An Adventurer’s Guide to Washington, D.C.

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts at George Mason University

By

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AN ADVENTURER’S GUIDE TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Kristin L. Petersen, M.A.

George Mason University, 2009

Thesis Director: Dr. Alan Cheuse

This thesis is a pilot for a travel guide for children aged eight to 11 years. The content is based on travel and research within the District of Columbia. In addition to informational background about each site in the guide, there are numerous learning activities such as journals, conversation starters, and fun facts. One of the goals of the guide is to help children learn while they travel. Through education and interactive learning, the children will foster their love of travel.
Introduction

Dear Adventurer,

Seeing the Washington Monument from across the Potomac River while driving into D.C. makes my blood pump! When I cross the border from Virginia (or Maryland), I begin to see the famous landmarks almost immediately.

I have called the Commonwealth of Virginia home for over twenty years, and during that time I have had the opportunity to see the wonders of D.C. regularly. One of my favorite things about Washington, D.C., is the opportunity to see new things! D.C. is full of cultural gems, historical wonders, and hidden treasures in every nook and cranny of the city. You could spend a lifetime here and still only scratch the surface of the adventures the city has to offer. There is something for everyone here!

Since I was a kid in elementary school, I have been taking school trips, family outings, and spending time with friends in one of the most important cities in the United States. By visiting the museums, landmarks, and memorials of the District, I have experienced history firsthand.

In this guide, I highlighted some of my favorite places in Washington, D.C. Each of the places cited has special meaning to me and to the very foundation of what it means to be American. There is so much to see here, and I hope this guide will help steer you through your Washington, D.C. adventure! The goal of the guide is to help you come away from the trip loving this city as much as I do!

Happy adventures!
What it means to be an adventurer

What does it mean to be an adventurer?

An adventurer is someone who is curious about things in his or her life. You can be an adventurer in a lot of different ways. You don’t even have to go anywhere exotic to be an adventurer – you just have to be willing to explore everything you encounter, like the famous female explorer Sacajawea (see the spotlight box for more information)!

Why is travel important?

Travel helps open your eyes to other cultures, lifestyles, and time periods. Through travel you will also learn new things about yourself.

How Do I Use This Guide?

You will find red boxes for each monument or museum. These boxes provide basic information about visiting the location including the address, hours, and tour times.

Throughout the guide you will find quotations about travel to help you better understand what travel has meant to others in the past. These quotes will hopefully help you to understand what travel can mean in your own life. You will find these quotes in orange boxes, like the one below.

In many of the sections you will see “Spotlight!” boxes – these provide extra information about a person or thing of importance to the museum or memorial.

Spotlight!

Sacajawea
1784-1884?

Sacajawea was a Native American woman who helped lead, translate, and guide the Louis and Clark expedition through the Western Territory.

Without her, the expedition would not have been possible.
Write in the journal sections as you experience each location. That way, you will be able to remember your trip more clearly when you return home!

You will also encounter some “Would you rather…” boxes along the way. These are just quick questions to get you thinking, and hopefully, laughing. The blue circles are filled with “Did you know?” questions. These have quick, fun facts about a person, place or thing. Be sure to sure use the glossary in the back if you are unsure what a word means. The words listed in the glossary are underlined.

**Helpful Hint:**

Nearly all the locations discussed in the guide have websites – check out the websites before you visit. Familiarize yourself with what you want to see and plan an itinerary. That is one of the easiest ways to make the most of your trip!

"Life is either a daring adventure or nothing." -- Helen Keller

*Did you know?*

Washington, D.C.’s motto is “Justitia Omnibus,” which is Latin for “Justice for All.”
Travel Safety

Background: Travel should be fun and educational. The best way to ensure that both of those things will be possible is to travel safely! Here are a few suggestions about how to stay safe while seeing the city.

- Always stay with your group or buddy.
- Always pick a place to meet in case you get separated from the group.
- Do not talk to strangers.
- Never wear your name on your clothes.
- Know the name and phone number of the place where you are staying – don’t share the information with any strangers.
- If you are lost - **do not panic**! Look for a person in a uniform to assist you, such as a police officer or a security guard.
- Have everyone in the group wear the same brightly colored shirt. That way, it will be easy to find the other people in your group.
American Government

**Background:** The citizens of the country vote for representatives and are able to actively participate in the government.

**Three Branches:** The American government is made up of three branches: the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Each branch serves a specific role in making sure the government functions as smoothly as possible. The United States employs the system of “checks and balances” – that means that no branch has more power than any other branch.

**Legislative Branch/Congress:** The United States Legislative Branch has a congress. Congress is made up of all the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate. This is called a bicameral system. Bicameral means there are two bodies of legislature that work together. There are 100 Senators in the Senate, two for each state, and 435 Representatives in the House of Representatives (the number of representatives from each state depends on the size and population of each state). Their main job is to write, review, debate, and pass laws for the whole country.

**Executive Branch/The President:** The president is the head of the Executive Branch. The president is elected every four years by the citizens of the country and the Electoral College. He or she can serve no more than two terms. You must be 18 years of age or older to vote. The Executive Branch helps to enforce the laws made by the president lives in the White House.

---

Spotlight!

**Becoming the president!**

- Are you 35 years old or older?
- Are you a natural born citizen?
- Have you lived in the United States for 14 years?

If you answered yes to all of those questions – you could have what it takes to become...
Judicial Branch/The Supreme Court: The Judicial Branch is the highest court in the land. Their job is to interpret the laws of the country. The judges on the Supreme Court are appointed by the president. Once appointed, the judges serve for life.
Historical Timeline

Just in case everything you are seeing is getting muddled up in your head check the timeline to see how events fit together!

Declaration of Independence 1776
American Constitution 1787
Bill of Rights 1791
George Washington is president 1789-1797
Thomas Jefferson is president 1801-1809
James Madison is president 1809 -181
James Smithson donates money to create the Smithsonian Institutes 1846
Abraham Lincoln is president 1861-1865
Battle of Ball’s Bluff 1861
The first person is buried at what would become the Arlington National Cemetery 1864
End of Slavery 1865
World War One 1914-1919
Women’s Voting Rights 1920
Franklin D. Roosevelt is president 1933-1945
World War Two 1939-1945
Korean War 1950-1953
The Civil Rights Movement 1955-1968
Vietnam War 1959- 1975
Adventurer’s Information

Adventurer’s Name: 

Address: 

(Street) (City) (State) (Zip Code)

(Country)

Age of Adventurer: 

Insert Adventurer’s Photograph Here
Metrorail System of Washington, D.C.

**Background:** The Metrorail system of Washington, D.C., is unofficially called the “Metro.” It is a rail system that connects parts of northern Virginia, Washington, D.C., and southern Maryland. Using the metrorail system is a practical way to navigate your adventure.

<table>
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<th>Hours:</th>
<th>Most trains begin running at 5 a.m. on weekdays and run until about 2 a.m. Different lines run at different times – be sure to check at the station before you leave.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>The cost varies depending on the length of trip and time of day.</td>
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<td>Parking is limited and expensive ($4.50/day). Not all stations have parking, so make sure you check before you leave.</td>
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In order to ride the metro, you must buy a ticket or a day pass. The seats on the metro face both backwards and forwards and there are special seats to accommodate passengers with special needs, including elderly riders and pregnant women.

**What is a SmarTrip Card and do I need one?**

If your family drives to the metro (there is not parking available at all of the metro stops) you will need a SmarTrip card to pay to get out of the parking lot.

A SmarTrip Card is a rechargeable plastic card used to pay for parking and riding the metro. You may want to purchase one if you will be using the metro a lot, or if you will be in Washington for an extended period of time. Otherwise, don’t worry about getting one. A regular ticket or day pass works just as well.

**How much does it cost to get a SmarTrip Card?**

The SmarTrip card costs $10 dollars. The price includes five dollars for the card and five dollars’ worth of fare for riding the metro.

**Does every person riding need a ticket?**

Would you rather be stuck on the metro for two hours, or have to walk backwards all day?
Yes! The only person who does not need a ticket is a passenger four years old or younger – as long as they are riding with an adult who has a ticket.

**Did you know?**

The metro is 103 miles long.

Construction began in 1969

Began running in 1976

It is the second busiest rail system in the country!

**What is a One Day Pass?**

You can also buy a one day pass for $7.80. If you buy one of these, you can ride the metro as much as you want for the whole day. It’s good after 9:30 a.m. on weekdays. You can also use it on weekends and federal holidays.

**Can I buy exact fare?**

It is also possible to buy the exact fare needed. When you purchase your tickets you can calculate the cost of your trip using the chart listed on the ticket machines.

**Helpful Hints:**

You are not allowed to eat or drink on the metro – and only service animals are allowed on board! Also, if you want to listen to music on board, you have to use headphones.

Most of the places in the guide are on the Orange Line – look for the stop that says “Smithsonian” – can you find it on the map?
What to Wear

**Background:** Approximately 15 million visitors come to Washington, D.C., each year from all around the world.

**What should I wear?**

You want to make sure you are dressed both comfortably and appropriately.

Many of the museums maintain a cool temperature to help preserve the artifacts they exhibit. As a result, many of the museums are a little chilly. It is always a good idea to have an extra jacket or sweater with you.

When you travel you should always wear layers!

What does that mean? Layering means wearing lots of clothes at the same time such as a t-shirt, a sweater, and a jacket. That way, you can always adjust what you are wearing to fit the temperature of the place you are visiting.

**Shoes?**

Wear comfortable shoes! The Mall, where the majority of the museums are located, is about two and a half miles long. That means that while everything is relatively close together, you will still be doing a lot of walking and standing up.

**Should I bring a bag or backpack?**

Having a bag with extra clothes, a poncho, or snacks can be very useful. Just be aware that when you enter the museums, the security guards have the right to open and check your bag. A lot of the museums also have metal detectors at the entrances.

"He who would travel happily must travel light." Antoine de St. Exupery

**Would you rather...**

be too hot or too cold?
James Smithson and his museums

James Smithson was an English scientist and researcher with a passion for education. He donated the money that founded the Smithsonian Institute. The “Smithsonians” (as the Smithsonian Institutions are often called) are a set of museums in Washington, D.C. The museums were built to teach visitors about science, history, and art. When Smithson died \textit{he had never even been to the United States!}

After Smithson died in 1829, he gave over 100,000 gold sovereigns the equivalent of $508,318, to the United States to create what would become the Smithsonian Institutes.

In Smithson’s will, he asked that his money be given to “the United States of America, to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an Establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge.”

No one is really sure what Smithson was thinking when he deeded the money to the United States. There were not specific regulations in his will as to how the institutions should be created. In the years after Smithson’s death, the American government developed a plan and began to build the museums.

Congress approved the building of the institutes in 1846.

![Image of James Smithson]

**Spotlight!**

*What does it mean to visit the “Smithsonians” and how can you see them for yourself?*

The Smithsonian Institutes are currently made up of 19 museums, 159 affiliate museums, and 156 research centers.

The National Museum of the American Indian is the newest of the museums, while the Smithsonian Institute Building, the Castle, is the oldest.

Many people come to Washington, D.C. to explore the numerous halls and exhibits of the museums. In fact, in 2007 more than 25.2 million people visited the Smithsonian Museum.
Adventures in D.C.

There is so much to do in Washington, D.C. It is very important to decide exactly what you want to see before you get here!

- The American History Museum
- The National Archives
- Natural History Museum
- The National Air and Space Museum
- The American Indian Museum

Would you rather...be outside or inside? If you would rather be inside – visit one of the museums on the list. If you prefer to be outside, check out the memorials below the dash mark.

- The Presidential Memorials
- The War Memorials
**Spotlight!**

*Star-Spangled Banner Lyrics by Francis Scott Key*

*O say can you see, by the dawn’s early light,*

*What so proudly we hail’d at the twilight’s last gleaming,*

*Whose broad stripes and bright stars through the perilous fight*  
*O’er the ramparts we watch’d were so gallantly streaming?*  

*And the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air,*  
*Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,*  

*O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave*  
*O’er the land of the free and the home of the brave?*

---

**National Museum of American History**

**Background:** The museum covers the history of America from the time of the War of Independence to present day. The museum is organized in sections based on the theme of the exhibits, such as “Abraham Lincoln: An Extraordinary Life.”

The museum was opened in 1964 as the Museum of History and Technology. The name was changed in the 1980s to the National Museum of American History.

The American History Museum includes information about a lot of famous people, places, and events. There are some special exhibits dedicated to truly remarkable examples of American History.

---

**Don’t miss…**

**First Ladies:**

One of the most popular exhibits at the museum is the “First Ladies at the Smithsonian” collection. A first lady is the wife of the president. There you can see inaugural dresses, jewelry, and other artifacts from the women behind the men! Be sure to check out
Mary Lincoln’s dress – after Abraham’s death she never again wore any color but black.

**Star-Spangled Banner:**

The flag was made in 1814 by Mary Pickersgill, a widow from Baltimore. She had the help of her daughter, nieces, and an indentured servant in making the flag.

During the War of 1812, the flag inspired Francis Scott Key to write the Star Spangled Banner. Key saw the flag flying from the ship he was on in the harbor. The song became the national anthem in 1931.

One of the flag’s fifteen stars is missing! It was cut out to be given as a souvenir. Each star on the flag is about two feet across.

**George Washington’s sword and scabbard, 1770s:**

See the sword and the scabbard that Washington used to carry it. Washington used the sword while he was in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War.

**War and Peace Chairs, 1865:** See for yourself the chairs Generals Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant sat in during the surrender on April 9, 1865 at Appomattox Court House, Virginia. The surrender ended the Civil War.

![Spotlight!](highlight)

**Greensboro Sit-in**

It was 1960 when four college students went to the Woolworth’s in Greensboro, North Carolina.

They sat at the lunch counter and were not served because of the color of their skin. So, they stayed in their seats until the store closed.

The next day more students came and joined the protest, which was being called a sit-in. The sit-in lasted for three days! This was a non-violent way to protest segregation and inequality.

Be sure to check out the counter for yourself!

"Traveling is almost like talking with men of other centuries." -- René Descartes
Fig. 4 – Red Cross Ambulance, 1898

American National Red Cross Ambulance, 1898:

Clara Barton lived from 1821 – 1912 and was the founder of the American Red Cross. In the museum you can see one the American National Red Cross Ambulances from 1898 that Barton used to assist soldiers.

Faith Bradford’s Dollhouse

What’s your favorite artifact from the attic of the house? Do you realize that the house has 23 rooms, 10 children, and 20 pets! How many can you find?
Journal – Museum of American History

If I could meet any person from American history, it would be:

I want to meet ________________ , because:

If I could go on an adventure with ______________________, it would be to:

Use this space to design a symbol that represents what America means to you. Examples of American symbols include the American Flag, the Presidential Seal, and the White House.
The National Archives

Background:

When you enter the National Archives for the first time, one of the first things you will notice is how dark it is! The building is kept dark to protect the fragile documents from fading and other damage from exposure. That’s because the National Archives is home to some of the most important documents in American history including the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence. Some of these documents are over 200 years old and are kept in safe cases made especially to keep them safe from water, air, fire, and even bombs! Also be aware that no flash photography is allowed inside the building. The flash would damage the documents over time.

Address: 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Hours:
Spring and Summer 10 a.m.- 7 p.m.
Fall and Winter 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Caution! On weekends there is often a wait to get into the Archives.

Cost: Free!

Parking: Street Parking

Metro: Archives/Navy Memorial

Website: www.archives.gov

Fig. 5 – National Archives
In addition to the very famous documents on display, there are also many lesser known items worth seeing in the Public Vaults. If you don’t have the time to see everything in person, the Archives has a fantastic website.

Declaration of Independence:

Written in 1776 by Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration of Independence was written to tell England that the colonies were no longer going to be under British rule. Instead, the people of the colonies were going to form their own government and live independently of the Crown.

Constitution:

The Constitution outlines the right of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. By 1787 the colonies needed to form a government. So, that year, the Constitution was written by a group of white men in Philadelphia. The Constitution described how much power should be given the government, how representatives should be elected, and other important facets of building a government.

Bill of Rights:

The Bill of Rights is made up of the first ten amendments, or changes and additions, to the Constitution. The purpose of the Bill of Rights is to outline, and ensure, the basic liberties of the citizens of the United States. The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution in 1791.

Magna Carta:

As you enter the Rotunda, you will see Magna Carta. Issued in 1215 in England, Magna Carta is written in Latin. The ideas of Magna Carta were instrumental in the creation of the United States Constitution. It called for certain legal rights and procedures, among other things.
The beginning of the Constitution reads: We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Imagine... you are a founding father (or mother) of the United States; what values would you hold most high? Religious freedom? Taxation with representation? Recess all day?

"One’s destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." Henry Miller
The _______________ document was most meaningful to me, because:

If I could have dinner with any of the Founding Fathers, I would like to eat with:

Imagine you are starting your own country. What rights would you want every citizen to have?

Create your own constitution for your new country. (Don’t forget to give your country a name!):
Natural History Museum

Background: The Natural History Museum, which opened in 1910 is filled with some of the most interesting and diverse artifacts in the world! The museum is divided into a number of sections – you can see everything from fossils to the most famous diamond in the world!

Mammal Hall:

All but two of the animals on display in the hall were real, living animals. Stuffing an animal after it has died to preserve it is called taxidermy.

Sant Ocean Hall:

In the Sant Ocean Hall you will find a life-size North Atlantic Right Whale named Phoenix, hanging from the ceiling!

Geology, Gems, and Minerals: Among the most famous of these rocks is the Hope Diamond. The diamond is over 42 carats in size, and it is blue!

Dinosaurs/Hall of Paleobiology:

Be sure to look to the ceiling to see some flying fossils! There are real dinosaur fossils in the hall. Some of the fossils are suspended to show how they would have looked if they were living. Not all of the bones are authentic. Some of the bones

Spotlight!

Mammal Hall

The hall was recently renovated.

The animals on display have been there for a long time. They needed some freshening up.

How did they do that?

The designers used shampoo, hair dryers, and sometimes hair dye to make the animals look alive and fresh!

Fig. 6- Tiger
were missing, broken, or too fragile. A computer was used to design replacement parts.

Some of the fossils are too old and fragile to be displayed in that way. Those were left the way they were found, with one side exposed to see.

Find:

Can you find the fossil *inside* of another fossil. Hint – it’s not on the first floor.

Can you find the giant squid in this picture? Where do you think it would be located? It is nice to see this animal in a tank because they are extremely rare. Many years ago sailors told stories about man-eating monsters of the seas – they were most likely talking about squids!

Notice that this giraffe, which can be found in Mammal Hall, has his tongue sticking out. The curators tried to pose the animals in natural positions – this giraffe is just reaching for his dinner! There is another giraffe in the Mammal Hall. Can you find it?

*Fig. 7 – Giant Squid*

Did you know?

Most of the items on display in the National Gem and Mineral Collection came from just three men!

Can you find the mineral rainbow collection?
The most exotic animal I saw today was the:

If I had to encounter any of the animals I saw today in the wild I would want to meet the ________________________________!

I would choose the __________________ because:

The most interesting fact I learned today was:

Imagine you are an explorer in the wild. You have just found the Hope Diamond. What would you do? Would you tell anyone what you had found? (Remember that Hope Diamond is over 42 carat- and that’s huge!)
Do you believe the Hope Diamond is cursed? Why or why not?

National Air and Space Museum

Background:

The National Air and Space Museum has the largest collection of air and space artifacts in the world. The museum was opened in 1976. There are aircrafts on display from every war in which airplanes have been used. As you can tell by the name, the museum displays machines from all sorts of historic adventures!

**Don’t Miss…**

Charles Lindbergh was the first person to fly alone across the Atlantic Ocean without stopping. He completed the flight in 1927 in a plane called the *Spirit of St. Louis* which hangs from the ceiling of the museum.

Visit the “How Things Fly” exhibit to learn about flight.

Touch the moon rock on display. Why? It is almost 4 billion years old!

Did you know?

Yuri Garagin was only 27 years old when he became the first space traveler! What an adventure!

In 1985, Coca-Cola became the first soda consumed in space!

The Moon is the next closest planet to Earth.

**Address:** 6th Street and Independence Avenue, N.W.

**Hours:** 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Free!

**Parking:** None Available

**Metro:** Smithsonian

**Website:** www.nasm.si.edu

**Tours:** 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Visit the “Apollo to the Moon” exhibit to see highlights such as astronaut toothbrush kits, dried foods, and real space suits.

**Keep looking up!** Many of the items on display hang from the ceiling. If you aren’t looking up – you will miss out!

**Space Race:**

The Space Race was a race between the United States and the Soviet Union to see who could explore space first.

**Did you know?**

America sent a monkey named Ham into space to make sure it was safe for living creatures to travel in space.

There are thousands of satellites orbiting the earth.

**Spotlight!**

Amelia Earhart

Earhart lived 1897 from 1937.

She was the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic Ocean. Earhart became a role model for women all over the world.

She died a very mysterious death on her journey around the world.

Because of her strong resemblance to Charles Lindbergh, Earhart earned the nickname “Lady Lindy.”

Eventually, it came to be about who could reach the Moon first.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was established by Congress in 1958 to advance the United States’ ability to go to space.

The Soviet Union successfully placed the world’s first artificial satellite, Sputnik I, into orbit in 1957.

The United States won the Space Race by reaching the Moon first. Neil Armstrong said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind” from the Moon in 1969.
Fig. 9- *Spirit of St. Louis*

**Word Scramble!**

- Craescpae
- Omon
- Lpaetn

- Xpeelor
- Vnaduetre
- Tercok
Imagine you have just been commissioned to fly into space to visit the Moon. What types of things would you pack?

Are you excited? Nervous? Both? Explain why you feel the way you do?

What will you miss the most about being on Earth?

What are you most excited about seeing or doing during your space adventure?

How will you leave your mark on the Moon? A flag? Foot prints? Something else?
National Museum of the American Indian

Background:

The National Museum of the American Indian was created to recount the living history and heritage of the American Indians living in both North and South America. At this museum you can learn about tribes and cultures from across the Americas. There are some artifacts like beads, kayaks, and clothes! The artifacts inside represent over 12,000 years of history and more than 1,200 cultures!

Spotlight!

Mitsitam Native Foods Café

The cafeteria offers the traditional cuisine of the American Indians. The types of food are divided by geographic location.

*Mitsitam* translates to “Let’s eat!” in the native language of the Delaware and Piscataway tribes.

If you ask, you can get a small sample of some of the foods!

Design: The design of the outside of the building is very different from the other museums. You will notice the sandy brown color and wavy texture. The outside of the building was made to look like a wind-sculpted rock formation. Inside, there are elements to represent nature. Be sure to look for the light prisms, or rainbows, on the walls.

Fig. 10- American Indian Museum

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**Address:** 4th Street and Independence Avenue

**Hours:** 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Cost:** Free!

**Parking:** None Available

**Metro:** L’Enfant Plaza

**Website:** www.nmai.si.edu

**Tours:** 1:30 and 3 p.m. Monday – Friday

11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday

During the summer:

Mondays: 1:30 and 3 p.m.

Tuesday –Saturday: 11 a.m., 1:30 and 3 p.m.
**Spotlight!**

**Navajo Code Talkers**

The Marines recruited Navajo Indians to create a code to keep military messages secret during World War Two.

The recruits had be 18 years old to join the military, but many Navajo recruits lied about their age.

They also had to be fluent in both Navajo and English.

Most of the code was developed by the Navajos themselves. It is still the only military code in history that has never been broken!

Navajo is not a written language – it is only spoken. That meant that the Code Talkers had to memorize the whole code!

There were up to 400 Navajo Code Talkers during WWII.

During the battle at Iwo Jima, six talkers delivered 800 messages in 48 hours – without a single error!

---

**Outside:** In the area surrounding the museum there are various patches of soil planted and cultivated to represent the different types of land used by the tribes represented in the museum. Take some time to see the different landscapes including wetlands, meadows, and hardwood forest.

**First!** Be sure to watch the introductory video and presentation before you start looking around. The presentation includes some neat visual displays in light-up cases. It is also a really good way to get an overview of the museum.

**Can you find…?**

The two large totem poles in the museum? Hint: Check out the place where you buy books.

A tribe or culture close to your home state? Ask a docent if you need assistance.

The collection of kayaks? Can you tell how they were made? What materials were used? What types of adventures might you go on in these kayaks?

**Compare!**

Find a tribe that is interesting to you. Compare aspects of their culture with your own. What types of food do they eat? Where and how do they live? How is this similar to your life? How is their culture different from your own?
Imagine you have been living in the Great Plains for your whole life. You have just heard a group of white men have been spotted near your tribe. How do you feel?

How do you feel about the people you do not know?

You have no choice but to leave immediately. How does it feel? What are you thinking as you leave your home, unsure if you will ever return?

Would you rather live in Alaska or on the Great Plains? Which would be colder?
Presidential Memorials

**Background:** There are over 150 memorials and landmarks in the District of Columbia. In addition to all the museums and other historical landmarks, that is a lot to see! However, here are three presidential memorials you should try to see if you can. They are the memorials for Abraham Lincoln, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Thomas Jefferson.

**Don’t miss…**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address:</th>
<th>on the National Mall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hours:</td>
<td>24 hours a day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>Free!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking:</td>
<td>Street parking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Metro:</td>
<td>Smithsonian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Website:</td>
<td><a href="http://www.nps.gov/linc/">http://www.nps.gov/linc/</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Lincoln Memorial honors Abraham Lincoln, the 16th president of the United States.

Look at the statue of Abraham Lincoln - on his right side he is very serious. His fist is clenched and his foot is planted firmly in the ground. On his left side, he is more relaxed. His hand is open and he could be about to smile. What do you think the artist who made the statue had in mind? What is the purpose of showing Lincoln both ways?

You will notice that around the top of the memorial is the list of states in the Union. As states were added to the Union, they were also added to the monument. Can you find your home state?

Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., gave his famous “I Have a Dream” speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial in 1963. When you walk up the stairs you can find a stone where the exact location of the speech is marked. Looking out from that spot can you find the reflecting pool and, the Washington Monument, and imagine a huge crowd?

Fig. 12- Lincoln Memorial
Journal – Presidential Memorials

If I had a memorial made about my life, it would be:

The things I am most proud of accomplishing are:

My goals for the future include:

Of the memorials I have seen, I most admire the life (or lives) of:

Use this space to show what a memorial about your life would look like. Would you have a statue of yourself? Famous quotes of things you said? Pictures?
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Background: The FDR Memorial is really big - it covers about 7.5 acres of land! The monument is divided into four rooms, one for each of FDR’s terms as president. Be sure to notice all the water in the memorial. What do you think it symbolizes?

Address: on the National Mall
Hours: 24 hours a day
Cost: Free!
Parking: Street parking
Metro: Smithsonian
Website: http://www.nps.gov/fdrm/

About FDR: Franklin Delano Roosevelt, or FDR as he is often referred to, lived from 1882 to 1945. FDR was the 32nd president of the United States and served 1933 until 1945. FDR was the fifth cousin of President Theodore Roosevelt who was president from 1901 until 1909. FDR served longer than any other president – four terms!

After his death, the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution made it so a person could serve a maximum of two terms as president.

In his Inaugural Address, FDR said "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself." This became a very famous quote in American history.

Great Depression: When FDR came into office, the United States was in the midst of the Great Depression. During the Great Depression, there was a lot of poverty. During this time, FDR implemented plans called the “New Deal” to help the economy of the country. Additionally, Roosevelt wanted to help the poor and create a social safety net. During this time, Social Security was made to help the elderly people of the nation.

Because many people were starving, private organizations began to give away food. The statue above represents the bread lines of the Great Depression.
FDR created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) to give jobs to men aged 18 to 25 to complete conservation projects around the country.

**World War II:**

The United States had stayed out of World War II until December 7, 1941. On that day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. The day after the attack, the United States declared war on Japan. To end the war, the United States dropped two atomic bombs. The first bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945 on Hiroshima, and the second on August 9, 1945 on Nagasaki. On August 14, the Japanese surrendered.

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**Did you know?**

President Roosevelt suffered from the disease called poliomyelitis, or polio. He eventually had to use a wheelchair because of it.

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**First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, Wife of FDR:**

Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was born October 11, 1884 and lived until November 7, 1962.

Eleanor, as she liked to be called, was the First Lady of the United States from 1933 to 1945. First Lady Roosevelt was known for her social work. She took an interest in helping the less fortunate.

Her statue is the first time a First Lady was honored in a presidential memorial.

---

**Would you rather...listen to the president on the radio, or read what he or she has to say in the newspaper?**

---

Fig. 14- Eleanor Roosevelt
Imagine you have been elected president. What would your first speech to the people be about?

Why do you think FDR’s memorial is so large? Why does his memorial cover more land than the other memorials?

What part of the memorial sticks out the most in your memory?

Did you realize you could touch the statues in the memorial (just please don’t sit or stand on them)? How does this interaction with the memorial change the way you experience it? Think about how you experience the other memorials you cannot touch.
**War Memorials**

**World War II**

**Background:** The World War II Memorial honors all those veterans, volunteers, and civilians who served during the war. The memorial was dedicated in 2004. In addition to honoring those who died, it also honors over 16 million Americans who served in the armed forces during the war.

| **Address:** 17th Street, between Constitution and Independence Avenues |
| **Hours:** 24 hours a day |
| **Cost:** Free! |
| **Parking:** Street parking |
| **Metro:** Smithsonian |
| **Website:** http://www.nps.gov/wwii/ |

**World War II:**

The war raged from 1939 until 1945. There was fighting in both the Pacific and the Atlantic Oceans, as well as on land. Many Americans did not want to enter the war. They were still tired and sad from World War One. However, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. The next day, President Roosevelt declared war on Japan. Then, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States! The war ended in 1945, but only after much destruction, death, and hardship.

**Memorial:**
The Field of Stars has 4,000 stars. These stars represent the over 400,000 Americans who lost their lives in the war.

There are 56 pillars, one for each state, territory, and the District of Columbia. Two large pavilions represent the fighting in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, like the one pictured below.

---

**Korean War Veterans Memorial**

**Address:** French Drive, SW  
**Hours:** 24 hours a day  
**Cost:** Free!  
**Parking:** Street Parking - very limited  
**Metro:** Foggy Bottom  
**Website:** [http://www.nps.gov/kwvm/](http://www.nps.gov/kwvm/)

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**Background:** The Korean War Veterans Memorial honors all those who fought, and died, during the conflict. It was dedicated in 1986.

**The Korean War:**

The Korean War lasted from 1950-1953. It is sometimes referred to as the “forgotten war” because it does not receive much attention in history. This is in part because the war happened so soon after World War II. Over 36,000 American soldiers died during the war.

**Memorial:**

There are nineteen statues. The soldiers are not all dressed alike – they are dressed to represent the different branches of military service. The stones on the ground represent the obstacles the soldiers had to overcome. There is a wall that reflects the statues with faces sandblasted onto it. They are the faces of people who helped on the frontlines with medicine, supplies, and other things.

---

Would you design a memorial, or build a memorial?  

*Fig. 16- Korean War Memorial*  

*Fig. 15-World War II Memorial*
Vietnam Veterans Memorial

**Background:** The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is also called “the Wall.” It was dedicated in 1982. The memorial lists the names of all those who died during the fighting in Vietnam. The names are listed in chronological order by the day the person died. They are not in alphabetical order. Names are being added as we find out more about the soldiers who died.

**Address:**  
on the National Mall

**Hours:**  
24 hours a day

**Cost:**  
Free!

**Parking:**  
Street parking

**Metro:**  
Smithsonian

**Website:**  
[http://www.nps.gov/vive/](http://www.nps.gov/vive/)

**Vietnam War:**

About 58,000 Americans lost their lives in during the Vietnam War. The Vietnam War was fought from 1959 until 1975.

The Vietnam War was fought between the people of North Vietnam, a Communist country, and the people of South Vietnam who had the help of the United States. Americans decided to help because they did not want all of Southeast Asia to become Communist. After the United States left, the North Vietnamese took over South Vietnam. Almost thirty years later, they were unified.

**Memorial:**

American involvement in the Vietnam War was very controversial. The veterans needed to be honored for their service, and the memorial was created to do that. In addition to the wall, there is a statue called the Three Servicemen which was added in 1984. There is also a Vietnam Women’s Memorial, which was added in 1993 to honor the women who served in various roles.
Journal – War Memorials

Many of the soldiers who lost their lives in during the Vietnam War were very young. The average age of a soldier was 19 years old. How many years older than you is that?

Do you think you would be ready to fight for your country at such a young age?

After you have seen the Wall and another war memorial, think about how the two are different. How are they the same?

When you look at the faces on the men in the statue, how do they seem to be feeling? Do they look scared? Tired? Hopeful?

Fig. 17- The Wall
Adventures outside of D.C.

This is a list of other fun things to do on a day trip from Washington, D.C.

The list is organized by the approximate distance from Washington, D.C., with the closest attraction at the top of the list.

- Arlington National Cemetry 5 miles
- Marine Corps Memorial 5 miles
- Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Air and Space Center 29 miles
- Ball's Bluff National Cemetery 35 miles
Arlington National Cemetery

Background: Arlington National Cemetery is a military cemetery and has been since 1864. There are more than 300,000 people buried at Arlington Cemetery, including soldiers from all of the wars America has been in, starting at the Revolutionary War. It is still an active cemetery and there are between 25 and 30 funerals each day.

The American Flag is flown at half-staff during the day from the time of the first funeral until a half hour after the last funeral each day to honor those being buried each day. It is extremely important that you are respectful when visiting the cemetery. Remember not to run, speak loudly, or be rude.

The Tomb of the Unknowns, also known as the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, honors all those people who did not have proper funerals because they were lost at war, they were Missing in Action (MIA), or their bodies were never recovered.

Arlington House, also called the "Custis-Lee Mansion"

Robert E. Lee and his wife, Mary Anna, lived at Arlington House until 1861, when Lee joined the Confederate Army. After he left the home, he never returned.

To get back at Lee for joining the Confederates, Union officer Brigadier General Montgomery C. Meigs formed Arlington National Cemetery on Lee’s plantation so the

Did you know?

The tombs of the Confederate soldiers buried at the cemetery have a pointed top - this was so Union soldiers would not sit on the graves.
Lees could never return to their home. Meigs was buried at Arlington Cemetery after he died.

Don't miss…

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, or JFK as he is often referred to, was buried at Arlington National Cemetery after his assassination in 1963.

President Kennedy’s widow, Jacqueline, wanted to have his grave marked with an eternal flame, which is now next to his grave. However, it was once put out when the lid of a jar of holy water a nun was carrying fell off and spilt on the flame. The flame now has a backup system, just in case.

Spotlight!

Third U.S. Infantry Division

Also called “The Old Guard”

The changing of the guard happens every 30 minutes - don’t miss it!

The Old Guard is the oldest active duty infantry in the United States, being founded in 1784.

To be a guard for the tomb you must be between 5 feet, 10 inches and 6 feet, 4 inches tall.

One of their jobs is to keep guard by the tomb 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Part of the intense training for this volunteer job includes memorizing seven pages
Did you know?

All sorts of people are honored in the cemetery. You can find memorials to soldiers, nurses, astronauts and other people!

The only other American president buried at the cemetery is William Howard Taft, who died in 1930.

**Word find!** The words can be found written forwards and backwards.

- Arlington
- Cemetery
- Ceremony
- Courage
- Duty
- Honor
- Memorial
- Sacrifice
- Service
- Soldier
- Valor
- Veteran

![Fig. 19- Arlington Cemetery](image-url)
What words do you think of when you think about soldiers? (Try to think of at least three.)

How did seeing all the tombstones make you feel? Do you feel sad, thankful, angry, or something else? Why?

The most interesting thing I learned today was:

If I could say something to the soldiers who have died, it would be:
**Marine Corps War Memorial**

**Background:** The memorial honors all marines who have given their lives since 1775. The memorial shows soldiers from World War II on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan. The memorial is based on a picture taken by Joe Rosenthal. The memorial was dedicated in 1954.

**Address:** Marshall Drive
Arlington, Virginia

**Hours:** 24 hours a day

**Cost:** Free!

**Parking:** Parking lot

**Metro:** Arlington National Cemetery

It is about a 20 minute walk

**Website:**
http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/marinecorpswarmemorial.htm

They became national heroes.

The American flag on the memorial flies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

The memorial is located very close to Arlington National Cemetery. As you drive in you will be able to see the edge of the cemetery.

**Would you rather... serve as a soldier on a submarine or a helicopter? Why?**

**Memorial:**

It shows five marines and one navy soldier putting up an American flag.

The figures are 32 feet high!

Only three of the six soldiers depicted in the statue survived the war. When they returned home

![Fig. 20- Marine Corps Memorial](image)

Word Scramble!

Lagf
Earmin
Ghift
Emoktawr
Teghsegt
Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center
National Air and Space Museum

**Background:** The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center National Air and Space Museum was opened in 1993. The museum cost over $40 million dollars to build.

You can see the first plane with an ejector seat - it was built by the Germans because they wanted to use their planes as bombs without having the pilots die, like the Japanese kamikaze planes.

The space shuttle, the “Enterprise” was originally named the “Constitution,” but enough Star Trek fans petitioned to the US Government and NASA to have the name changed!

**Bombers**

The Enola Gay was named after the pilot’s mother. The plane is famous because it was used to drop the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan.

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**Address:** 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, Virginia 20151

**Hours:** Open daily from 10:00 am- 5:30 pm, each day except Christmas Day

**Cost:** Admission is free!

**Parking:** $15.00

**Website:** [www.nasm.si.edu](http://www.nasm.si.edu)

**Tours:** 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

---

**Did you see?**

- The plane that dropped the first atomic bomb?
- The first space shuttle?
- The first plane with an ejector seat?
- An amphibious plane?

---

**Would you rather...**

- fly a plane
- go into space?
Word Find!

Enola Gay
Airplane
Enterprise
Space
Astronaut
Flight
Shuttle
Orbit
Voyage
Earth

Did you see...
the observation tower? *(You can go all the way to the top)*
...the Spaceship Enterprise?
...the make-up kit for astronauts?
My favorite plane or space craft was:

It is my plane or space craft favorite because:

The most interesting fact I learned today was:

If I could fly the _________________ to any place in the world, it would be _________________.

Activity Idea:
Write an adventure story about flying one of the planes or space crafts you saw today. Why did you pick that plane? Where would you go?
Ball’s Bluff Battlefield and National Cemetery

**Address:** The cemetery is at the end of Ball’s Bluff Road in Leesburg, Virginia, 20175. It is reached through a neighborhood called Potomac Crossing.

**Hours:** Daily from dawn to dusk

**Cost:** Free!

**Parking:** Free!

**Website:** www.nvrpa.org/parks/ballsbluff/index.php

**Background:** This is a national cemetery dating back to the Civil War. There is information about both Union and Confederate soldiers in the area. It is the third smallest national cemetery in the United States. The battlefield became a National Historic Landmark in 1984.

Of the 54 soldiers buried in the cemetery, the identity of only one is known. His name was James Allen.

There are also only 25 tombstones, the tombs are marked “unknown.”

Outside the cemetery there is a memorial stone for Edward Baker, the only U.S. Senator to be killed during battle. Senator Baker was a close friend of Abraham Lincoln.

The Battle of Ball’s Bluff was fought on October 21, 1861, and was the result of a mistake.

Would you rather...be a general (a high ranking army officer), or a private (a low ranking soldier)?

Tours are Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. from Saturday April 4 until the end of October.

Additional tours are given on Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day.
After the trip!

Welcome home! Now that you are back from your trip to Washington the fun doesn’t have to end. Here are some ideas of activities to do now that your trip is over.

**Writing Activities**

Write a thank you note to the person/people who took you on the trip. Tell why you had fun and, what you liked most, and share a favorite memory.

Tell the story of your trip – include your favorite sights, sounds, and smells. Be sure to include colorful pictures. Write down anything you learned about traveling.

Imagine you are coming to Washington, D.C., for the first time as a new immigrant. What monument would be most meaningful to you? Why?

Was or is any person in your family a veteran? If so, ask him or her about their experiences in the military.

If not, make up the story of a soldier returning home from war. You can imagine any time period and any war.

Be sure to talk about the sights, sounds, smells, and experiences they would have had. For added detail, be sure to include the locations, dates, and battle names.

**Hands-on Activities**

Make a brochure about Washington, D.C., highlighting your favorite parts – show it to your friends, family, or teacher to encourage them to travel to D.C.

Collect copies of your favorite pictures from the trip. Use those photographs to make a collage of your trip.

---

**Fill the Blanks!**

Okay, so now you are back home in _______________.

You had a ______________ trip to Washington, D.C. You got to see the ____________, which was your favorite part of the trip! You got to eat lots of yummy ___________ and ___________. You can’t wait to tell your friends all about the ________________, which was so
Create a secret code like the Navajo Code Talkers did. Use it to send messages to your friends! Can they crack it?

Draw a cartoon that recreates the funniest thing that happened while you were in D.C.
Suggested Reading

Once you’ve seen the wonderful places in the guide, check out some of these stories to further your understanding of what you have experienced! Underneath each description is the name of the museum or museums where you would have seen things related to the topics in the book.

And now...

*The Journal of Sean Sullivan; A transcontinental Railroad Worker Nebraska and Points West, 1867*

By William Durbin

As the title suggests, this is the diary of a young boy working on the transcontinental railroad. (American History Museum)

*Day of Tears*

By Julius Lester

This book tells the story of slavery and the separation of families because of slavery through many perspectives. The reader sees the viewpoints of the slaves, masters, and an auctioneer. (American History Museum)

*The Amazing Tale of Adolphus Tips*

By Michael Morpurgo

This book does not take place in the United States, but instead in England during World War II. (American History Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Museum, and the National Air and Space Museum)

*The Girl Who Chased Away Sorrow; The Diary of Sarah Nita, a Navajo Girl New Mexico, 1864*

By Ann Turner
Sarah Nita, the main character in the story, shares her diary as she encounters the “men in blue,” searches for her family, and tries to understand the terms of a changing nation. (American Indian Museum)

*The Coffin Quilt; The Feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys*

By Ann Rinadli

This is the story of one of the most famous feuds in all of America, the feud between the Hatfields and the McCoys. The story is told by Fanny McCoy. The story is fiction, but it is based on the factual events of the story. This story reveals life in Appalachia and the Civil War. (American History Museum).

*Little House on the Prairie*

By Laura Ingalls Wilder

The Little House on the Prairie books tell the story of a young Laura Ingalls as she grows up in the Midwest during the late 19th century. It is historical fiction based loosely on the author’s life. (The National Archives)

Would you rather...read or write a book?
Glossary

adventurer – Someone who takes chances, explores the unknown, and learns new things everywhere he or she goes

amphibious – is able to go on both land and water

approximate – about, around, not an exact number

archives – a collection of historical documents and artifacts

Confederacy - The 11 states that made up that fought against the Union during the Civil War

deeded – given through a will

docent – a volunteer who knows a lot about a museum. He or she usually gives tours.

Emancipation Proclamation - an order given by Abraham Lincoln that freed slaves from the states in the Confederacy.

foyer – a large entry room in a building or hall

glossary – a list of words with definitions or explanations

inaugural – the first of something, usually marks the beginning of a leader’s time in office

indentured servant – a person who is required to work for a specific amount of time to pay for their transportation, food, clothing, and shelter.

taxidermy – the practice of preserving a deceased animal in its own body

scabbard- a holder for a gun or sword
Union – the name of the 23 states that made up the North during the Civil War
Quiz

1. Where can you find the largest cut diamond in the world?

2. Where would you go to see a part of the “Dumbo” ride of Disney World?
   a. American History Museum   b. FDR Memorial   c. Manassas Battlefield

3. What is the tallest building in Washington, D.C.?
   a. Washington Monument   b. Lincoln Memorial   c. White House

4. What was the first building of the Smithsonian Institutes?

5. The war memorial that is called “The Wall” is the…?

6. _______________________ liked to carry important papers in his top hat.

7. Franklin D. Roosevelt suffered from what disease?
   a. Tuberculosis   b. Cancer   c. Polio

8. The National Archives is the home of a lot of important documents. Which of the following is not on display?

9. The Cherry Blossoms that can be seen around Washington were originally given to the United States as a gift from…?
   a. Morocco   b. Canada   c. Japan
10. Which river is closest to Washington, D.C.?
   a. The Nile  b. The Potomac
Word find!

Animals
Archives
Astronaut
Cherry Blossoms
Congress
Constitution
Culture
District of Columbia
Memorial
MetroMonuments
Museum
Nationals
Peace
President
Redskins
Science
Smithsonian
War
Washington
BIBLIOGRAPHY


CURRICULUM VITAE

Kristin L. Petersen received her Bachelor of Arts in English and International Studies from Virginia Tech in 2007. She received her Master of Arts in English from George Mason University in 2009.