

184

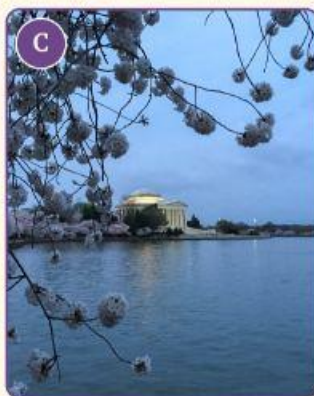
MYSTERIES & CREATIVE CHALLENGES

Your first clue starts before the trip.

ERIC KOESTER · GUILDLIGHT PRESS

THE MONUMENT WITH A HIDDEN SEAM

Three monuments stand near water. Work stopped on one for more than two decades. Which photo hides the evidence?



Circle A, B, or C. What mark might a long construction pause leave behind?

YOUR FIRST CASE IS OPEN

Find it. Prove it. Turn the page.

FIRST CLUE: SOLVED!

The unfinished monument is the Washington Monument.



THE PLACE

WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Work stopped in 1854 when funds ran out. Congress voted to finish it in 1876; construction resumed later. Look for the change in stone color partway up. Can you find the line where the first builders stopped?

DETECTIVE RULE:

A visible clue beats a lucky guess.

BUILD A QUEST NICKNAME

First name: choose the first name of a president you admire.

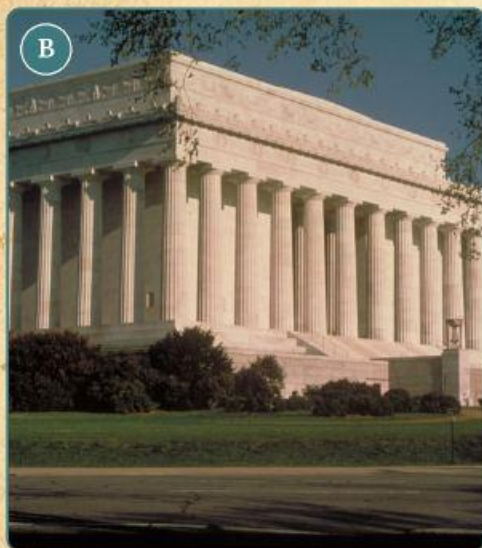
LAST NAME: PICK ONE CITY CLUE

Star · Smithsonian · Cherry · National · Declaration

My quest nickname: _____

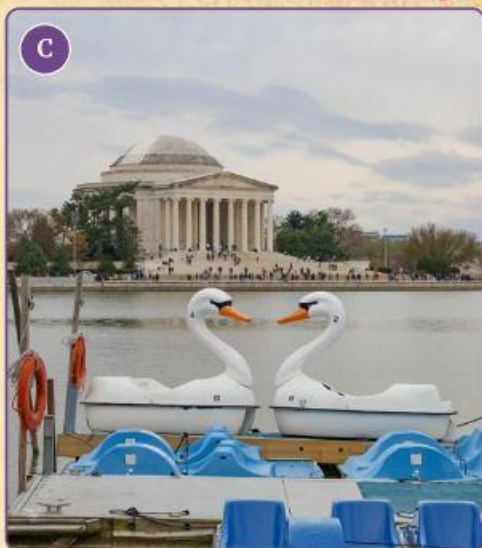
TWO MORE PICTURE CLUES

Name each place from the evidence you can see.



NAME THE HALL WITH
THE TALL COLUMNS.

B: _____



NAME THE ROUND DOME
ACROSS THE WATER.

C: _____

YOUR EVIDENCE

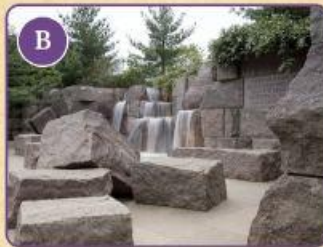
B has _____. C has _____.

Which building has a grand hall above broad steps? Which has a round dome beside the water?

ANSWER KEY · B: LINCOLN MEMORIAL C: JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

THREE STORIES HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Each true story belongs to A, B, or C. Use the photos to make a case.



1

A CROWN THAT FIARES UPWARD

One museum rises in three bronze-colored tiers that grow wider toward the sky. Which photo shows that unusual crown? What might its shape represent?

MY MATCH: A / B / C

2

A MISSING PART OF A STORY

One memorial gained a new opening space years after it was dedicated. What detail about its president had visitors wanted to see represented? Which photo fits?

MY MATCH: A / B / C

3

A LIBRARY REBUILT FROM ASHES

The first congressional library burned in 1814. Congress paid \$23,950 for one former president's books to rebuild its collection. Which photo shows its later home?

MY MATCH: A / B / C

USE EACH PHOTO ONCE. REVEAL THE STORIES ON THE NEXT PAGE.

THE STORIES BEHIND THE PHOTOS

Check your matches. Each answer opens one more mystery.

CASE 1 • THE RISING CROWN

A is the African American History Museum. Its bronze-colored corona widens as it rises, drawing on a West African crown form. A building can tell a story before you enter. Bonus: which Olympic gymnast gave her leotard and uneven-bar grips to this museum?

MY MATCH: A / B / C

BONUS NAME: _____

CASE 2 • THE STORY MADE VISIBLE

B is the FDR Memorial. Its Prologue Room was added in 2001, years after the memorial opened. The new sculpture showed a part of Franklin Roosevelt's life that visitors had asked to see. Bonus: what was the president shown using?

MY MATCH: A / B / C

BONUS OBJECT: _____

CASE 3 • THE LIBRARY THAT RETURNED

C is the Library of Congress's later Jefferson Building. The first collection burned while the Library was housed in the Capitol. In 1815 Congress bought 6,487 books for \$23,950 to begin again. Bonus: which former president sold them?

MY MATCH: A / B / C

BONUS NAME: _____

BONUS ANSWERS

1 • Gabby Douglas 2 • His wheelchair 3 • Thomas Jefferson

CHOOSE YOUR CASE FILE

184 mysteries and creative challenges. No required order.

OFFICIAL CITY QUESTS

U.S. Capitol	10	Washington Monument	44
U.S. Supreme Court	16	Lincoln Memorial	48
Library of Congress	18	Vietnam + Korean War Memorials	52
National Archives Museum	22	World War II Memorial	54
American History Museum	28	MLK Memorial	58
Natural History Museum	34	Thomas Jefferson Memorial	60
Air and Space Museum	36	African American History Museum	62
The White House	40		

BONUS QUESTS

National Zoo	64	FDR Memorial	76
National Gallery of Art	68	Arlington National Cemetery	80
Georgetown Waterfront	72	U.S. Botanic Garden	84

Anytime Quests · page 86
Find Your Score & Rank · page 88
Do the 90-minute Mall Hunt · page 90

PICK A QUEST PATH

Choose the kind of mystery your crew wants today.

MONUMENT SHAPES

- ☐ Washington Monument
- ☐ Lincoln Memorial
- ☐ Jefferson Memorial
- ☐ World War II Memorial

TODAY'S PICK

POWER + PROMISES

- ☐ U.S. Capitol
- ☐ Supreme Court
- ☐ National Archives
- ☐ The White House

TODAY'S PICK

MUSEUM SECRETS

- ☐ African American History
- ☐ American History
- ☐ Air and Space
- ☐ National Gallery of Art

TODAY'S PICK

LIVING CITY

- ☐ Georgetown Waterfront
- ☐ National Zoo
- ☐ Botanic Garden
- ☐ FDR Memorial

TODAY'S PICK

Skip one. Swap one. Save one for tomorrow. A shorter excellent adventure still counts.

SOVE IT LIKE A QUEST DETECTIVE

Every quest follows the same four-move mystery loop.

1 PICK

Open a case file. Choose any quest that fits your day.

2 HUNT

Find, count, name, match, or spot the exact clue.

4 CREATE

Use Creative spreads to turn evidence into something new.

3 PROVE

Circle, draw, say, or write the evidence that solved it.

YOUR CASE FILE

PLACE CLUES PROOF POINTS

Grown-ups handle routes and breaks. Detectives handle the noticing.

HEAT, ACCESS, AND RESPECT ALWAYS OUTRANK POINTS.

CLIMB THE GUILD TOWER

Every solved clue moves your crew higher.

5

GUILD ARCHIVIST

277 POINTS

4

MASTER OF MEMORY

190-276 POINTS

3

MYSTIC MAPMAKER

122-189 POINTS

2

APPRENTICE SEEKER

55-121 POINTS

1

JUNIOR QUILL BEARER

0-54 POINTS

SCORE VAULT

CORE ____ / 199

BONUS ____ / 63

ANYTIME ____ / 15

TOTAL ____ / 277

90-minute hunt scores separately.

THE ONLY RULE

You do not have to finish everything. Notice something you would have missed.



U.S. CAPITOL

The Capitol Citadel



LOOK FOR THE STORY IN THE STONE

CASE FILE 01 / FIRST LOOK

WHO STANDS ABOVE THE DOME?

Congress makes laws here, but the building tells stories too. The Statue of Freedom crowns the dome; paintings and statues below preserve choices about whose history is seen. Find her silhouette first. Then hunt for a second symbol that changes your reading of this place.

Draw or map the detail you would show another explorer.

YOUR FIELD NOTES

FIRST CLUE

SECOND CLUE

OUR VERDICT

OUTDOOR EXPLORATIONS

10 ON THIS SPREAD

34 QUEST POINTS



THE OUTSIDE



THE ROTUNDA

1
POINT

FREEDOM ABOVE

Find the tiny figure crowning the dome. Now locate her much larger model in the Visitor Center. What bird shapes her helmet?

2
POINTS

THREE-PART CAPITOL

From the west lawn, find the dome between two long wings. Which side houses the Senate? Check the visitor map, then mark it.

2
POINTS

REFLECTION HUNT

Find the reflecting pool. Which part of the Capitol becomes easiest to recognize in the water? Sketch its shape and compare it with the real skyline.

1
POINT

GRANT'S HORSES

At the Grant Memorial, one horse rears because a bridle has broken. Find the group with that horse. How many horses pull its cannon?

2
POINTS

FREEDOM UP CLOSE

At the Visitor Center model, find the sword, shield, and wreath. Which item rests near her right hand, and which two are in her left?

2
POINTS

CAPITOL SYMBOL VOTE

The Crypt's floor star marks the city's center. Find it on the tour or in the official guide. Which four city quadrants meet there?

ACCESS NOTE

Historic rooms require a guided tour. Every activity on this spread can still be completed from the grounds or Visitor Center.

CAPITOL TOUR ROUTE

Complete these if your family takes the official guided tour.

8 ON THIS PAGE

17 ON THIS SPREAD



STATUARY HALL



THE CEILING



THE FIGURE ABOVE

In the Rotunda ceiling, find George Washington. Who sits on either side of him? Use two visible clues to tell them apart.



THE PAPER CHANGES HANDS

In Trumbull's Declaration painting, who presents a paper to the seated John Hancock? Name him or sketch his position.



CAPTURED COLORS

Look behind the delegates in the Declaration painting. What military objects hang against the rear wall?



THE PILOT'S HIDDEN CLUES

Find the pilot in Statuary Hall holding a cap and goggles. What is her name, and which state sent her statue?



FIND THE COMPASS STONE

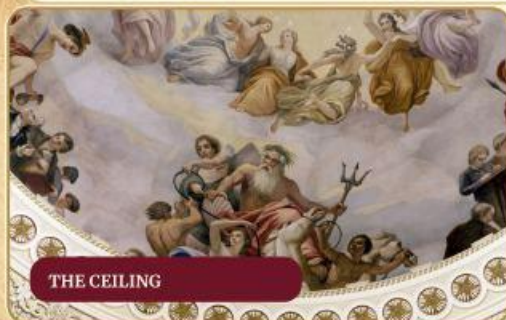
In the Crypt, find the white star on the floor. What do its four directions divide the city into?

CRYPT & STATUARY HALL

Compare what you see, hear, and remember.

9 ON THIS PAGE

34 QUEST POINTS



THE CEILING



THE DETAILS

2

POINTS

FORTY SUPPORTS

The Crypt holds forty sandstone columns. Find one and sketch the simple shape at its top. Which floor do these columns support?

quick sketch

2

POINTS

TWO WAYS TO REMEMBER

Find Amelia Earhart and one other Statuary Hall figure. Which object or pose reveals each person's story? Name both clues.

2

POINTS

THE ECHO CHAMBER

Trace the half-dome of old House chamber with your pencil. Which edge or curve might send a whisper across the room?

quick sketch

1

POINT

EARHART'S GEAR

DONE ☐

Without touching, spot the pilot's scarf, cap, and goggles. Which one is held in her hand?

2

POINTS

FIND LINCOLN UNDERFOOT

In Statuary Hall, look for a floor marker naming Abraham Lincoln. Which state appears below his name? Follow your guide's route.

THE STATUE'S DAY OUT

QUEST 01 / CC-01 CASE COMIC

7 POINTS



STATUARY HALL, THEN - FIND A STATUE NOW

THE MAKING MISSION

A statue you saw steps down for one imaginary day. Where does it go, what choice does it face, and what does it bring back? Use two real details from the statue or Capitol setting.

TWO REAL CLUES TO CARRY

1. One detail from the actual statue
2. One detail from the room or building

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

- ☐ Two observed details, named or drawn +2
- ☐ A problem and a real choice +2
- ☐ An ending that changes something +2
- ☐ Mark what is imagined +1

MAKE A SIX-PANEL STORY

Make one page worth keeping.

7 POINTS

FICTIONAL STORY - REAL PLACE CLUES

1

2

3

4

5

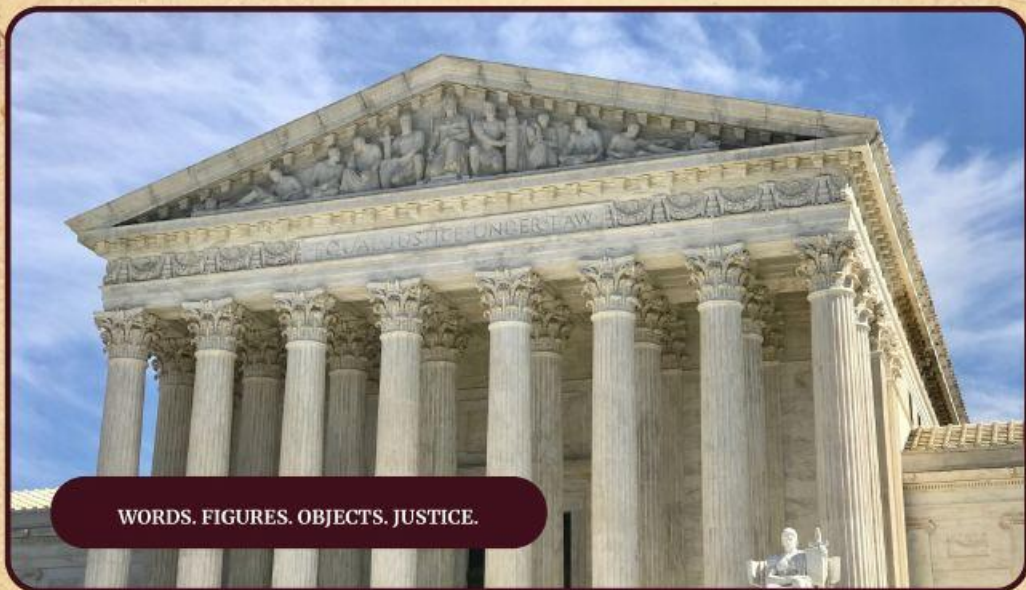
6

START HERE: choose the statue and two clues.

FINISH TOMORROW: complete the final two panels.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

The Scales of Justice



WORDS. FIGURES. OBJECTS. JUSTICE.

CASE FILE 02 / FIRST LOOK

WHAT DOES JUSTICE LOOK LIKE FROM THE STEPS?

This has been the Court's home since 1935. Find its four-word promise and the facade figure carrying a law book.

2
POINTS

FACADE CODE

Find "EQUAL JUSTICE UNDER LAW" above the entrance. Which two words finish the promise, and how many columns hold it up?

2
POINTS

TWO FIGURES, TWO OBJECTS

At the left statue, find the tiny blindfolded figure. At the right statue, find the tablet. What three-letter word is carved there?

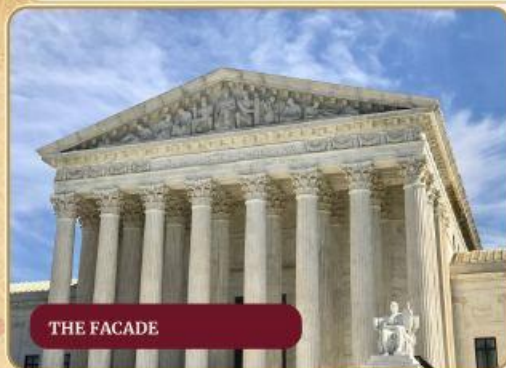
1
POINT

JUSTICE SYMBOL

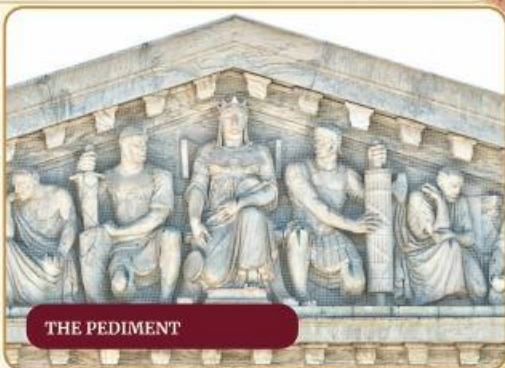
One statue holds a book of laws; the other has a sheathed sword. Which is on the left of the steps? Point to the proof.

CONTINUE THE QUEST

If the building is open



THE FACADE



THE PEDIMENT

2
POINTS

MARSHALL & THE SPIRAL

Find John Marshall on the ground floor. Then find one self-supporting spiral staircase. What shape repeats as your eyes climb?

1
POINT

FACES OF THE GREAT HALL

The Great Hall has busts of former Chief Justices. Find one. Which name is on its label, and what object or dress detail marks the role?

2
POINTS

COURTROOM BALANCE

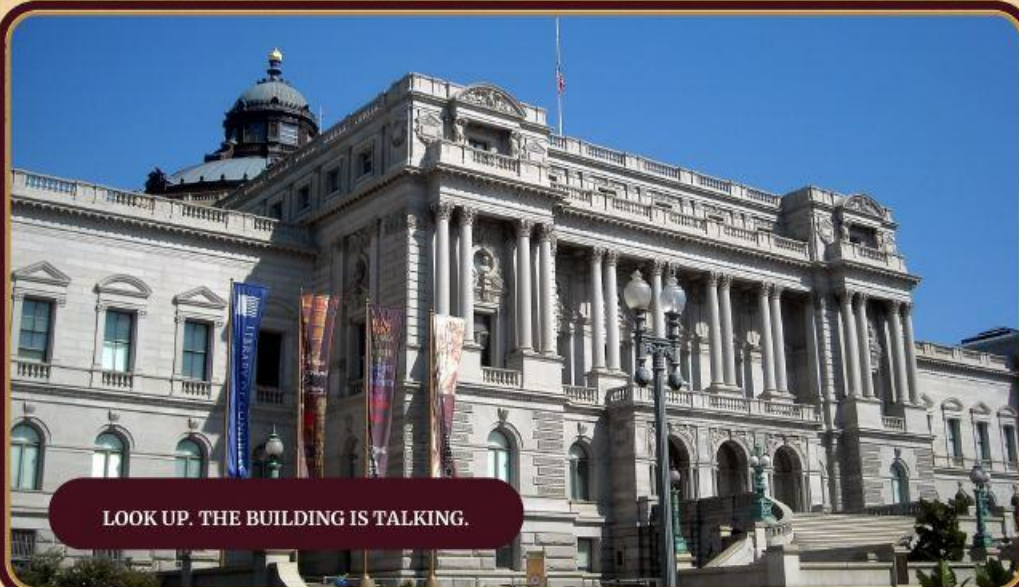
If the Courtroom is open, find the nine seats at the Bench. What shape does the Bench make, and which side seems closest to you?

BUILDING CLOSED? KEEP QUESTING.

For each unavailable indoor task, record or sketch a different detail from the bronze doors, east pediment, exterior sculpture, or official self-guide. Keep the same point value.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Keeper's Library



LOOK UP. THE BUILDING IS TALKING.

CASE FILE 03 / FIRST LOOK

WHY IS THE LIBRARY COVERED IN CLUES?

The first congressional library burned with the Capitol in 1814. Jefferson's books helped it begin again; the later Jefferson Building turned learning into architecture. Look up in the Great Hall: which named subject or symbol can you find before opening a book?

MY CLUE _____

1
POINT

A BUILDING OF BIRDS

In the Great Hall, hunt for an eagle above an arch. How many different places can you spot its shape before reaching the stairs?

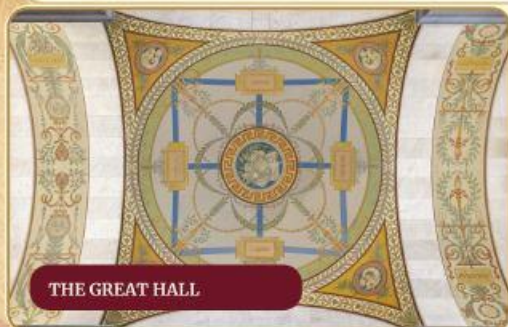
1
POINT

THE CEILING'S SUBJECTS

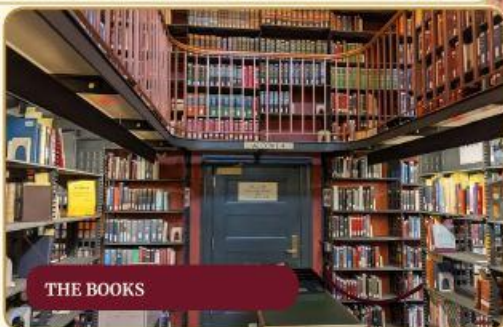
Look up. Find a field of knowledge named in the decoration. Is it about people, nature, or making things? Record the exact word.

FOLLOW THE CLUES

8 verified quest points



THE GREAT HALL



THE BOOKS

1
POINT

GUTENBERG BIBLE

At the Gutenberg Bible, look for large red or blue initials. Were those colors printed with the black text or added afterward? Check the display.

2
POINTS

MINERVA'S SYMBOLS

Find the Minerva mosaic. Which bird watches beside her, and what is written on the scroll she holds? Name one subject.

1
POINT

READING ROOM VIEW

From the overlook, find the Main Reading Room's central desk. How are the readers' desks arranged around it? If closed, use the visitor image.

2
POINTS

WORDS WORTH KEEPING

Find a quotation above an arch. Copy its first three words, then point to the doorway or room it frames. How does that location change its meaning?

ACCESS CHANGES? KEEP QUESTING.

If a space is closed, replace its clue with a different quotation, rare book, mosaic, or architectural detail on the visitor route. Keep the same point value.

THE MISSING BOOK

QUEST 03 / CC-02 ONE-PAGE FEATURE

6 POINTS



A BOOK ON DISPLAY



A SYMBOL OR PATTERN

THE MAKING MISSION

Imagine one book this Library should add. Borrow two details you actually found here: one visual symbol and one word, pattern, or figure. Turn them into one designed book jacket.

TWO REAL CLUES TO CARRY

1. A symbol from the building
2. A second word, pattern, or figure

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

- ☐ Two real Library clues +2
- ☐ One irresistible cover +2
- ☐ A back-cover promise +1
- ☐ A reader who needs this book +1

DESIGN THE BOOKJACKET

Make one page worth keeping.

6 POINTS

FRONT COVER - TITLE, IMAGE, TWO BORROWED CLUES

BACK-COVER PROMISE

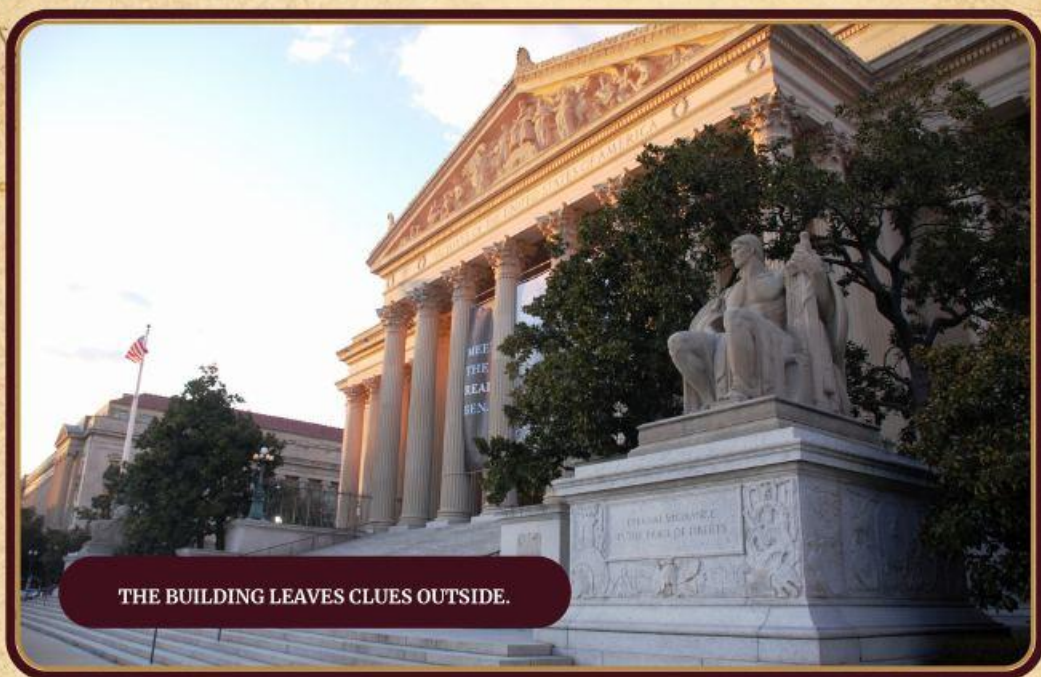
START HERE: jot your title and borrowed clues.

FINISH TOMORROW: draw the cover and promise.



NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The Vault of Voices



THE BUILDING LEAVES CLUES OUTSIDE.

CASE FILE 04 / FIRST LOOK

CAN A DOCUMENT KEEP A PROMISE?

Three documents answer three different problems: the Declaration announced separation, the Constitution built a government, and the Bill of Rights limited its power. Find a signature on one and the opening words on another. Which problem did each try to solve?

MY CLUE

YOUR MISSION

Find the two stone guardians. Decode their messages. Decide what lesson from the past is worth carrying forward.

READ THE BUILDING



STONE CAN SPEAK. LOOK CLOSELY.



FUTURE'S INSCRIPTION

PAST IS PROLOGUE

Find "What Is Past Is Prologue" carved below the statue of Future. Which single word tells you that the past is only the beginning of the story?



PAST + FUTURE

TWO GUARDIANS

Find the two giant figures at the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance. One holds a closed book; the other an open book. Which figure is Past, and which is Future?

FIELD NOTE

Which guardian would you ask one question – Past or Future?

INSIDE THE ROTUNDA

MEET THE CHARTERS OF FREEDOM

The original Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights live here together. Move slowly, share the viewing space, and follow posted photography and security rules.



I

DECLARATION

events



II

CONSTITUTION

a founding charter



III

BILL OF RIGHTS

10 amendments



FIND BOTH NAMES

TWO SIGNATURES

A famous signature is much larger than its neighbors. Find John Hancock on the Declaration. Then find George Washington on the Constitution. Which page makes the name easier to spot?





READ THE FIRST LINE

DECLARATION OPENING

Find the Declaration's opening. Which word says the writers will explain a reason for acting? Show it in the text or transcript.

Point to or name the word.



WORDS THAT CHANGED A NATION



READ THE FIRST LINE

CONSTITUTION OPENING

Find the Constitution's first three words. Who do they claim to speak for? Which words support your answer?





TRANSLATE THE IDEA

ONE PROTECTED FREEDOM

The First Amendment protects several freedoms. Find the words speech and press in the text or transcript. Which one appears first?





THREE CLUES, THREE CHARTERS

MATCH THE DOCUMENTS

A paper shuffle! Match each clue to one charter: John Hancock's giant signature; We the People; Congress shall make no law. Name all three before checking the labels.



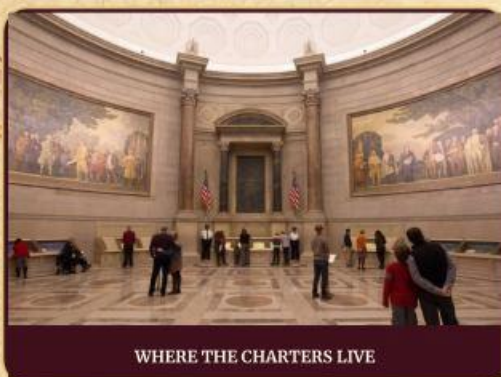
CAN'T READ A DETAIL?

Use a nearby transcript or official facsimile and keep the same points.

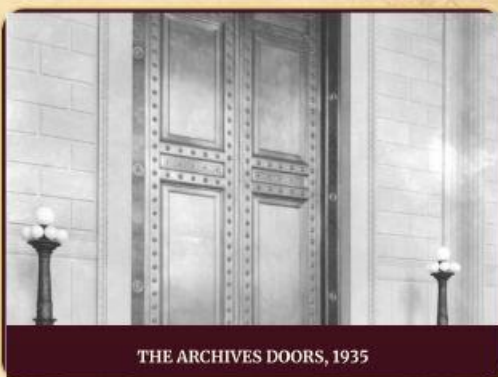
A DECLARATION FOR OUR JOURNEY

QUEST 04 / CC-02 FIELD KEEPSAKE

8 POINTS



WHERE THE CHARTERS LIVE



THE ARCHIVES DOORS, 1935

THE MAKING MISSION

A promise on paper matters only when people try to keep it. Make one full-page declaration for your family's journey: what matters, why, and what you will do about it.

TWO REAL CLUES TO CARRY

1. A phrase or design choice from one charter
2. A second document or stone detail

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

- ☐ A clear belief or promise +2
- ☐ A reason rooted in one real clue +2
- ☐ One action your family can take +2
- ☐ A meaningful seal or signature +2

WRITE ONE REAL DECLARATION

Make one page worth keeping.

8 POINTS

A DECLARATION FOR OUR JOURNEY

ONE REAL CLUE I FOUND AT THE ARCHIVES:

WE BELIEVE...

SO WE WILL...

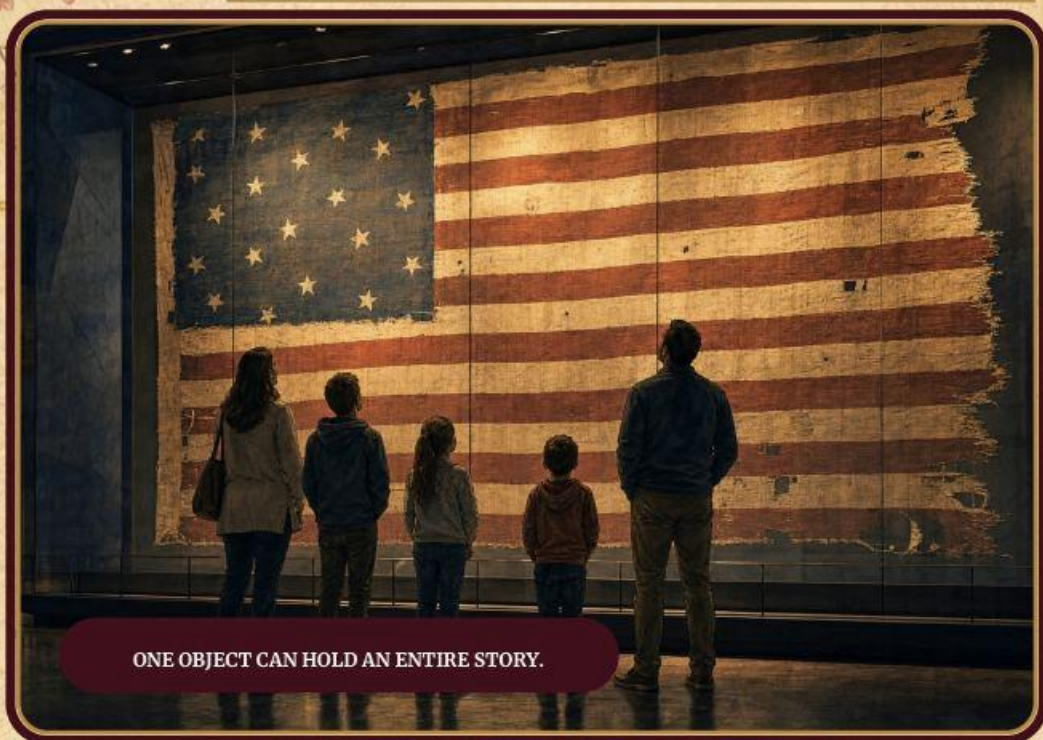
OUR FAMILY SIGNATURE: _____

START HERE: write the first line at the Archives.

FINISH TOMORROW: complete the same declaration.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AMERICAN HISTORY

The Inventors' Atrium



ONE OBJECT CAN HOLD AN ENTIRE STORY.

CASE FILE 05 / FIRST LOOK

WHAT CAN AN EVERYDAY OBJECT REVEAL?

The Star-Spangled Banner survived the War of 1812; four students at a Greensboro lunch counter changed the civil-rights story in 1960. In this museum, objects are evidence of action. Find one visible wear mark, color, or shape before the label explains the people behind it.

DETAIL THAT CHANGED MY MIND

FIVE OBJECTS. FIVE STORIES.

23 quest points



NATIONAL ICON

STAR-SPANGLED EVIDENCE

Find the Star-Spangled Banner. It once had 15 stars and 15 stripes. Count or use the label: how many of each can you confirm today? No photos in this gallery.



LISTEN TO THE WORDS

THE WRITER

Who wrote the words that became the national anthem after watching Fort McHenry? Find his name beside the flag story.



REVOLUTION CLUE

A 1776 OBJECT

Find Jefferson's portable writing desk or its museum image. Which part folds to make it travel-ready? Show your crew.



POWER IN AN OBJECT

PRESIDENTIAL CLUE

Find Lincoln's tall black hat. What object did he sometimes tuck inside its lining? Check the label or museum record.



READ THE FABRIC

CLOTHING CLUE

The yellow gown pictured here has a first lady's name below it. Whose is it? Then find a different garment on view and name its owner.



CURATOR'S TIP



THE DARKNESS PROTECTS THE STORY

The flag gallery is dim on purpose: lower light helps protect its fragile wool and cotton fibers. Let your eyes adjust before you hunt for wear. If an exhibit object is off view, use the closest matching artifact and keep the same point value.

OBJECTS THAT CHANGED THE STORY

11 points on this spread



ACTION BECOMES HISTORY

GREENSBORO COUNTER

Find the Greensboro lunch counter. How many original stools are here, and which two seat colors alternate? Check the label for what four students did in 1960.



THE WORD THAT IGNITED

GUIDEPOST CODE

Near the lunch counter, hunt for a one-word action on the exhibit guidepost. What word did curators choose for the sit-in, and why does it fit?



A MOVIE-PROP SECRET

RUBY SLIPPER FIND

Find the ruby slippers. What sparkly material covers their surface, and what shape sits above each toe?

CULTURE, MEMORY, AND MEANING

11 points on this spread



AN ORDINARY OBJECT CAN BECOME A CULTURAL ICON



TWO MATERIALS, TWO JOBS

COUNTER OR COSTUME?

Compare a Greensboro stool and one ruby slipper. Which has vinyl for sitting, and which has sequins for a screen illusion?



THE PROP-MAKER'S TRICK

THE SLIPPERS' SECRET

The shoes began as ordinary store-bought shoes. Find the display detail that reveals how prop-makers turned them red. Name two added materials.



A REAL PROTEST, A FILM PROP

WHICH STORY IS WHICH?

Both objects became icons. Name the four students' action at the counter and the film in which the slippers appeared. Point to a label for each.



FLAG DETECTIVE

THE 15 + 15 FLAG

Which two new states caused the flag to grow?

THE OBJECT'S MISSING CHAPTER

QUEST 05 / CC-01 CASE COMIC

6 POINTS



COLLECTION EXAMPLE: MACHINE



COLLECTION EXAMPLE: DRESS

THE MAKING MISSION

These are collection examples, not a checklist. Choose one object you actually saw today. Use two visible or label-backed details and one real person to build a clearly fictional chapter it might tell. Keep fact and imagination separate.

TWO REAL CLUES TO CARRY

1. Object feature or mark
2. Verified person/use from its label

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

- ☐ Two traceable object clues +2
- ☐ One real person or group +1
- ☐ A connected event or choice +2
- ☐ Fact / imagined / curator question +1

MAKE A FOUR-PANEL CHAPTER

Make one page worth keeping.

6 POINTS

FACT / IMAGINED / CURATOR QUESTION

1

2

3

4

FACT: _____ IMAGINED: _____

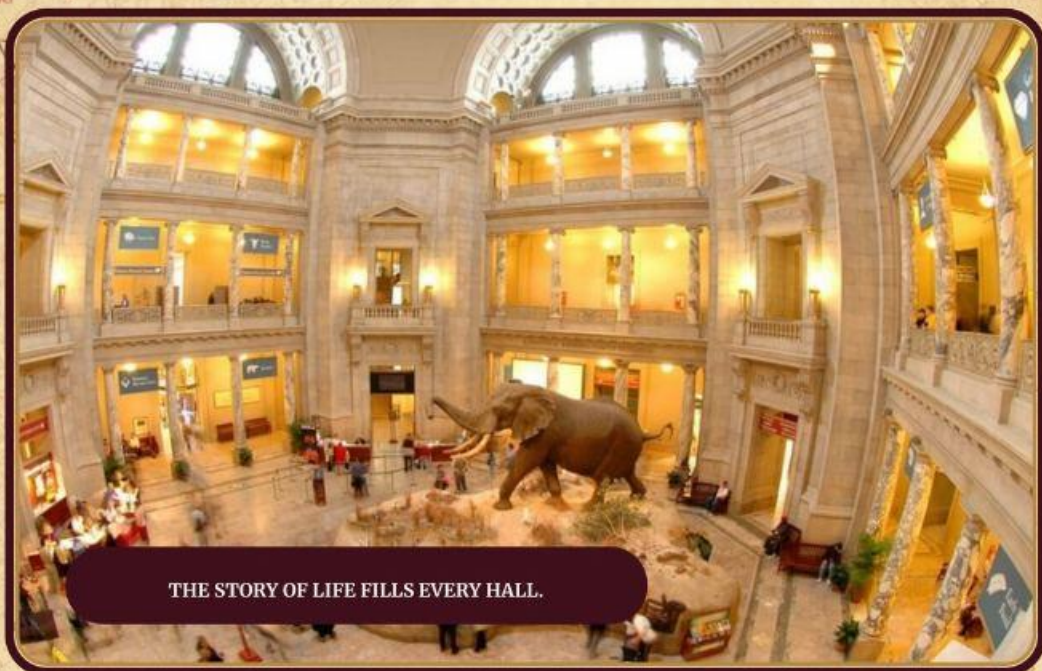
ASK A CURATOR: _____

START HERE: collect the object's two clues.

FINISH TOMORROW: complete its four-panel comic.

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

The Hall of Living Curiosities



THE STORY OF LIFE FILLS EVERY HALL.

CASE FILE 06 / FIRST LOOK

WHICH TWO THINGS BELONG TOGETHER?

Henry the elephant stands near the entrance; deeper inside, a T. rex meets a Triceratops. One skeleton shows an animal, the other a moment of action. Find a tooth, tusk, horn, or bone that helps explain what happened. Then test your theory against the label.

DETAIL THAT CHANGED MY MIND

FOLLOW WHAT PULLS YOU IN

All paths are optional

1
POINT

FOSSIL FAVORITE

Find the Nation's T. rex biting a Triceratops. Which part of the Triceratops is caught in its jaws?

2
POINTS

BUILT TO EAT

Compare the T. rex's teeth with the Triceratops's beak. Which seems built to tear, and which to crop plants? Point to both clues.

1
POINT

MORE THAN BONE

Find a fossil that is an imprint rather than a bone. Which repeated line, ridge, or edge lets you identify what pressed into the rock?

1
POINT

OCEAN GIANT

Find the whale model in Ocean Hall. Which hangs farther from its body: a flipper or the two-lobed tail? Show your proof from below.

1
POINT

CREATURE WATCH

Find an insect specimen indoors or a pollinator outside. Count its legs if visible; which two body parts or movements reveal how it reaches a flower?

1
POINT

HOPE DIAMOND

Which color shines most strongly under the gallery lights?

1
POINT

MINERAL MATCHUP

Find two minerals with different textures. Describe each in one word.

2
POINTS

GUILD CABINET

Two objects want one Guild shelf. Which has the stronger survival or deep-time clue? Name it.

CURATOR'S TIP: Start with the hall that makes someone in your group say, "Whoa."

NATIONAL AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

The Aerowizards' Hangar



FROM FIRST FLIGHT TO THE EDGE OF SPACE

CASE FILE 07 / FIRST LOOK

WHICH PART SOLVED THE PROBLEM?

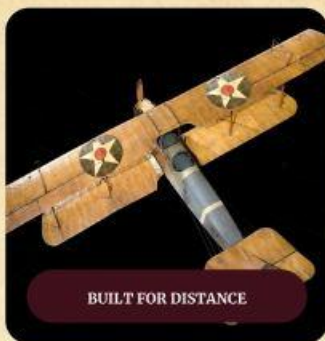
The 1903 Wright Flyer and spaceflight hardware belong to one long experiment: how can humans leave the ground and return safely? Find a wing, control, or protective layer on each. Which problem did the second machine solve that the first never faced?

DETAIL THAT CHANGED MY MIND

READY FOR TAKEOFF?

Complete in any order

FIRST FLIGHT



BUILT FOR DISTANCE



BUILT TO SURVIVE



WRIGHT FLYER

Find the 1903 Wright Flyer. Record one design detail that helped it fly.



SHAPE OF FLIGHT

Find the Wright Flyer and a later aircraft. Which has two stacked wings, and which has one? Point to the change that helped flight move forward.



FAMOUS AIRCRAFT

Find the Spirit of St. Louis or another named aircraft. Which design detail hints at its journey? Check the label.



SUIT DETAIL

Find a flight or space suit. Spot its visor and gloves. Which protects sight, and which protects hands? Check the exhibit label.



FIRST WOW

Sketch or photograph the first object that makes your group stop. Explain why it earned the moment.

CURATOR'S TIP: Look up before you look ahead - some of the best clues are overhead.

INTO THE BEYOND

Follow the launch sequence



A RADICAL SHAPE FOR FLIGHT

1

APOLLO 11 COLUMBIA

2
POINTS

Find the command module Columbia. Record one clue showing what reentry or spaceflight did to its surface.

2

SPACESUIT DESIGN

1
POINT

Find a spacesuit visor and glove. Which keeps glare from the eyes, and which lets an astronaut grip? Point to the proof.

3

LUNAR SAMPLE

1
POINT

Find a Moon rock or lunar-sample display. If a touchable sample is available, follow the museum instructions. Otherwise, record one detail you can observe through the case.

FLIGHT NOTE: A spacecraft tells part of its story through scratches, seams, and scorch marks.

MISSION CONTROL

6 points across this spread



THEN & NOW

Compare this early gallery with the museum today. What changed most: the objects, the building, or the way the story is told?



ENGINE POWER

Find a rocket engine. Which opening seems to direct force? Point to it, then check a diagram or label.



MESSAGE TO THE FUTURE

After two machines from different eras, what design question would you send the next inventor? Name the two details behind it.

ACCESS NOTE: Timed entry and gallery availability can change. Use the missions that match your visit.



THE WHITE HOUSE

The White Flame Keep



LOOK CLOSELY: THE BUILDING REPEATS ITSELF

CASE FILE 08 / FIRST LOOK

A HOME OR A PUBLIC STAGE?

The White House is both a home and the workplace of a president. From a public viewpoint, find one clue to each role—perhaps a window, fence, entrance, or working ground. Which detail makes the two stories meet?

Draw or map the detail you would show another explorer.

YOUR FIELD NOTES

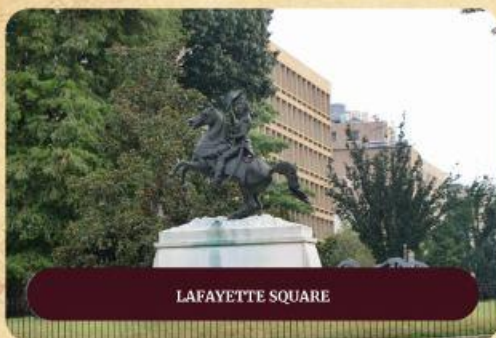
FIRST CLUE

SECOND CLUE

OUR VERDICT

THE PERIMETER WATCH

10 points across Quest 08



LAFAYETTE SQUARE



A NEIGHBORING LANDMARK

1
POINT

NORTH-SIDE VIEW

From a permitted viewpoint, find the triangular roof over the north entrance. How many columns stand beneath it? Sketch the proof.

1
POINT

PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

The house has a famous street address. Use a public sign or map to find the four digits before 'Pennsylvania Avenue.' What are they?

1
POINT

LAFAYETTE SQUARE FIGURE

Find Andrew Jackson on horseback at Lafayette Square. How many of the horse's hooves touch its base?

2
POINTS

SYMMETRY CLUES

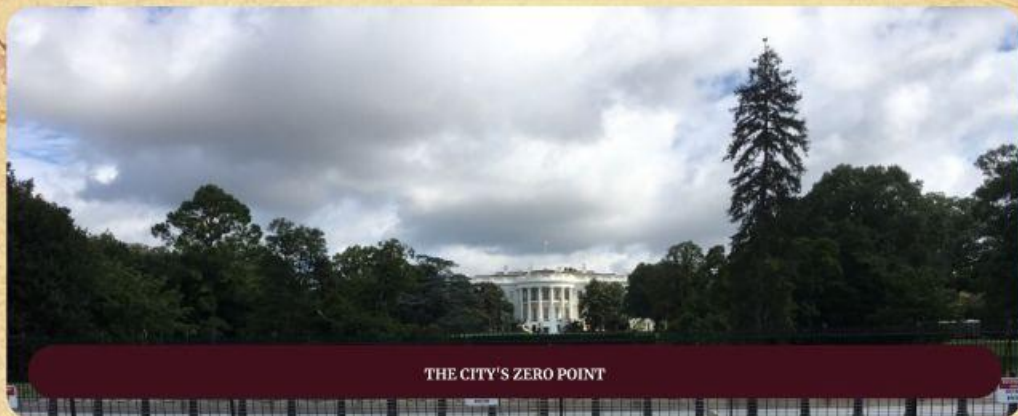
Find the center of the north facade. Count matching windows or columns on each side. Where does the symmetry break?

SEEKER TIP

Security zones, fencing, and construction can change. Stay on public walkways, follow current signs, and complete any blocked clue from the nearest allowed viewpoint.

ONE DETAIL I ALMOST MISSED:

SOUTH SIDE & SYMBOLS

Compare, decode, and spot

SOUTH-SIDE DIFFERENCE

From an allowed viewpoint or official image, compare the north and south porticoes. Which side has the curved balcony?



POTUS DECODER

Find a public sign identifying the President's Park or White House grounds. Which exact word tells you this house is also part of a government complex?

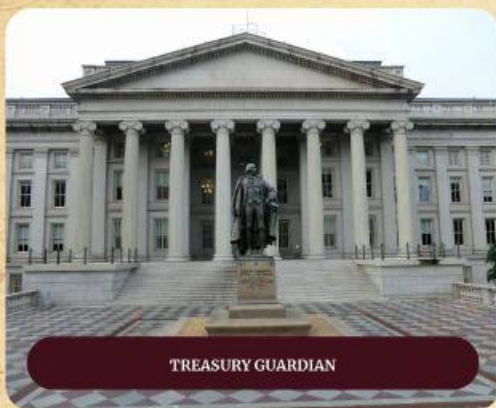


EAGLE EYE

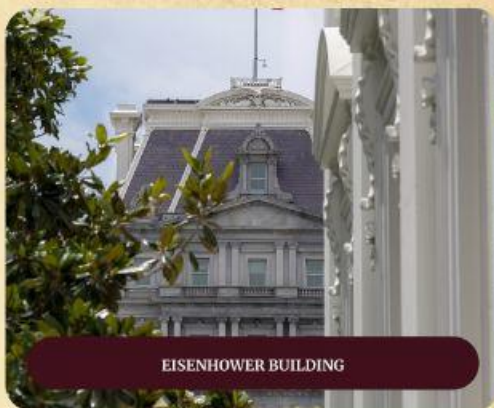
Find the flag above the roof. Count the visible stripes or stars in a close photograph, then find one eagle or star on a nearby gate or sign. Which symbol repeats?

BEYOND THE GATES

5 points this spread / 10 total



TREASURY GUARDIAN



EISENHOWER BUILDING



TREASURY GUARDIAN

Find Albert Gallatin's statue by Treasury, or use its public photo. Which object or gesture identifies him, and what name is carved on the base?



ZERO MILESTONE

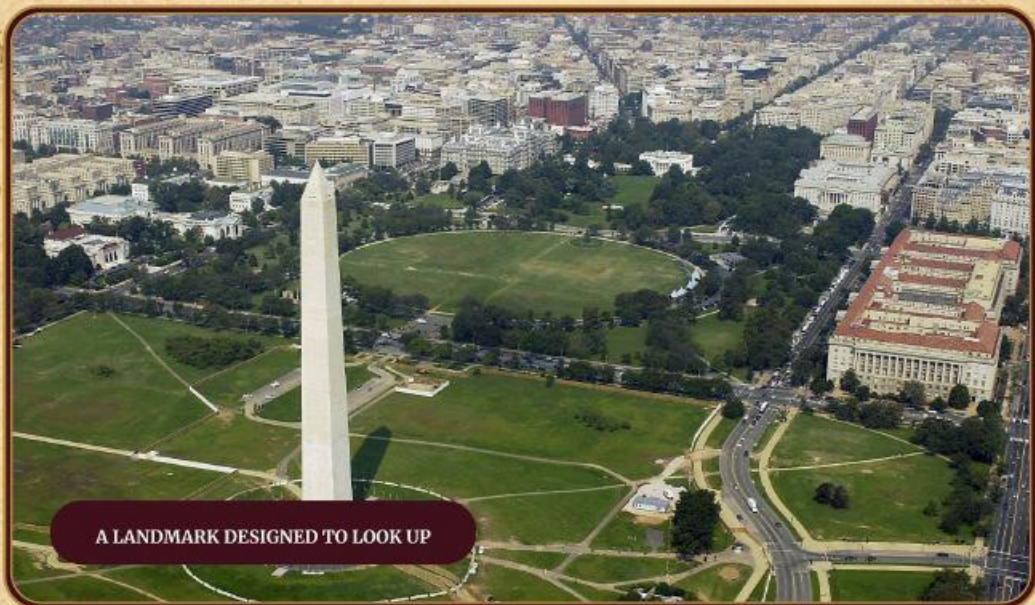
If accessible, find the Zero Milestone's bronze compass on top. Which side names the first transcontinental motor convoy? Use the NPS image if access is restricted.

LOOK AGAIN

Compare the White House portico with the Eisenhower Building's roofline. Which has a plain triangle, and which bristles with small roof details?

WASHINGTON MONUMENT

The Obelisk of Echoes



A LANDMARK DESIGNED TO LOOK UP

CASE FILE 09 / FIRST LOOK

WHY DOES THE STONE CHANGE?

A long interruption in building the Monument left a line in plain sight. From the Mall, scan the shaft for a change in stone color. Where does the older work end—and why might builders have stopped?

Draw or map the detail you would show another explorer.

YOUR FIELD NOTES

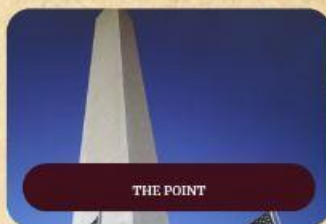
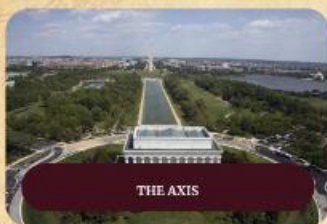
FIRST CLUE

SECOND CLUE

OUR VERDICT

THE 555-FOOT CHALLENGE

8 quest points



STAIR COUNT

How many steps lead from ground level to the 500-foot observation level?



RING OF FLAGS

Look around the base and count the flags. What does their number stand for?



TURNAROUND VIEW

Face the Monument, then turn around. Name one landmark or feature behind you.



OBELISK OUTLINE

Trace the outline. Which change in width makes this an obelisk, not a straight-sided tower? Show the taper.



SCALE COMPARISON

Choose a nearby person, tree, or building. Write one sentence comparing its size with the Monument.



TIP OF THE SKY

From a safe viewpoint, look up. Which nearby object makes the height hardest to believe? Compare them aloud.

THE CITY FROM ONE SPOT

QUEST 09 / CC-05 FIELD DRAWING

5 POINTS



THE MALL AXIS



REFLECTION AND SCALE

THE MAKING MISSION

From one safe public viewpoint, draw the Monument and two things you can actually see. Include one scale clue and one detail your crew almost missed.

TWO REAL CLUES TO CARRY

1. The Monument from your viewpoint
2. A second visible landmark or detail

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

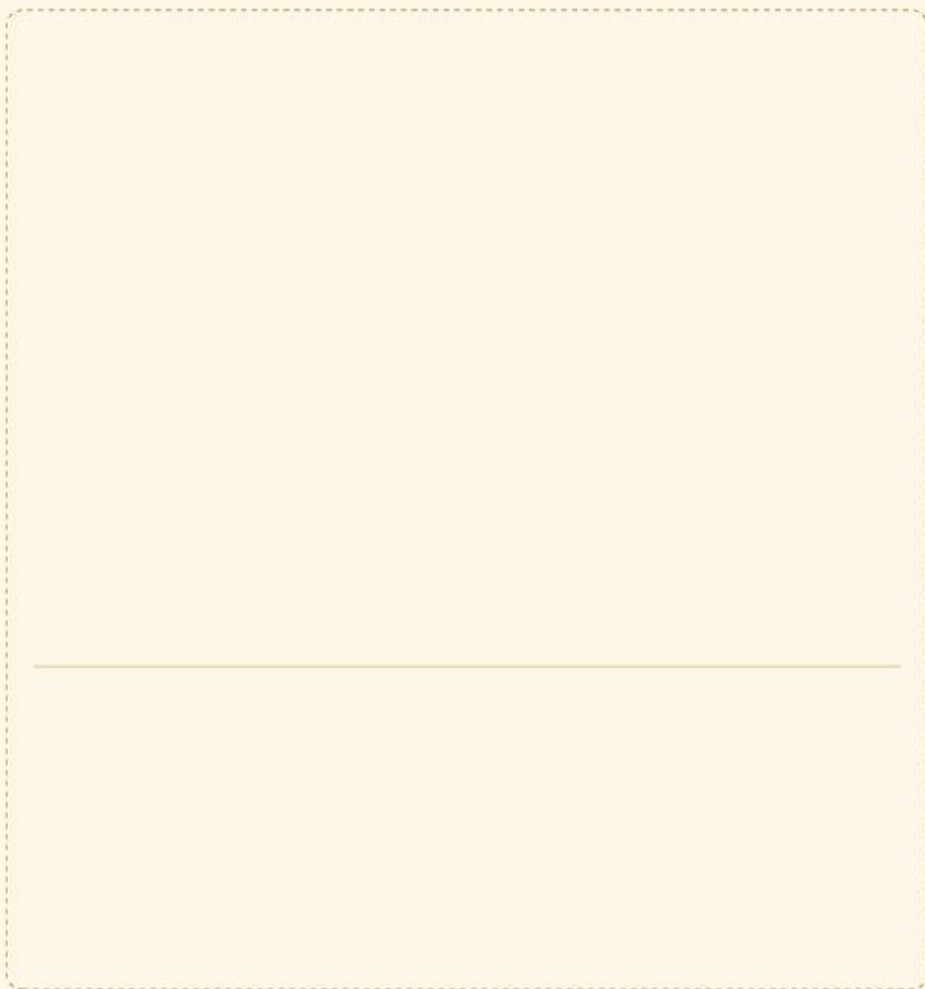
- ☐ Viewpoint and direction +1
- ☐ Monument + two actual anchors +2
- ☐ One scale clue +1
- ☐ One tiny discovery +1

DRAW YOUR VIEW

Make one page worth keeping.

5 POINTS

DRAW / DESIGN HERE



Label the two real source clues at the edge when you finish.

START HERE: mark your horizon and viewpoint.

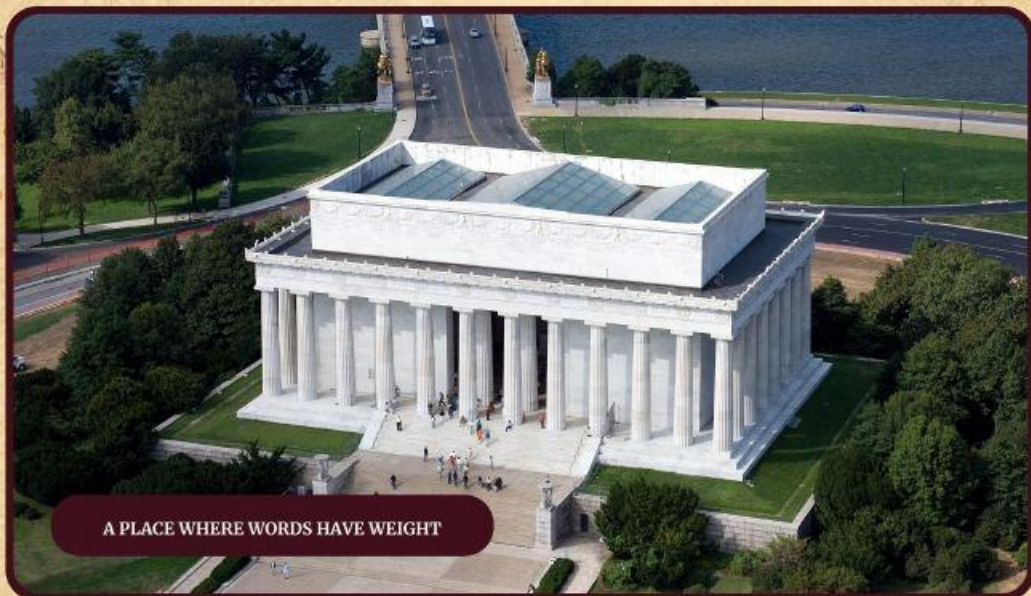
FINISH TOMORROW: use the printed clues or memory.



LINCOLN MEMORIAL

10 POINTS

The Whispering Throne



A PLACE WHERE WORDS HAVE WEIGHT

CASE FILE 10 / FIRST LOOK

WHAT DO THE COLUMNS COUNT?

This memorial joins a huge seated figure, words carved in stone, and columns representing states. Count the columns before reading the inscriptions. Which detail helps you see Lincoln as a president, and which as a person?

MY CLUE



COLUMN COUNT

Count the columns around the memorial. How do the state names help check your count?



LINCOLN'S SCALE

Use a visitor for scale. About how many visitor-heights tall is Lincoln's seated statue?

WORDS THAT CHANGED THE NATION

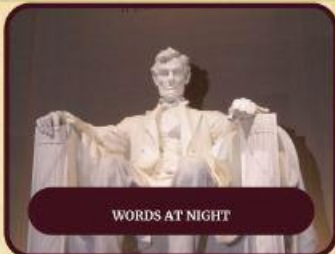
Follow the inscriptions, statue, steps, and long view.

8 POINTS HERE

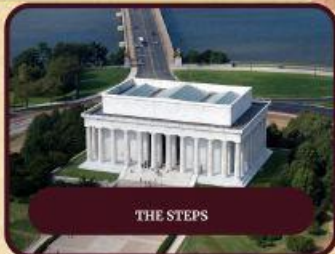
QUEST TOTAL: 10 POINTS



LINCOLN



WORDS AT NIGHT



THE STEPS

1

POINT

TWO HANDS

Compare Lincoln's hands and record one visible difference. A popular sign-language story is not documented as fact.

1

POINT

GETTYSBURG OPENING

Find the Gettysburg Address. Which four words open the inscription?

1

POINT

NAME A PLACE

Find one city or battlefield named in the inscriptions.

1

POINT

WITHOUT MALICE

Find "malice" on the wall. Do the words around it ask for punishment or restraint? Which word supports your reading?

1

POINT

DREAM STEP

Find the marker where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his 1963 speech.

1

POINT

THE LONG VIEW

From the steps, name the monument aligned across the Reflecting Pool.

2

POINTS

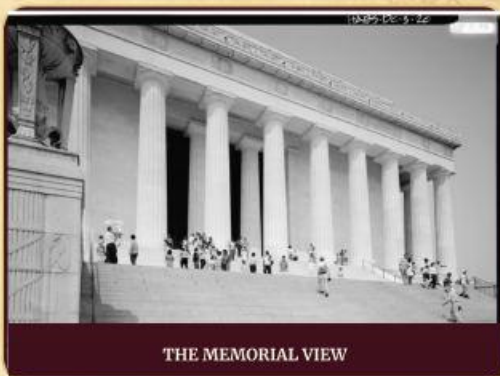
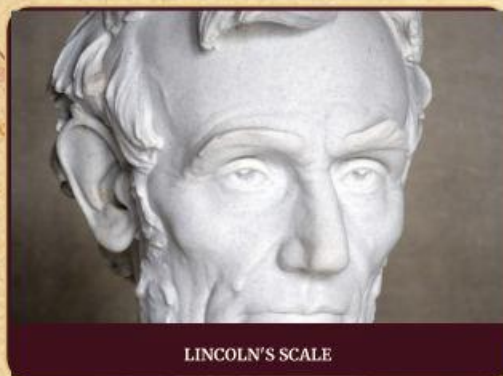
WORD TO CARRY

Find the phrase 'with malice toward none.' Which word follows 'malice'? Copy the whole four-word clue, then locate its wall.

A WORD IN STONE

QUEST 10 / CC-02 ONE-PAGE FEATURE

5 POINTS



THE MAKING MISSION

Make one respectful page for someone who has not been here. Pair one exact inscription word with two visible design details. Show how the word and place change each other.

TWO REAL CLUES TO CARRY

1. One word from an inscription
2. Two observed design details

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

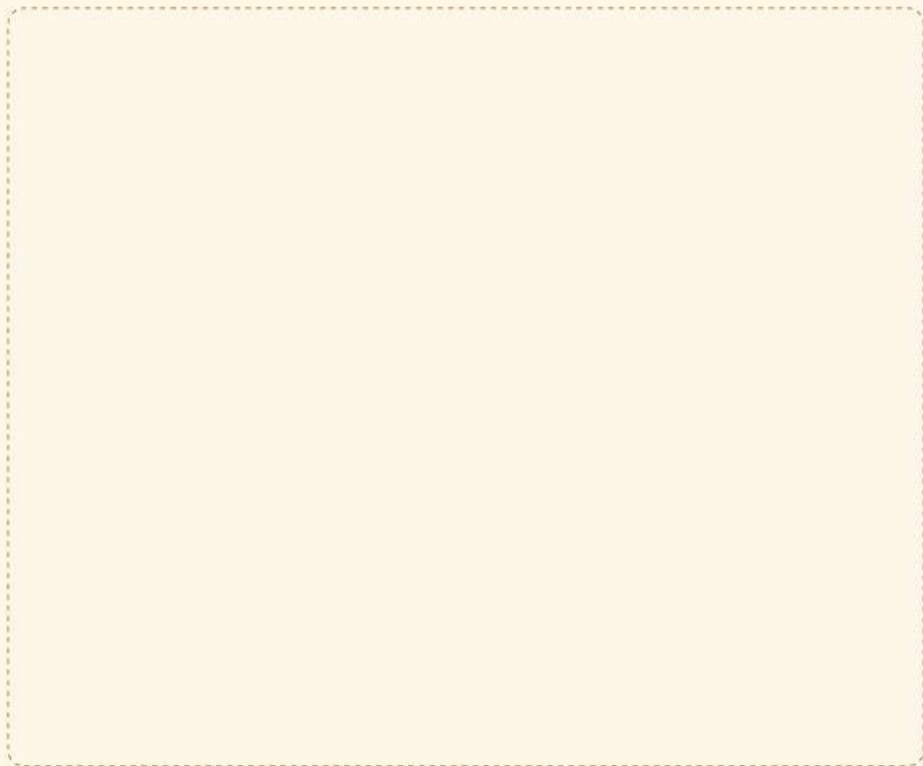
- ☐ Exact word, attributed to its wall +1
- ☐ Two visible design clues +2
- ☐ A picture or field diagram +1
- ☐ A personal explanation +1

MAKE A MEMORIAL FEATURE

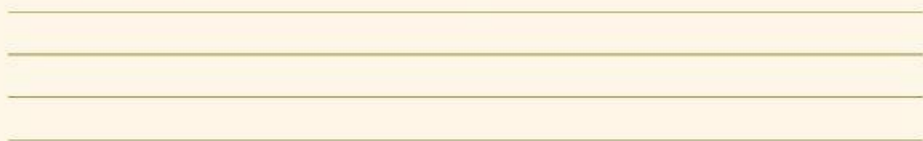
Make one page worth keeping.

5 POINTS

THE WORD + THE PLACE



WHAT THIS WORD MEANS TO ME:



START HERE: choose the word and two details.

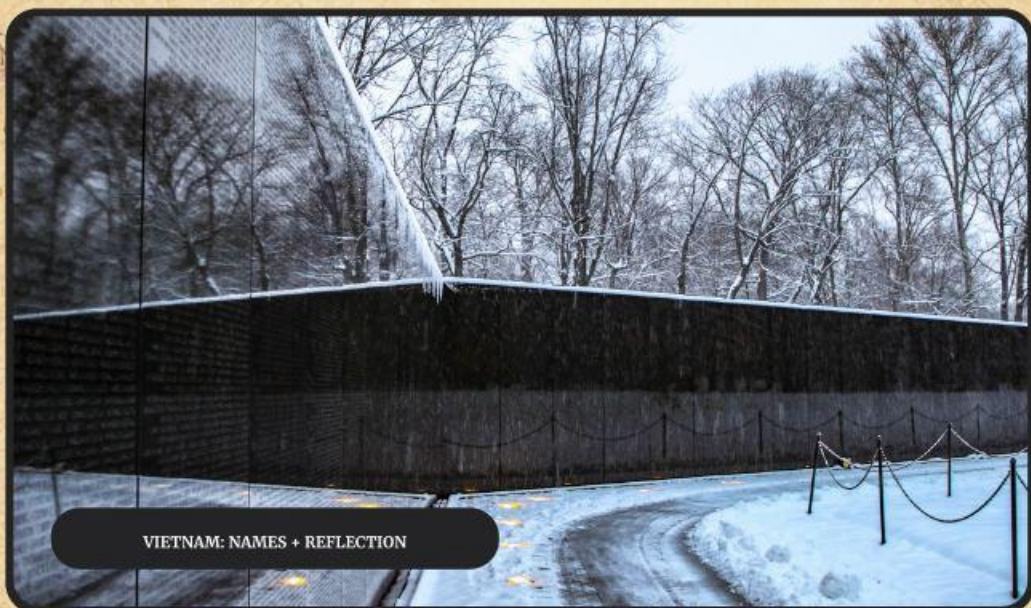
FINISH TOMORROW: make the one-page feature.



VIETNAM & KOREAN WAR MEMORIALS

5 POINTS

The Twin Paths of Memory

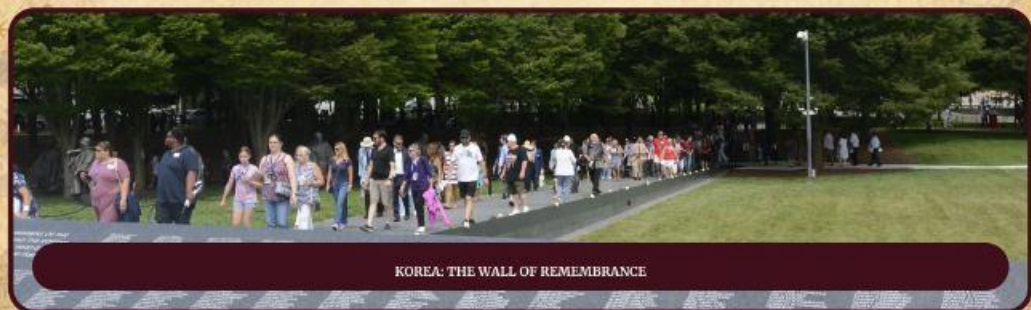


CASE FILE 11 / FIRST LOOK

WHY DO THESE TWO PATHS FEEL DIFFERENT?

One memorial records names along a wall; another places figures in a landscape. These are different ways to remember service and loss. Walk quietly and notice where each design leads your eyes, feet, and thoughts.

MY CLUE _____

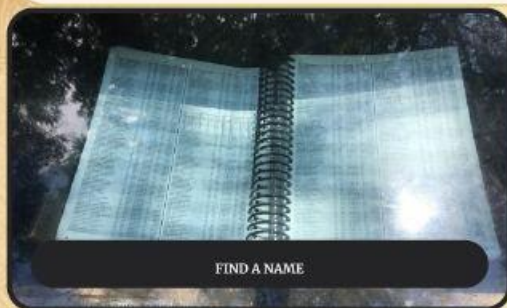


WALK BOTH PATHS

Five respectful clues across two memorial landscapes.

5 POINTS HERE

QUEST TOTAL: 5 POINTS



FIND A NAME



READ THE WALL

1



VIETNAM: CHRONOLOGY

Follow two stretches of names. Are they sorted by surname or another rule? Use a date or panel clue to explain.

2



VIETNAM: REFLECTION

Describe how the polished Wall holds both names and your reflection.

3



KOREA: REFLECTED PATROL

Count the figures, then look for their reflections. How does the memorial make the group seem larger?

4



KOREA: THE WORDS

Find the four-word inscription about freedom. What does it ask you to remember?

5



COMPARE THE DESIGNS

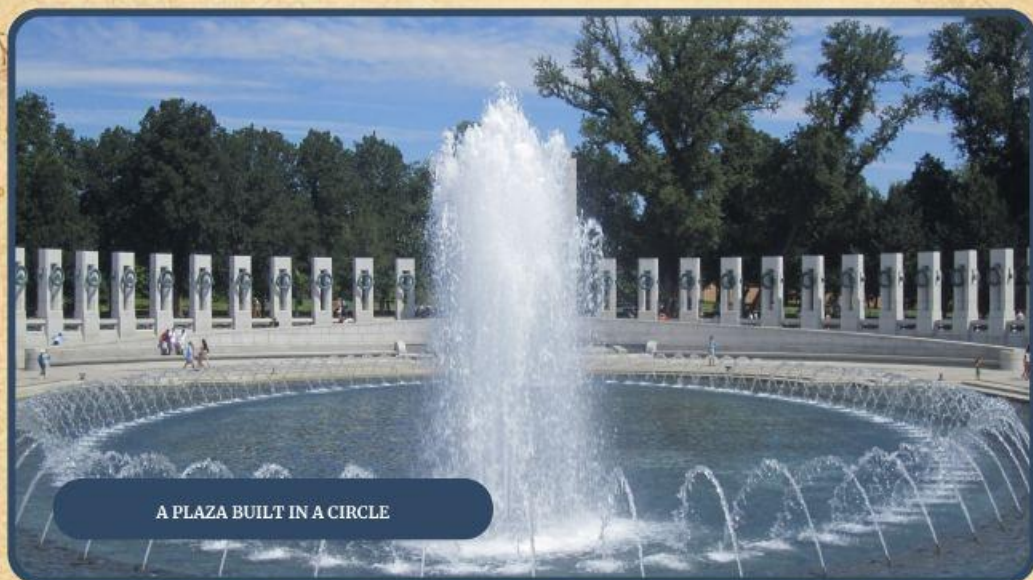
Name one difference between the two memorials and the detail you will remember.



WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

4 POINTS

The Rings of Remembrance



A PLAZA BUILT IN A CIRCLE

CASE FILE 12 / FIRST LOOK

HOW CAN A PLAZA HOLD A WHOLE COUNTRY?

The fountain is surrounded by pillars, state and territory names, and a wall of stars. The design makes a vast wartime story visible through repetition. Find one repeated element, then locate the detail that gives it meaning.

MY CLUE _____

PLAZA CLUE

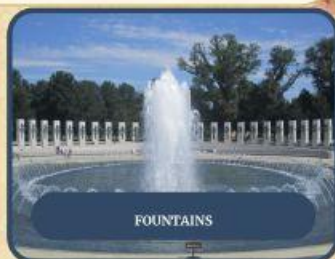
The circular arrangement is part of the story. Notice what repeats, what stands opposite, and what draws your eye toward the center.

CIRCLE THE PLAZA

4 POINTS HERE

Follow the memorial's ring from pillars to arches to bronze stories.

QUEST TOTAL: 4 POINTS



PILLARS

Count the named pillars around the plaza. How many states and territories do they honor?



HOME PILLAR

Find your home state or territory. Which neighboring pillar comes next as you walk clockwise?



TWO THEATERS

Find the Atlantic and Pacific arches.



RELIEF STORY

Find a bronze relief with a vehicle, ship, or aircraft. Which detail reveals how people moved during the war?

LOOK AGAIN

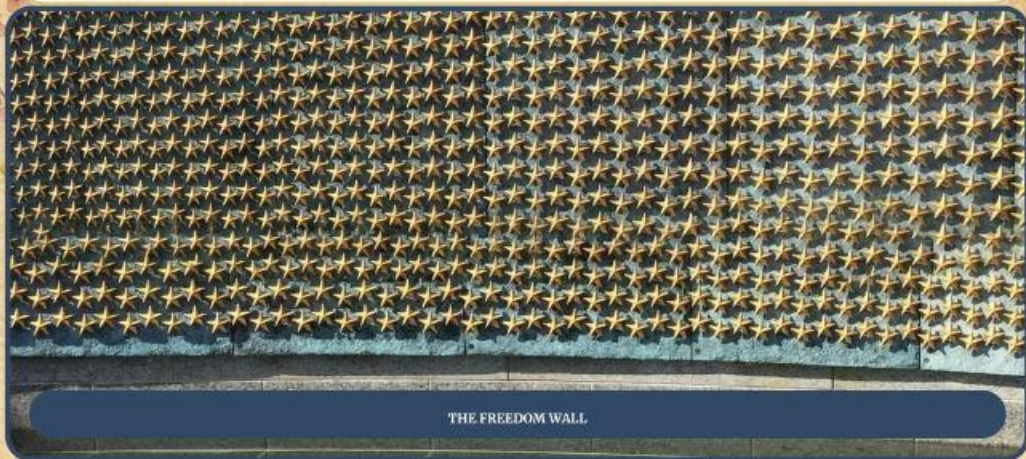
Which repeated shape makes the memorial feel most unified?

READ THE TIMELINE

Dates, stars, and words turn the plaza into evidence.

4 POINTS HERE

QUEST 12 CONTINUES



PEARL HARBOR

Find the Pearl Harbor date. Which nearby date or scene places it earlier in the war story?



D-DAY

Find D-Day's date. Which carved or pictured action says why it belongs in this story?



GOLD STARS

Read the star wall's key. What does one star stand for? Why repeat the same mark across a wall?



WORDS BELOW

Read the words beneath the stars. Which word turns these marks into a memorial, not decoration?

WHAT THE STARS MEAN

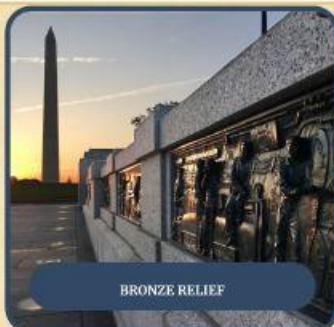
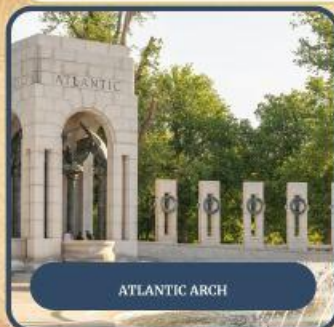
Read the wall's key before you answer. These marks stand for lives, not a number to collect. Take your time here.

KEEP ONE DETAIL

2 POINTS HERE

Use a date, inscription, or pictured action as evidence for the story this plaza preserves.

FULL QUEST: 10 POINTS



ONE DETAIL TO REMEMBER



Find a bronze relief with a vehicle, ship, or aircraft. Draw its identifying detail, then name the wartime action the sculptor chose to show.

DRAW, WRITE, OR ATTACH A PHOTO

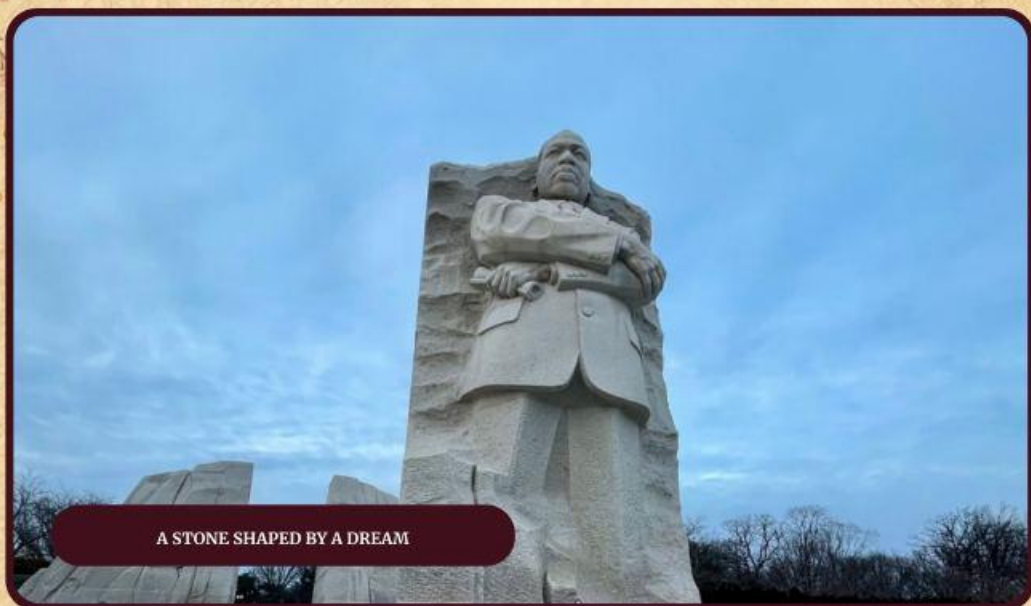
WHY THIS DETAIL MATTERS



MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MEMORIAL

8 POINTS

The Dreamkeeper's Garden



A STONE SHAPED BY A DREAM

CASE FILE 13 / FIRST LOOK

HOW DO WORDS BECOME A MONUMENT?

The memorial turns a phrase from Dr. King's speeches into a stone landscape. Find a carved line you can read from the path. What design detail makes those words feel urgent rather than distant?

MY CLUE



STONE OF HOPE

Follow the mountain-and-stone quotation. Which part of the sculpture makes the words visible?



SCALE

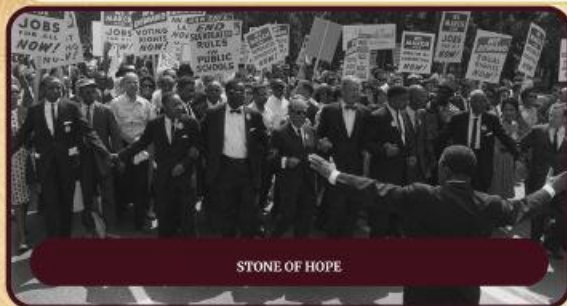
Use a visitor for scale. About how many visitor-heights tall is Dr. King's carving?

TURN WORDS INTO ACTION

6 POINTS HERE

Follow a quote from its source to one small next step.

QUEST TOTAL: 8 POINTS



STONE OF HOPE



THE SPEECH

1

POINT

CHOOSE A QUOTE

Copy no more than eight words from one quotation wall.

1

POINT

SOURCE CLUE

How does the source or date below one quote change how you hear it? Use one word of the quote.

1

POINT

ACROSS THE BASIN

Name the memorial the Stone of Hope points toward.

1

POINT

DREAM WORDS

Copy one short phrase on the Stone that comes from the 1963 speech.

2

POINTS

ACTION STEP

Choose one quotation idea – justice, service, hope, peace, or courage. Name one small action your family could take.

LOOK AGAIN

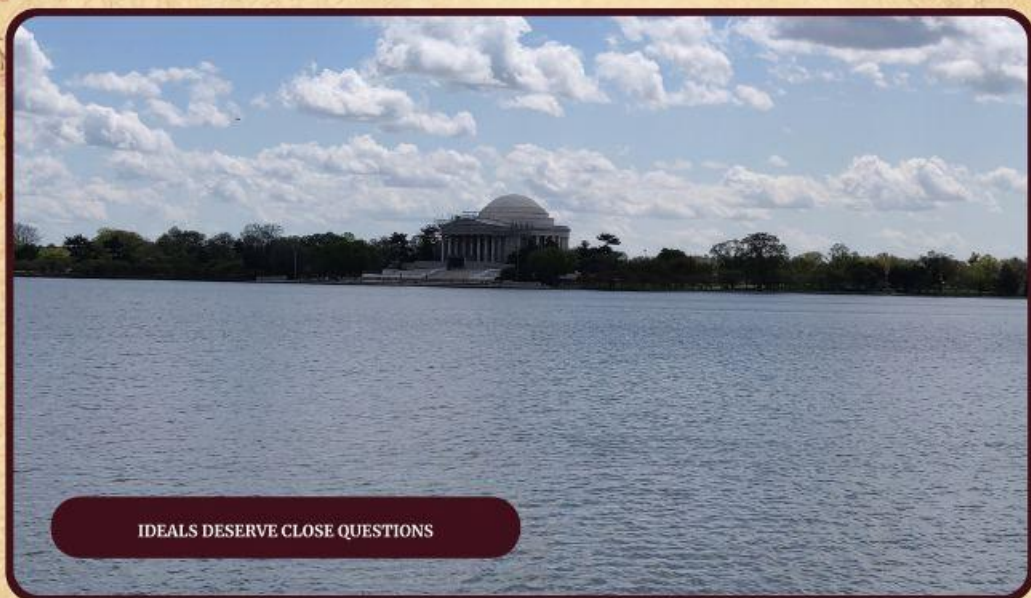
Notice how the Stone of Hope physically moves forward from the Mountain of Despair.



THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

8 POINTS

The Sage of the Tides



IDEALS DESERVE CLOSE QUESTIONS

CASE FILE 14 / FIRST LOOK

WHO COULD CLAIM THESE WORDS?

Jefferson's words about freedom stand inside a memorial open to the tidal basin. Find one exact word on the wall, then ask whose freedom it described in his time. Keep the beauty of the ideal and its contradictions together.

MY CLUE



DOME ABOVE

Sketch the curve of the dome or one column.



DECLARATION IN HAND

Which hand holds the Declaration of Independence?

PUT THE IDEAS UNDER A IENS

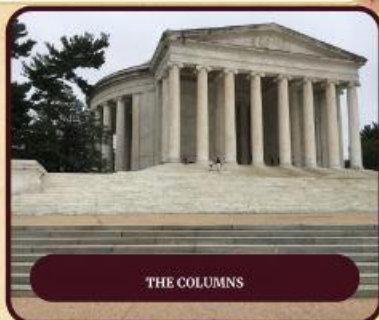
6 POINTS HERE

Observe the building, read the words, and ask one honest question.

QUEST TOTAL: 8 POINTS



TIDAL BASIN VIEW



THE COLUMNS

1
POINT

INSCRIPTION IDEA

Choose a freedom or equality inscription. Which word feels like a promise? What question does Jefferson's life raise?

1
POINT

TIDAL BASIN VIEW

Name one landmark or natural feature visible from the memorial.

1
POINT

RING OF COLUMNS

Count the columns circling the memorial. How many are there?

1
POINT

MEMORY DETAIL

Find a carved detail besides a column. Where does it appear twice?

2
POINTS

A HARD QUESTION

Jefferson wrote that people are created equal, yet he enslaved people. Write one question this contradiction makes you ask.



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

The Crown of Stories

6 POINTS



CASE FILE 15 / FIRST LOOK

WHAT CAN ONE OBJECT TELL US ABOUT A BIG HISTORY?

The museum's rising bronze-colored corona signals that another set of histories belongs on the Mall. Inside, follow one object to a named person or community. Which visible detail and which label fact make the connection?

MY CLUE _____

CURATOR'S ROUTE

Begin with the history galleries below ground, then rise toward culture and community. Do not try to see everything. Let each Seeker choose one story for the family to carry home.

BUILD A LIVING TIMELINE

Architecture, courage, movement, music, and one story to carry.

6 POINTS HERE

QUEST TOTAL: 6 POINTS



CORONA COUNT

Outside, count the stacked tiers of the corona. How many do you see?



LATTICE LENS

Trace a repeating shape in the outer screen. How does it change from another angle?



RAIL CAR CLUE

Find the rail car. What visible feature or label fact shows that passengers were separated?



SIT-IN EVIDENCE

Find the Greensboro lunch-counter stools. What in the display shows this was a protest?



MUSIC MACHINE

Find Chuck Berry's Cadillac. What detail on the car or label tells a story beyond travel?



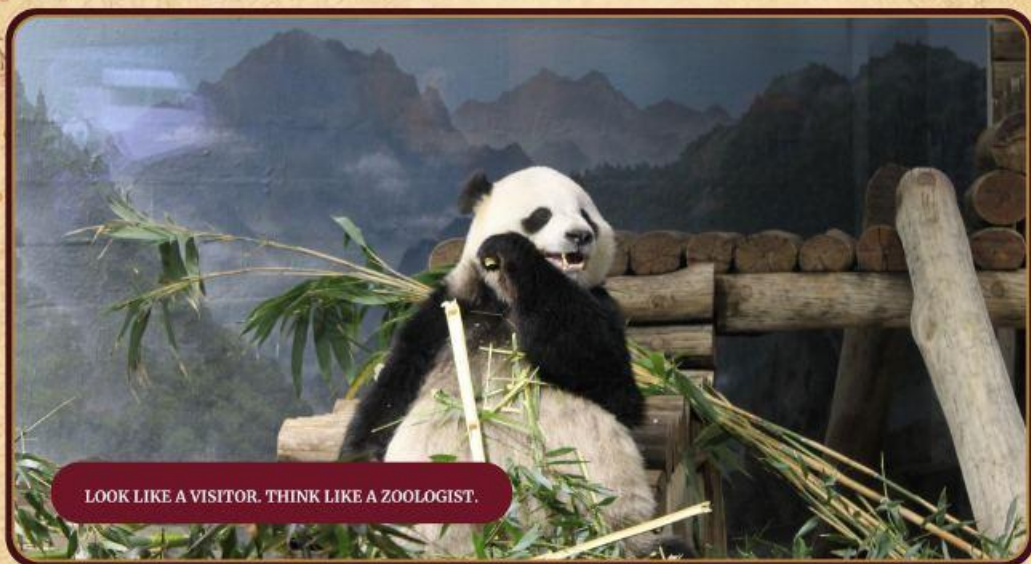
CARRY ONE STORY

Choose one object and its person or community. What changed between its history and today? Show one display clue.

SEEKER TIP

Exhibits can change. If one clue is off view, substitute another object that tells the same kind of story.

The Roaring Enclave



CASE FILE 16 / FIRST LOOK

WHAT IS THIS ANIMAL BUILT TO DO?

The Smithsonian's zoo is a conservation classroom. Watch one animal use a foot, beak, tail, or hiding place. Which problem did it solve? Test your guess against its sign.

MY CLUE _____

2

POINTS

PANDA WATCH

Find Bao Li or Qing Bao. Record the panda's name and one behavior. If they are resting out of sight, choose another animal.

1

POINT

HABITAT CLUE

Find a habitat feature built for climbing, hiding, cooling, swimming, or resting. Which behavior does it invite?

CHOOSE YOUR FIELD ROUTE

Follow three kinds of evidence through the Zoo.

5 POINTS HERE

QUEST TOTAL: 18 POINTS



MOVEMENT MATCH

Compare how two animals move. Name both animals and one visible difference.



CONSERVATION MESSAGE

Find a conservation sign. What problem does it name, and which action might help? Show the detail connecting them.



FIELD NOTE

Watch one animal for sixty seconds. Find a body feature it actually uses; name the movement that proves its job.

PLAN BEFORE YOU ROAM

The Zoo is hilly. Pick one route first; free timed passes may be required.

DESIGN A SURVIVOR

QUEST 16 / CC-03 EVIDENCE REMIX

11 POINTS



FEATURE A: STRIPES



FEATURE B: TRUNK

THE MAKING MISSION

The pictures are examples, not today's evidence. Borrow one survival feature from each of two animals you actually observe. Combine them into an imaginary animal with a habitat and a job for each feature.

TWO REAL CLUES TO CARRY

1. Observed animal and feature A
2. Observed animal and feature B

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

- ☐ Two source animals identified +2
- ☐ Both traits transformed +2
- ☐ Habitat and movement +2
- ☐ How the traits help it survive +3
- ☐ One evidence-backed conservation idea +2

DRAW ONE NEW ANIMAL

Make one page worth keeping.

11 POINTS

FIELD PLATE: TWO REAL TRAITS, ONE NEW SURVIVOR

SOURCE ANIMAL A

SOURCE ANIMAL B

DRAW + LABEL YOUR NEW ANIMAL

HABITAT:

HOW ITS TWO TRAITS HELP IT SURVIVE:

START HERE: note two real source animals.

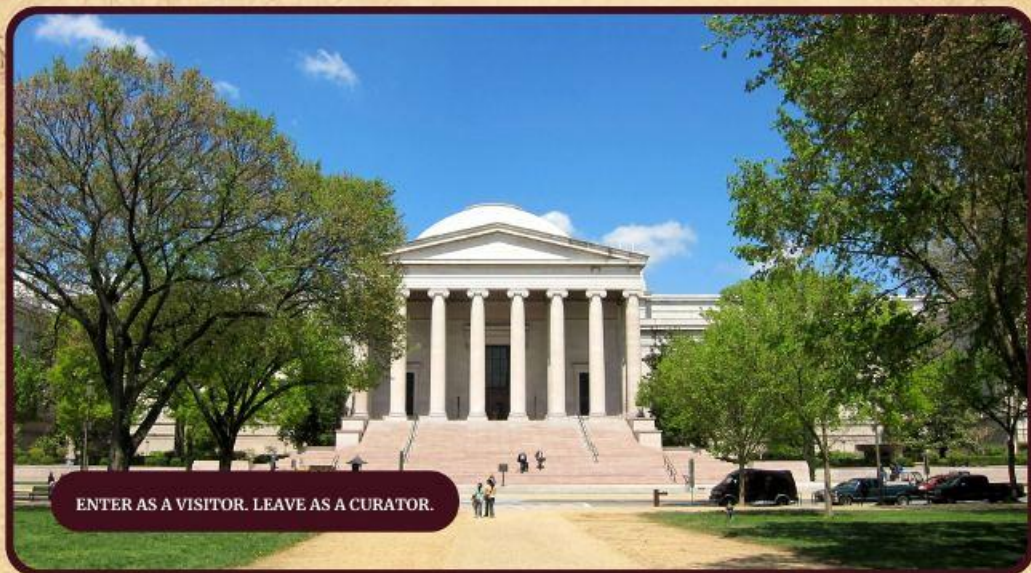
FINISH TOMORROW: draw and label the survivor.



NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

10 POINTS

The Painter's Portal



ENTER AS A VISITOR. LEAVE AS A CURATOR.

CASE FILE 17 / FIRST LOOK

WHICH DETAIL CHANGES THE STORY?

The National Gallery belongs to the public, so anyone can investigate its art. Begin in the West Building's rotunda: the figure above the fountain looks ready to move. What does that pose tell you? Carry the same close-looking habit into a painting.

MY CLUE



FRAME WITHIN A FRAME

Find a painting with a doorway, window, mirror, or picture inside it. What person or object appears inside that second frame? Point to the painted evidence.

FOLLOW THE CURATOR TRAIL

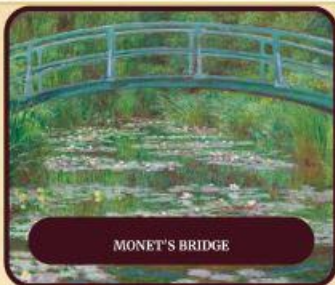
Four ways to choose what deserves a closer look.

5 POINTS HERE

QUEST TOTAL: 10 POINTS



THE ROTUNDA



MONET'S BRIDGE



THE WEST BUILDING



ROTUNDA SECRET

In the rotunda photo, find the figure above the fountain. What pose tells you it is not standing still?



BRIDGE EVIDENCE

Find the bridge in Monet's painting. Which colors make its edge almost vanish into the garden?



FACADE CIPHER

Compare the West Building photo with the entrance. Count the visible front columns; what shape crowns them?



CURATOR'S CASE

Find an artwork with a clue that changes its story: an object in a hand, a figure in the background, or a disguised doorway. Record its title and the exact clue.

GALLERY MANNERS

Use pencil or dry media where permitted. Keep a safe distance and never touch art or frames.

THE CURATOR'S MISSING ROOM

QUEST 17 / CC-03 EVIDENCE REMIX

4 POINTS



MONET: JAPANESE FOOTBRIDGE



SAVAGE: THE WASHINGTON FAMILY

THE MAKING MISSION

Borrow a visual detail from each of these two different works. Change both details and create one new room or artwork that belongs only to you. Then write its curator label.

TWO REAL CLUES TO CARRY

1. One color, shape, or mark from Monet
2. One pose, object, or shape from Savage

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

- ☐ Two named source works +1
- ☐ Both details transformed +1
- ☐ One original composition +1
- ☐ A curator label explaining the changes +1

CREATE THE MISSING ROOM

Make one page worth keeping.

4 POINTS

THE CURATOR'S WALL

BORROW ONE CLUE FROM EACH WORK. CHANGE BOTH.

MONET CLUE

SAVAGE CLUE

YOUR NEW ROOM OR ARTWORK

WALL LABEL: WHAT DID YOU BORROW AND CHANGE?

START HERE: find two source details.

FINISH TOMORROW: complete your original work.



GEORGETOWN WATERFRONT

10 POINTS

The Bridge Beyond



FOLLOW WATER FROM RIVER TO CANAL

CASE FILE 18 / FIRST LOOK

WHERE DOES THE WATER LEAD?

Georgetown grew where roads met the Potomac. Find a sign or structure that reveals an old river or canal route. What once moved along it?

MY CLUE _____



LABYRINTH LINE

Find the waterfront labyrinth. Trace one route with your finger or pencil.



CANAL CLUE

Find the canal, Mile Marker 0, or a sign. Which detail says people built this waterway for a different job from the river?

READ THE WATERFRONT

Collect four clues before drawing your route.

4 POINTS HERE

QUEST TOTAL: 10 POINTS



NIGHT LIGHTS



RIVER EDGE



PLAZA



WATER FEATURE

If the fountain is running, record its pattern. If not, find a rain garden or drainage clue and name one plant or feature.



SIXTY-SECOND SOUND MAP

Close your eyes for one minute. Identify one sound from the canal path and one from the street; which is closer?



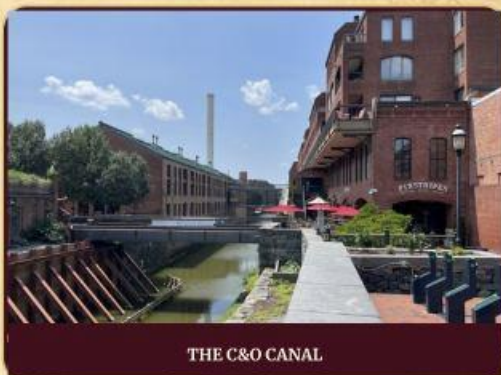
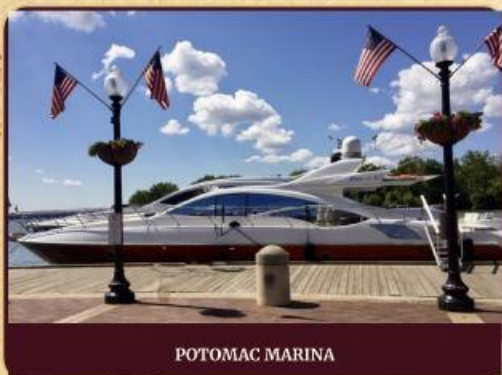
RIVER-VIEW TITLE

Photograph, sketch, or describe one Potomac view. Give it a title and list three visible details.

A MAP OF TWO WATERS

QUEST 18 / CC-09 MEMORY MAP

4 POINTS



THE MAKING MISSION

Draw the route your family really took. Mark the Potomac, the canal or its sign if you reached it, and a third public-path landmark. Which turn changed your view?

THREE REAL ANCHORS TO CARRY

1. Potomac viewpoint
2. Canal/sign or second verified water clue
3. Third observed public-path anchor

ONE FINISHED ARTIFACT - CHECK FOR:

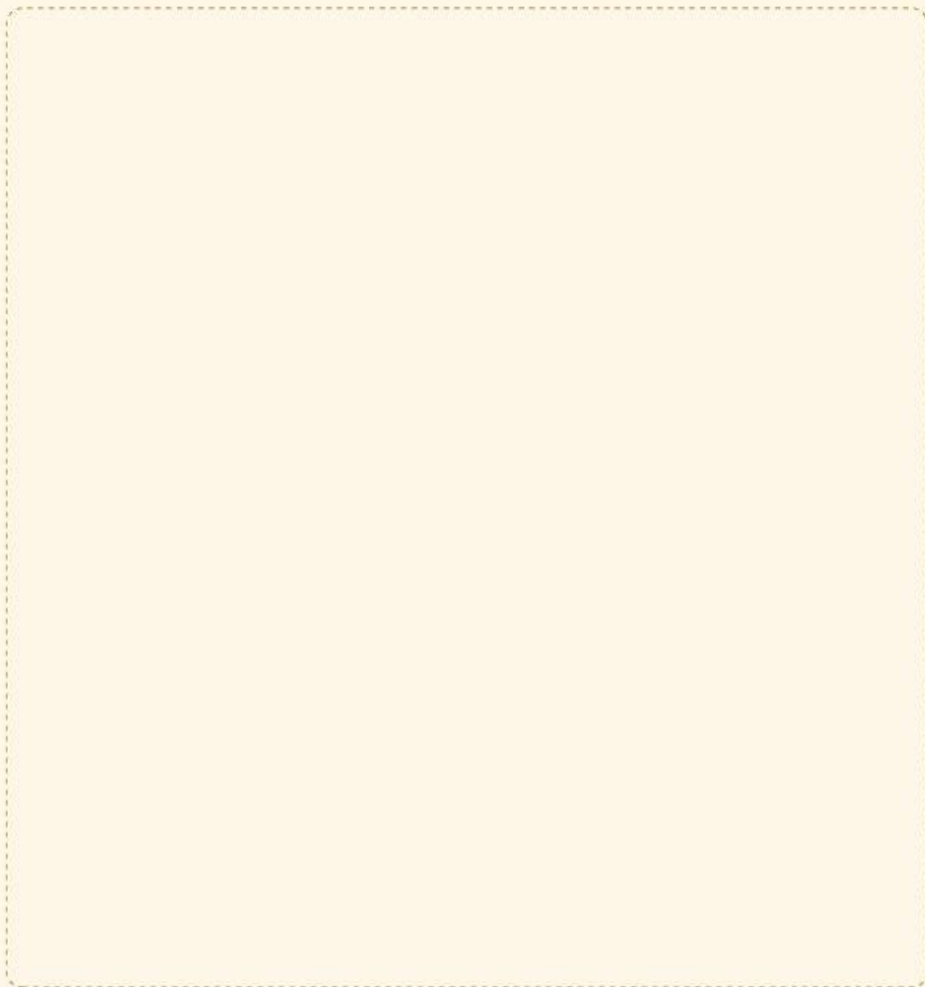
- ☐ Three actual anchors +1
- ☐ A connected path +1
- ☐ A map key and changed-view turn +1
- ☐ One discovery about the two waters +1

DRAW YOUR MEMORY MAP

Make one page worth keeping.

4 POINTS

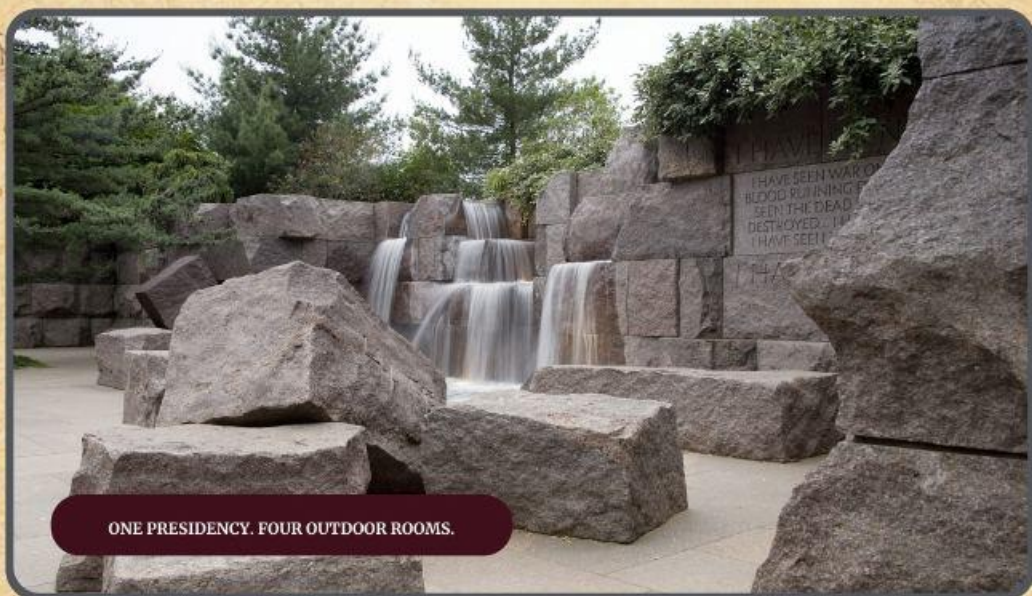
MEMORY MAP - NOT FOR NAVIGATION



Label the two real source clues at the edge when you finish.

START HERE: mark anchors while you walk.

FINISH TOMORROW: connect the same route.



ONE PRESIDENCY. FOUR OUTDOOR ROOMS.

WHY DOES THE STORY CHANGE ROOMS?

FDR's memorial unfolds as rooms because his presidency unfolded through crisis and change. Listen to water in one room, then another. Which sound, quotation, or sculpture changes the story as you walk?

MY CLUE

Move through the rooms in order if your route allows. Notice how the sound and mood change.

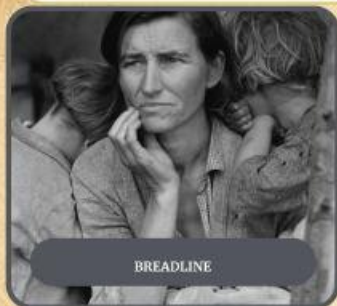
Before you begin, predict which material will tell the story best: water, stone, words, or sculpture.

CHAMBER OF STRUGGLE

Read faces, posture, words, and representation.

5 POINTS HERE

QUEST TOTAL: 11 POINTS



BREADLINE



FDR & FALA



WATER



BREADLINE DETAIL

Find the Breadline sculpture. Count the waiting figures, then find two heads tilted in the same direction.



WORDS OF THE TIME

Find the words 'fear itself' in a nearby quotation. Copy the four words immediately before them.



WHEELCHAIR PORTRAIT

Find the Prologue statue of FDR in his wheelchair. Which visible part of the chair tells the story without a label?



FIND FALA

Find Fala, FDR's dog. Is he placed beside the president's feet or above his head? Point to the evidence.

ACCESSIBILITY IS PART OF THE STORY

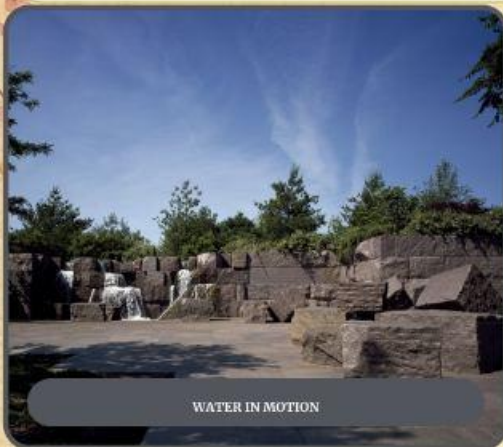
The Prologue statue was added so visitors could see the wheelchair that FDR used throughout much of his public life.

WATER TELLS THE STORY

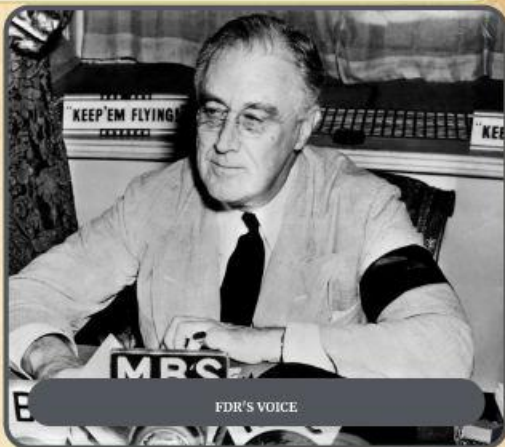
FDR Memorial - continuation

3 POINTS

QUEST 19 - ROOM PATH



WATER IN MOTION



FDR'S VOICE



WATER CHANGES

Listen at two different water features. Write one word for each sound, then name one way the water's movement changes.



A PRESIDENT'S WORDS

Find "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself." Circle the repeated word and explain what repetition adds.

LISTEN BEFORE YOU WRITE

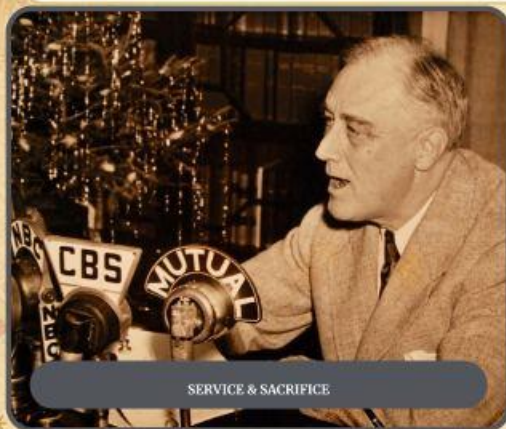
Different falls, pools, and channels create different moods.

CHAMBER OF RESOLVE

3 POINTS

End with global responsibility and one remembered room.

SPREAD TOTAL: 6 POINTS



SERVICE & SACRIFICE



THE WIDER WORLD



ELEANOR AND THE UNITED NATIONS

Find Eleanor Roosevelt. Identify the symbol behind her, then name one clue that connects the memorial to the wider world.



FOUR-ROOM MEMORY MAP

Choose the room you will remember best. Sketch one object from it and explain your choice in one sentence.

FOUR TERMS, FOUR ROOMS

FDR is the only U.S. president elected to four terms.



A LIVING CEMETERY. A QUIET QUEST.

CASE FILE 20 / FIRST LOOK

HOW DO WE SHOW RESPECT HERE?

This is a place of burial and remembrance, not a race for points. From a permitted public path, notice a row, marker, or ceremony detail that asks visitors to slow down. Let your behavior answer that invitation.

MY CLUE

RESPECT SHAPES THE ROUTE

Walk rather than run. Never climb, lean, sit, or place objects on markers. Skip any activity that would interrupt a ceremony or family visit.

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Choose one word for how your group will move through this place.

THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

4 POINTS HERE

Observe ceremony from the designated public area.

QUEST TOTAL: 9 POINTS



THE GUARD



WREATH CEREMONY



PUBLIC PATH



CHANGING OF THE GUARD

If you attend the ceremony, watch silently and record one precise movement that surprised you.



THE NUMBER 21

Count one full pass or use an official sign. What number repeats, and what honor does it represent?



JFK MEMORIAL

If your route includes President Kennedy's gravesite, identify the eternal symbol beside it.

ROUTE REALITY

Arlington is large and hilly. Use the activities available on your route.

ONE NAME. ONE LIFE.

Arlington National Cemetery - continuation

3 POINTS

QUEST 20 - MARKER STUDY



ONE NAME



REPEATING ROWS



ONE NAME, ONE LIFE

Choose one marker visible from a public path. Record the person's name and one detail shown on the stone: date, service branch, title, award, or family relationship.



EMBLEM OF BELIEF

Find one approved emblem on a marker. Sketch its shape without touching the stone. What might that symbol help a family remember?

OBSERVE FROM THE PATH

Use zoom rather than stepping between markers.

SIGNS OF REMEMBRANCE

2 POINTS

Read the landscape as carefully as the stones.

SPREAD TOTAL: 5 POINTS



HILLS. TREES. ROWS. SKYLINE.

1
POINT

LANDSCAPE OF MEMORY

From a public viewpoint, name one feature that shapes the setting: hill, tree, skyline, road, river, or repeating rows.

1
POINT

QUIET MEMORY

From a public path, choose one detail to carry home. How did noticing it change how you moved or listened?

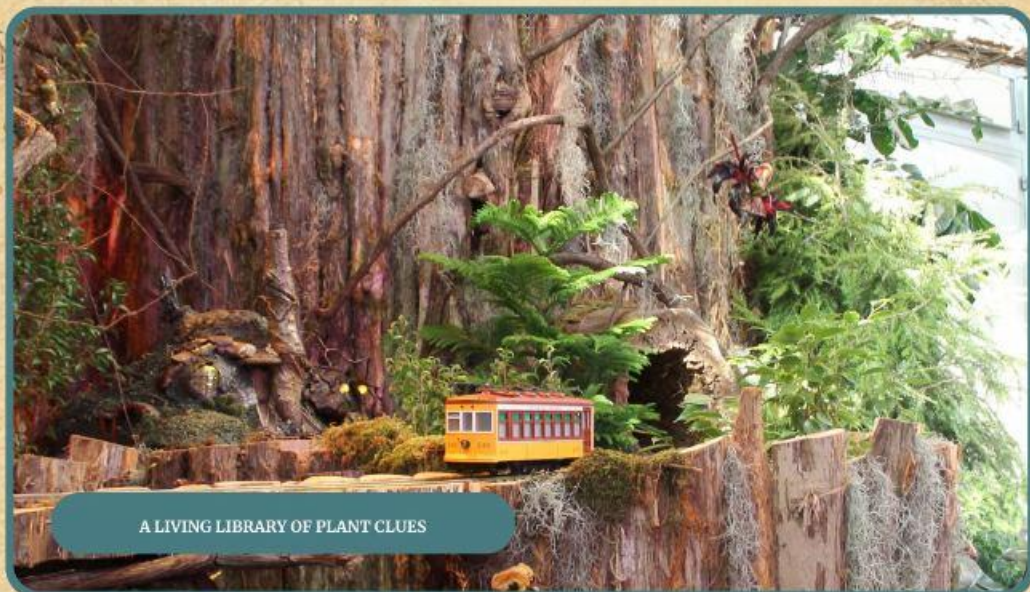
DO NOT COLLECT SOUVENIRS *Leave flowers, stones, grass, and every memorial object where it is.*



U.S. BOTANIC GARDEN

5 POINTS

The Garden of Stories



A LIVING LIBRARY OF PLANT CLUES

CASE FILE 21 / FIRST LOOK

WHAT IS THIS PLANT'S SURVIVAL TRICK?

Plants cannot move away from heat, shade, or drought. Their shapes are clues to survival. Compare two leaves or stems from different habitats: which feature solves which problem, and what second clue confirms it?

MY CLUE _____



GIANT LEAF

Find the broadest leaf you can see. Which is larger: its blade or your hand? Use its label or neighboring plants to test why it grew so wide.



TWO CLIMATES

Find one dry-zone plant and one humid-zone plant. Which has the thicker leaf? Use a label or visible surface to prove it.

PLANT MAGIC FIELD STUDY

Three ways to remember one living collection.

3 POINTS HERE

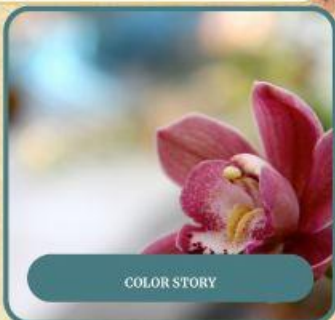
QUEST TOTAL: 5 POINTS



LOOK UP



FOLLOW LIGHT



COLOR STORY



SCENT OR TEXTURE

Smell only where permitted. If touching or smelling is not allowed, record a visible texture and color instead.



PLANT ORIGIN

Use a label to find a plant from another region. Compare a neighbor: which feature hints at a different growing condition?



ONE PLANT TO REMEMBER

Find a plant whose label names its home. Sketch one visible survival clue and record the place it came from.

GARDEN RULE

Take notes and photos; leave every leaf, flower, and seed in place.

ANYTIME QUESTS

COLLECT THE CITY BETWEEN THE LANDMARKS

Every clue is worth one point. Find them in any order—during walks, rides, meals, lines, and gl

CLUE 1 • FOOD

1 PRETZELPROOF

Spot or taste a soft pretzel. Salt crystals count as evidence.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 2 • FOOD

1 CAPITAL FLAVOR

Find a half-smoke or mumbo sauce on a menu, sign, or plate.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 3 • STREET FOOD

1 FOOD-TRUCK SIGNAL

Spot a food truck. Record its color or what it serves.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 4 • LANGUAGE

1 LANGUAGE LIGHTNING

Notice one language besides English—spoken, signed, or printed.

☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 5 • CITY CODE

1 ALPHABET AGENCY

Find a government acronym such as NPS, EPA, FBI, or NASA. Guess what it means.

☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 6 • TRANSIT

1 METRO BEACON

Find a red-and-silver Metro pylon. Record the station name.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 7 • TRANSIT

1 RIDE THE RAINBOW

Name one Metro line color you rode, crossed, or spotted.

☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 8 • NAVIGATION

1 STATE-AVENUE HUNT

Find an avenue named for a state. Which state joined your quest?



☐ COLLECTED

15 CLUES. 15 POINTS. ONE CAPITAL.

No special route. No perfect order. Just keep your eyes open.

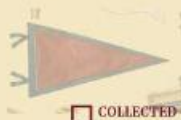
orious snack emergencies.



CLUE 9 • SPORTS

I HOME-TEAM SIGNAL

Spot one D.C. team on a hat, shirt, flag, sign, or souvenir.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 10 • LOCAL SYMBOL

I D.C. FLAG CODE

Find the city flag: three red stars above two red bars.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 11 • LOCAL SYMBOL

I PLATE MESSAGE

Find a D.C. license plate and copy the phrase printed on it.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 12 • NEIGHBORHOODS

I ROWHOUSE RAINBOW

Spot two neighboring rowhouses wearing different colors.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 13 • CIVIC SYMBOL

I EAGLE EYE

Find an eagle on a building, seal, sign, statue, or piece of money.



☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 14 • CIVIC SYMBOL

I OFFICIAL SEAL

Find one official seal or emblem that does not already appear in this book.

☐ COLLECTED

CLUE 15 • LOCAL WISDOM

I A LOCAL'S PICK

With your adult, ask a guide, worker, or local grown-up what a family should notice in D.C.

☐ COLLECTED

SEAL THE PAGE

Each box checked = 1 point.

POINTS COLLECTED

_____ / 15

Which clue felt most like D.C.?

FINAL SCORECARD

277 POINTS POSSIBLE

Add each part of your Washington adventure



CORE QUESTS

/ 199



BONUS QUESTS

/ 63



ANYTIME QUESTS

/ 15

FINAL GUILD SCORE

_____ / 277

CLAIM YOUR GUILD RANK

AC-03

Ranks reward curiosity—not perfection



JUNIOR QUILL BEARER

0–54



APPRENTICE SEEKER

55–121



MYSTIC MAPMAKER

122–189



MASTER OF MEMORY

190–276



GUILD ARCHIVIST

PERFECT 277

The 90-Minute National Mall Challenge is scored separately and does not change your Guild rank.



THE 90-MINUTE NATIONAL MALL CHALLENGE

THE GREAT MALL DASH

YOUR MISSION

Your party has 90 minutes to collect as many National Mall points as possible. You cannot visit every stop—and that is the game. Choose your route, watch the clock, and finish together.

HOW TO PLAY



PICK A START



CHOOSE STOPS



COLLECT POINTS



BEAT THE CLOCK

BUILD YOUR QUEST PARTY

One person may hold more than one job. Swap whenever you like.



TIMEKEEPER

guards the 90-minute clock



NAVIGATOR

chooses the next reachable stop



SPOTTER

finds the required detail



CHRONICLER

takes the photo or field note

THE SEEKER'S PACT

- 1 Walk—never sprint.
- 2 Stay together and use crossings.
- 3 Follow museum, security, and photo rules.
- 4 Skip anything closed, crowded, or blocked.
- 5 When the clock ends, the game ends.

60
BONUS PTS



THE SCORE ENGINE

10 MALL STOPS	× 5 POINTS	= 50
5 BONUS CARDS	× 2 POINTS	= 10

FIVE BONUS CARDS

Collect these anywhere along your route.



FIELD GUIDE IN FRAME

Include this book in one team photo.



TINY BUT MIGHTY

Capture one detail most visitors walk past.



MONUMENT MIRROR

Recreate the pose of any statue or figure.



TEAM SIGNAL

Invent a silent sign your whole party can copy.



FINISH-LINE FREEZE

Take one final team photo when time ends.

THIS GAME IS SCORED SEPARATELY FROM YOUR 277-POINT GUILD RANK.



CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE

TEN STOPS · FIVE POINTS EACH · CLEAR AS MANY AS YOU CAN

OUR ROUTE:

☐ EAST → WEST

☐ WEST → EAST

☐ CUSTOM LOOP

STOP 1

5
PTS

WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Frame the Monument with a tree, flag, or teammate.



PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Sketch its pointed silhouette.

☐ CLEARED

STOP 2

5
PTS

NATURAL HISTORY

Find the rotunda elephant—or another giant creature.



PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Record one animal carved or pictured outside.

☐ CLEARED

STOP 3

5
PTS

AMERICAN HISTORY

Record one object that tells an American story.



PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Find one star, flag, or building detail.

☐ CLEARED

STOP 4

5
PTS

SMITHSONIAN CASTLE & GARDEN

Find one red tower, unusual plant, or garden secret.



PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Use any tower or garden feature.

☐ CLEARED

STOP 5

5
PTS

SCULPTURE GARDEN

Copy the shape of one sculpture from a respectful distance.



PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Use any visible artwork or fountain detail.

☐ CLEARED

STOPS CLEARED

____ / 10

STOP POINTS

____ / 50

THE GREAT MAILDASH

Start wherever your party already is. The printed board is not a walking map.

Ask an adult to use a current official National Mall map and follow all posted crossings.

START: _____

FINISH: _____

STOP 6

5
PTS

AMERICAN INDIAN MUSEUM

Trace one curve in the building or landscape with your finger.

PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Record one material or flowing line.

☐ CLEARED



STOP 7

5
PTS

NATIONAL GALLERY EAST BUILDING

Find a triangle hiding in the building or plaza.

PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Sketch one angle in the exterior.

☐ CLEARED



STOP 8

5
PTS

SMITHSONIAN CAROUSEL

Spot one animal you would choose for your Guild steed.

PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Use an animal on a sign—or a nearby garden feature.

☐ CLEARED



STOP 9

5
PTS

NATIONAL MALLAWN

Create a forced-perspective photo or sketch with a distant landmark.

PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Frame any landmark between two hands.

☐ CLEARED



STOP 10

5
PTS

AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

Record one aircraft or spacecraft that looks ready for a quest.

PROOF: ☐ PHOTO ☐ SKETCH ☐ FIELD NOTE

OUTSIDE FALLBACK: Find one exterior shape that suggests flight.

☐ CLEARED



BONUS CARDS

____ / 10

FINAL SCORE

____ / 60



A NOTE FROM OUR FAMILY

OUR FAMILY IN WASHINGTON, DC · SPRING 2025



DEAR SEEKER,

We made Quill & Quest because our favorite family-travel memories rarely came from seeing the most places. They came from slowing down long enough to notice one odd carving, debate one clue, attempt one ridiculous photo, or let a child choose the next turn.

If this book helped your family look closer, laugh together, ask a better question, or remember Washington differently, then your quest did exactly what we hoped.

Keep exploring. Keep wondering. And keep a quill nearby—the next story may be hiding wherever you go.

— The Koester Family

NEXT
QUEST

YOUR NEXT QUEST IS WAITING

Every city has its own clues, flavors, shortcuts, and stories.

EXPLORE MORE FIELD GUIDES

1
NEXT

MADRID

Royal palaces, hidden details, art, parks, and city mysteries

2
NEXT

SEVILLE & SOUTHERN SPAIN

Palaces, plazas, gardens, and clues across the south

3
NEXT

VIENNA

A city of music, ornate rooftops, and mysteries still to solve

MORE DESTINATIONS ON THE GUILD MAP

- Mexico City
- Cancún & the Yucatán
- Philadelphia
- New York City
- Barcelona
- London
- Amsterdam
- Brussels
- Cologne & Paderborn

Destinations are in development; publication order may change as the Guild explores.

STORY
PATH

ENTER THE WORLD OF THE PENNYMORES

Long before these field guides, there was the Guild—a hidden world of young writers, mysterious libraries, magical quills, and stories powerful enough to change reality.

Meet Parker, Quinn, and Aven Pennymore in

PENNYMORES & THE CURSE OF THE INVISIBLE QUILL

Borrow the Guild's spirit. Make the real-world adventure your own.

MY NEXT QUEST:

Continue exploring at www.pennymores.com/quillandquest

Created by Eric Koester and family

THANK YOU

TO QUINN, PARKER, AND AVEN

our first Seekers, sharpest critics, and fearless field testers.

TO ALLISON

for turning every family trip into an expedition worth remembering.

TO THE KEEPERS OF THESE PLACES

the librarians, park rangers, museum teams, guides, historians, and public servants who protect stories and help visitors discover them.

TO EVERY TRAVELING FAMILY

who chooses curiosity over rushing and lets a child pick the next clue.

The best journeys begin when someone notices one small thing.

EDITION RECORD

CREATED BY Eric Koester and family

ROOTED IN Our family's Washington, DC adventures

EDITION First edition · 2026

ORIGINAL ART + DESIGN Hadia Akbar

SERIES Quill & Quest

ONLINE pennymores.com/quillandquest

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BEFORE YOUR NEXT QUEST

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EVERY IMAGE HAS A STORY

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THE CASE CONTINUES

The small thing you noticed is part of the story now.

ONE DETAIL WORTH KEEPING

No points. No perfect answer. Just your own sharp eyes.

WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?

WHAT DID YOU THINK AT FIRST?

WHICH CLUE CHANGED YOUR MIND?

OR SKETCH THE DETAIL

YOUR NEXT QUEST

Carry one question into the next city.