

An aerial photograph of the Washington Monument, a tall, white, obelisk-shaped structure, standing prominently in the center. The monument is surrounded by a circular plaza with many flags. In the background, the Potomac River flows, with a bridge visible on the right. The surrounding area includes green lawns, trees, and some buildings in the distance.

LEVELED BOOK • I

A Monument for George

Written by Joanna Jarc Robinson

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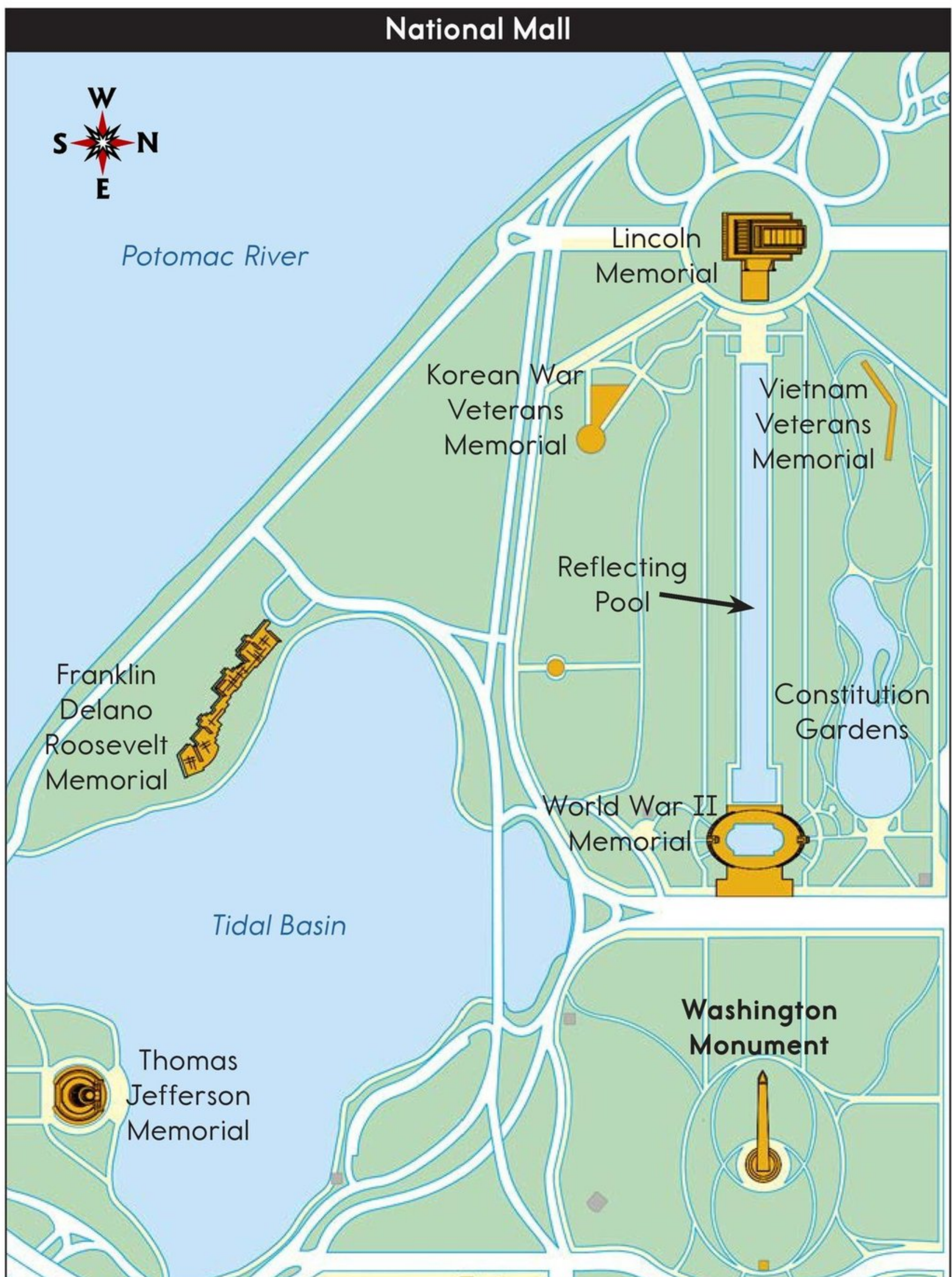
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George Washington was a hero because he helped the United States win its freedom from the British.

Washington's Monument

The **Washington Monument** was built to **honor** George Washington. George Washington was a hero. He was the first **president** of the United States.



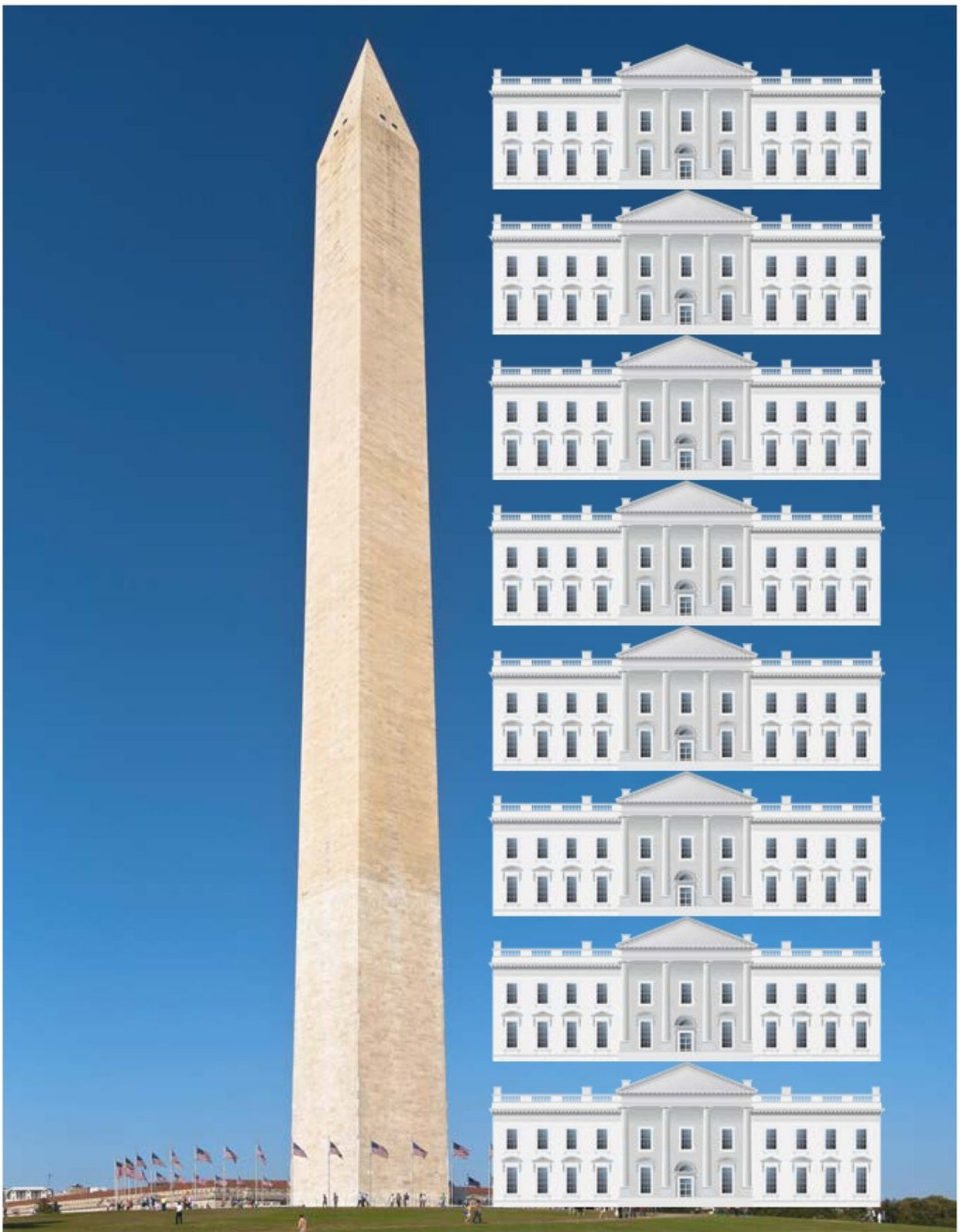
The **monument** is in Washington, D.C.
It is in an area called
the **National Mall**.

The monument is the tallest building in the city.

A law says that no other building in the city can be taller.

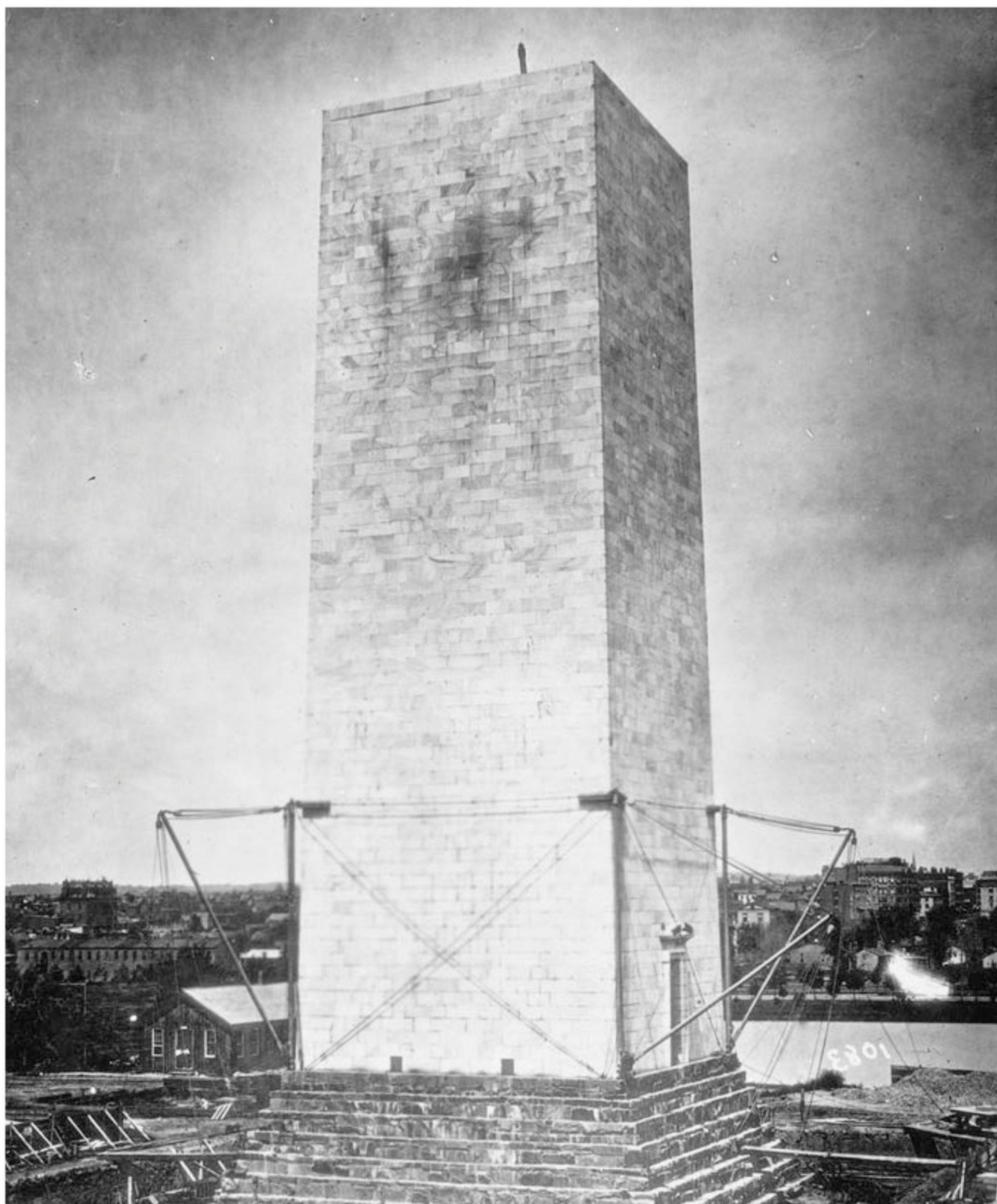


The monument can be seen from many miles away.



The monument is also as tall as eight White Houses.

The monument is 555 feet (169 m) tall.
That is as tall as twenty-nine giraffes!
It is built of stone.



In 1861, the monument was only 150 feet (45.7 m) tall.

Work on the monument started
in 1848.

Work stopped and started
many times.

At times, there was
not enough money.

Work was also stopped by a war
in the United States.

The monument first opened in 1885.



Workers finish the top of the monument.

Do You Know?

To get to the top, people had to climb 898 steps!



This statue of George Washington, inside the Washington Monument, used to be inside the Lincoln Memorial.

What's Inside?

People can go inside the monument.

It has a statue of
George Washington.

It also has a **museum**.

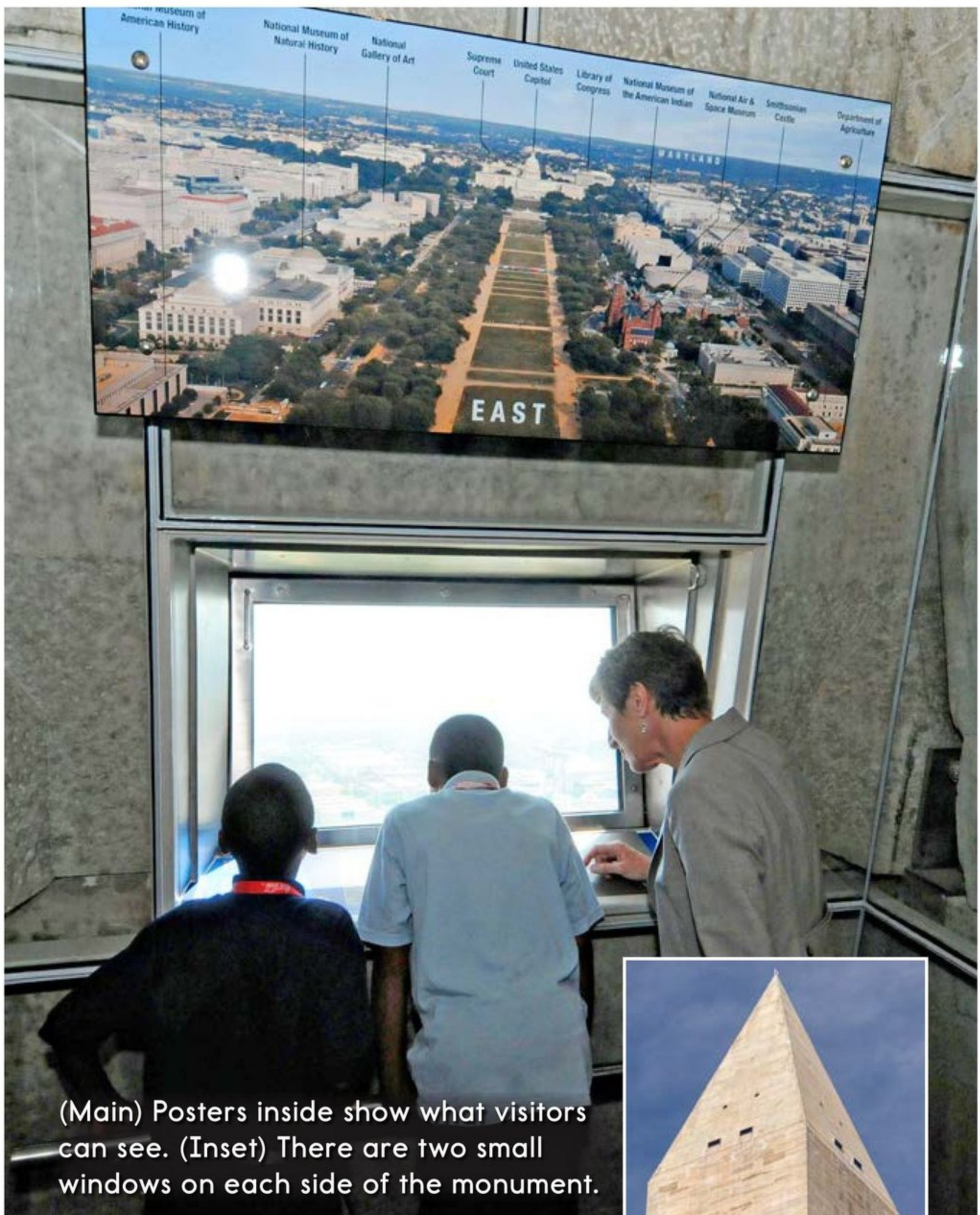
People can see special stones
on the inside walls.
Some stones were
gifts from U.S. states.
Other stones were
gifts from people who
wanted the monument
to be built.



This stone from New York State has the Latin word for “higher” on it.



Some of the special stones came from places outside the United States, such as this one from Wales.



(Main) Posters inside show what visitors can see. (Inset) There are two small windows on each side of the monument.

People can go to the top of the monument. They can look out and see Washington, D.C.

What's Outside?

Around the monument
are fifty U.S. flags.

The fifty flags stand for
the fifty states.

A big stone at the corner of the
monument has many things inside it.
The things honor George
Washington and the United States.



The flags stay up all day and all night.

Oh, No—Cracks!

An earthquake damaged the monument in 2011.

Then a storm damaged it more.

It took almost three years to repair the monument.



(Main) Workers look for cracks in the stone blocks (inset) after the 2011 earthquake.



The grass near the monument is a great place to fly kites or have picnics.

Many people visit the Washington Monument each year.

If you visit it, what would you want to see?

Glossary

honor (v.)	to show respect for or think well of (p. 4)
monument (n.)	a building, statue, or other structure built as a memorial to a person or event (p. 5)
museum (n.)	a building used to store and show things that are important to history, science, or art (p. 10)
National Mall (n.)	a grassy, public area in Washington, D.C., that includes and is bordered by museums, monuments, and memorials (p. 5)
president (n.)	the leader of the government in some countries (p. 4)
Washington Monument (n.)	a large, tall white pillar in Washington, D.C., built to honor George Washington, the first U.S. president (p. 4)

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Front and back cover: The Washington Monument sits across from the Jefferson Memorial.

Title page: Many people attended the reopening ceremony at the Washington Monument on May 12, 2014.

Page 3: Fireworks create a colorful backdrop for the Washington Monument.

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