. area. Ford's Theatre was just like any other theatre in the nation. Built in 1833, it was originally a Baptist Church until 1861 when John Ford purchased the building, renovated it, and turned it into a theater. April 14, 1865 was supposed to be a night for Lincoln & his wife, Mary Todd, to enjoy themselves after the four **bloodiest** years in the nation's history. April 14, 1865 turned out to be a turning point in American history...

So, what was John Wilkes Booth's entire plan? It was much more than just killing President Lincoln. Booth had a group of conspirators who were going to do the following: Kill President Lincoln, General Ulysses S. Grant, Vice President Johnson, and Secretary of State William Seward. If they were successful in killing these leaders of the country, they would basically decapitate the U.S. government and possibly send the nation back into turmoil. Booth's three other conspirators were David Herold, George Atzerodt, and Lewis Powell. These co-conspirators worked out of a local boarding house run by a woman, Mary Surratt.

On April 14, 1865 at about 10:00 pm, John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln in the back of the head at Ford's Theatre. At that same time, William Seward was attacked and stabbed by Lewis Powell, but Seward's life was spared... General Ulysses S. Grant, who was supposed to be with Lincoln that night, also lucked out because he traveled to Philadelphia with his wife earlier that day. George Atzerodt was tasked with killing Vice President Johnson, but was too chicken to do so after having a few drinks at a local hotel. Booth would be the only successful assassin...



Lincoln died at 7:22 am on April 15, 1865 from his gunshot wound and nearly 1000 men were out searching for his killer. After 12 days, Booth was finally caught, shot, and killed in a barn in Maryland... His other conspirators were held on trial and sentenced to death by hanging. On July 7, 1865, Powell, Atzerodt, Paine, and Surratt were hanged to death...

Think about what makes an average place a place of importance. Little Rock High School in Arkansas was just another school until nine African-American kids became the *first* to integrate it in 1957. Think about the World Trade Center buildings. Those were simply skyscrapers that shaped New York's grand skyline until 9/11 when they became something much more important to our nation's history. The theater we'll visit is the same. Ford's Theatre was just another theater where one could see plays and escape reality in a show until the night of April 14, 1865...