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# The nation's capital

► The US President lives and works in the White House.

Washington, DC is America's capital city. The letters DC stand for "District of Columbia," which is the official title for the area where the city of Washington is located. It is not actually located within any of the 50 U.S. states. When Washington was chosen to become the national capital, it was thought that it would be unfair if any one state received the honor of being the location of the national government.

Washington, DC is named after George Washington, who was the first President of the U.S. Before he was elected to be the first President, George Washington was famous as an army general in the Revolutionary War, when the U.S. won its independence from Great Britain.

## The seat of government

The President and Vice-President live and work in Washington. The President lives in the White House, which also contains his office (known as the Oval Office because of its shape) as well as offices for his staff.

The U.S. Congress, America's national law-making organization, meets in the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington.







There are two houses of Congress to which members are elected: the Senate and the House of Representatives.

The highest court, the U.S. Supreme Court, and many other government departments are also located in Washington.

◀ The U.S. Capitol Building houses the offices and meeting chambers of the Senate and the House of Representatives.



▶ The Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC honors President Abraham Lincoln, who is remembered for freeing the slaves in the 1860s.

### Did you know?

In Washington's many museums you can see important objects from significant historical events. For example, at the National Air and Space Museum you can see the plane that made the world's first successful flight in 1903, as well as part of the spacecraft that carried the first astronauts to walk on the moon in 1969.

### Amazing, but true!

When it was built in 1800, the White House was the largest house in the entire country.

In 1814, the White House and the Capitol Building were partially burned down by British soldiers.

The White House has its own swimming pool, bowling alley, and movie theater for the President and his family.

