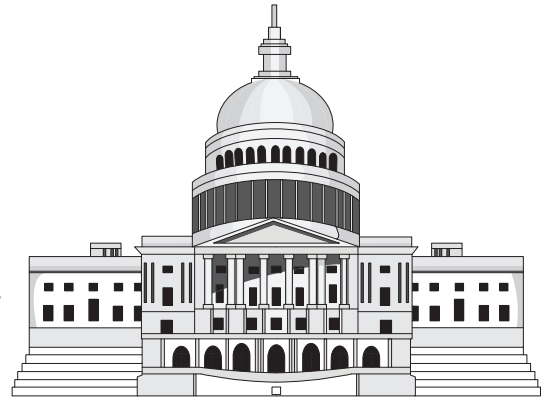


Capitol Hill

by Katie Clark

Capitol Hill is the seat of the American government. This is where the Senate and the House of Representatives meet. It is where you can find the Library of Congress and the Supreme Court. There are many historic monuments in the area. Visitors come from all over the country to see it.



Capitol Hill is in Washington, D.C. It was chosen by George Washington and the states of Maryland, and constructed in 1800.

The first project for the new Congress would need a place to meet. How could they house the new Congress?

Thomas Jefferson's plan would win five out of ten votes. President Washington did not like either design. He sent in his design. By 1800, the contest had ended.

When the leaders saw his plans, though, they chose his design as the winner. He suggested a central building with a dome. There would be two wings off the central building. One wing would hold the Senate. The other wing would hold the House of Representatives.

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leaders knew the design would be best?

could make the best design contest, but President Washington did not like either design. He sent in his design. By 1800, the contest had ended.

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Construction started right away, but the builders had many problems. They had trouble getting enough money for supplies. It took many years to complete a small part of the building. In the year 1800, the Congress was able to meet in the Capitol building for the first time.

The Library of Congress and the Supreme Court also began meeting in the Capitol building by 1801. Many changes were made to the building over the years. Updates were made to make it more modern. Running water, gas lighting, elevators, and electricity were added. The building is much bigger, as more congressmen joined. New states joined the union at a faster rate. More states could fit all the state leaders.

Today the Capitol is much wider. The Capitol Dome is made mostly of sandstone. It is 450 feet long, and 350 feet high. The building is made of millions of dollars worth of stone.

Inside the Capitol, you can see the House and the Senate. You can also see the Rotunda. The Rotunda has lots of historic paintings. The Declaration of Independence is also there.

The Capitol building isn't the only major attraction on Capitol Hill. The Library of Congress and Supreme Court buildings are also located there. They did meet inside the Capitol building at first, but they were moved to their own homes as the country grew.

John Adams founded the Library of Congress in 1800. The books were meant to

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help the congressmen as they made and upheld laws. After the Civil War in 1861, the leaders realized the library could help all American people. After that, the library collection grew quickly.

A new building was built for the books. It opened in 1898. Today, the Library of Congress is made up of three separate buildings. The Thomas Jefferson Building is the most popular. There are over sixteen million books there today. There are also millions of other written items.

The Supreme Court
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he became a Supreme
Supreme Court should

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Other important
Memorial and the W
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by more years. They met
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include the Lincoln
Museum and the Folgers

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Today, Capitol Hill remains a proud mix of history and modern politics. It is used by the United States legislative and judicial branches. It is visited by millions of guests each year who come to tour the capital city. Guests can even secure passes that grant them entry into an active session of Congress. This allows them to see their United States Senators or Representatives in action.

Name : _____

Capitol Hill

1) Why did the leaders decide to accept William Thornton's design for U.S. Capitol Building, even though he had submitted it after the deadline?

2) What was the biggest problem the builders had to deal with when they started the construction

3) What upgrades were made to the building to make it more modern?

4) What was one change made to the building to make it more modern?
to the Library of Congress?

5) How does the author conclude the passage?

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