

Teachers' Guide for Cobblestone

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Why D.C.?

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Goal: to learn about the city plan for Washington, D. C. and how it and the city have evolved since the city's founding.

***Always have a parent or trusted adult help with web research.**

Before Beginning:

- What do you know about Washington, D.C.? If you have visited the city, what did you do there?

"A Capital Place" by Kathiann M. Kowalski (Pages 2-4)

"On the Move" by Andrew Matthews (Page 5)

Comprehension:

1. What year was the city of Washington, D.C. founded?
2. What year did it become the nation's capital?
3. How did the Constitution influence the city?
4. Why did Congress consider moving the capital to Philadelphia?
5. Why did some people want to move the capital west?
6. What do you think Ben Sasse meant by the term "Thought experiment"?
7. What features make Washington D.C. a tourist destination?

Social Studies Activity: Create an annotated time line for the movements of each congress. What important decisions and resolutions were made at each location prior to the move to Washington, D.C.? Add events that caused the move as well.

Capitals Activity: Complete the activity on page 5.

Research: Washington D.C., President George Washington, the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, First Continental Congress, Second Continental Congress, Articles of Confederation, Congress

"A Permanent Home" by Kenneth R. Bowling (Pages 6-8)

Vocabulary: appease, sectional

Comprehension:

1. Why did many people want to establish a federal capital?
2. What were some of the disagreements about the capital?
3. Why did northern and southern states disagree on the location?
4. What did Elbridge Gerry propose, and why did that plan fail?
5. Who did the constitutional convention say should have power over the capital?

6. Why wasn't Germantown, PA approved as the site for the new capital?
7. What was the compromise between Hamilton and Madison?
8. Who chose the site for the new city?

Research: Elbridge Gerry, Germantown, PA, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Assumption Act, Residence Act

"No State Influence" by Kenneth R. Bowling (Page 9)

Vocabulary: ceded

Comprehension:

1. Which states ceded land to create Washington?
2. Why were early residents taxed without representation?
3. When did they gain the right to vote for a presidential ticket?
4. Who runs the city today?
5. What power does Congress maintain?
6. What rights would residents like to gain?

Math Activity: How long did the capital exist before presidential voting rights were granted to its citizens?

Writing Activity: Do you believe residents of Washington, D.C. should have representation in Congress? Do you believe they should be able to oversee their own affairs? Write an essay expressing and justifying each of your opinions.

"Washington, D.C." (Pages 10-11)

Map Activity: Study the maps on these pages and page 9. How does the original design differ from the modern city? Locate the monuments and buildings mentioned in the article on the map on page 10. Locate the Mall on the map on page 9.

Discussion Activity: Why might George Washington have chosen this specific location for the city?

Research: Peter Charles L'Enfant, White House, Capitol Building, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Andrew Ellicott

"Designer with a Grand Vision" by Kenneth R. Bowling (Pages 12-13)

"A Fateful Decision" by Andrew Matthews (Page 14)

Comprehension:

1. Why had Pierre Charles L'Enfant come to the United States?
2. How did he earn a living?
3. What was his relationship with Congress?
4. How did he know President Washington?
5. What was L'Enfant's plan for the city?
6. How did the grand avenues impact the grid design?
7. How has the Potomac River changed since the plan was designed?

8. What conflicts arose between L'Enfant and the commissioners appointed to oversee him?
9. How was the conflict resolved?
10. What events opened the door for Congress to reconsider the location of the capital?
11. Why did President Monroe want it to remain in Washington?
12. How long did it take to rebuild the Capitol?

Research: Potomac River, James Monroe

"A Changing View" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 15-17)

Comprehension:

1. What was Jefferson's view for the planned city?
2. Why did he have these views?
3. Why did many people leave in the summer months?
4. Who was James Smithson?
5. What did he state in his will?
6. Why didn't Andrew Jackson accept the gift right away?
7. What debate did the gift prompt?
8. What were some of the uses suggested for Smithson's money?
9. What was the original purpose of the Smithsonian?
10. What impact did Spencer Fullerton Baird have on the Smithsonian?
11. How did the growing sense of nationalism impact the development of the Smithsonian?

Math Activities:

1. In 1801, approximately what percentage of people in the city was employed by the city?
2. In what year did Congress resolve the debate over the Smithsonian?
3. How long did it take to build the Castle?

Research Activity: Monticello, James Madison, James Smithson, Andrew Jackson, John Quincy Adams, Smithsonian Institution, Spencer Fullerton Baird

"Around the World" by Susan J. Hofstetter (Pages 18-21)

Vocabulary: nexus, Moorish, baroque

Comprehension: Answer each question for each city if possible.

1. Where is this city?
2. What does it have in common with Washington, D.C.?
3. How old is the city?
4. How and why might it have influenced L'Enfant and the others who designed Washington?

Research: London, England; Paris, France; Napoleon Bonaparte; Napoleon III; Lisbon, Portugal; Madrid, Spain; St. Petersburg, Russia; Catherine the Great; Alexander I; Amsterdam, the Netherlands; The Hague; Vienna, Austria

“Design It” by Karen Drayne and Will Bremen (Pages 22-23)

Comprehension:

1. What were the first cities like?
2. Why were these components important?
3. What are the concerns addressed by modern city developers?

Design Activity: Answer the questions posed in the article and create a design plan for your own city.

“Shepherd Takes Charge” by Philip W. Ogilvie (Pages 26-28)

Vocabulary: infrastructure, cisterns

Comprehension:

1. What was Washington D.C. like in the Civil War years?
2. Why did people consider moving the capital to a more western city?
3. What was Alexander Shepherd’s childhood like?
4. What changes did Congress make in 1871?
5. How did Shepherd gain political power?
6. What changes did Shepherd make?
7. Why were some people unhappy with Shepherd’s changes?
8. Why did Shepherd move to Mexico?
9. What happened to him after he moved?

Math Activity:

1. If the population increased by 75% to 131,700 during the 1860s, what was the population before 1860?
2. What percentage of Shepherd’s new roads was paved during his tenure?
3. How much debt did Shepherd’s government accrue?

Research activity: Select an element of your local infrastructure and determine who is responsible for maintaining it. When were the last updates made? What plans are in place to accommodate future changes in population or technology? What plans are in place to help with recovery or to withstand a natural disaster such as a hurricane, earthquake, tornado or flood?

Research: American Civil War, National Capital Removal Convention, Alexander Robey Shepherd, Georgetown, Ulysses S. Grant, Henry David Cooke

“Finishing Touches” by Elizabeth B. O’Brien (Pages 29-33)

Vocabulary: centennial

Comprehension:

1. What were L’Enfant’s plans for the city’s parks?
2. Why was parkland neglected in the early years?
3. How did Lafayette Square get its name?

4. Why did people decide more parks would be good for the city?
5. Why didn't Andrew Downing complete the parks?
6. What impact did the Civil War have on the open spaces of the city?
7. What prompted a return to the idea of beautifying the city?
8. Who created the new plans?
9. What were some of their views on park design?
10. What was their plan for the Mall?
11. How did it differ from L'Enfant's original plan?
12. Why was the Commission on Fine Arts created?
13. How have its goals expanded?

Discussion: Are parks and other open spaces important features of a city or town? Why or why not?

Writing Activity: Select an event planned for the National Mall and write a persuasive essay to convince your parents to take you to this event.

Research: Lafayette Square, Marquis de Lafayette, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Jackson Downing, World's Columbian Exposition, City Beautiful movement, Senator James McMillan, McMillan Plan, Lincoln Memorial, Abraham Lincoln, Commission of Fine Arts, National Mall

"Looking Ahead" by Kathiann M. Kowalski (Pages 34-37)

Vocabulary: appropriate, pre-K, underutilization, Metro

Comprehension:

1. What do city planners do?
2. How does Congress impact planning for Washington, D.C.?
3. What factors are leading to population growth in the city?
4. What challenges does the city face?
5. Why is the use of public transportation encouraged?

Research: city planning

"More Than One Capital?" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 40-41)

Research: Montenegro, Bolivia, South Africa

Activity for the Entire Issue: Revisit the design plan you made after reading "Design It" on pages 20-23. You are the city planner. Are there any things you need to change? Create a model of your city. Write a description of the location of the city and why you chose to add the features that are in your plan. If construction caused you to change the design, add the cause and final change to your description.