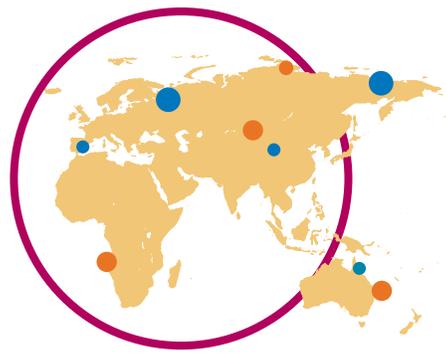
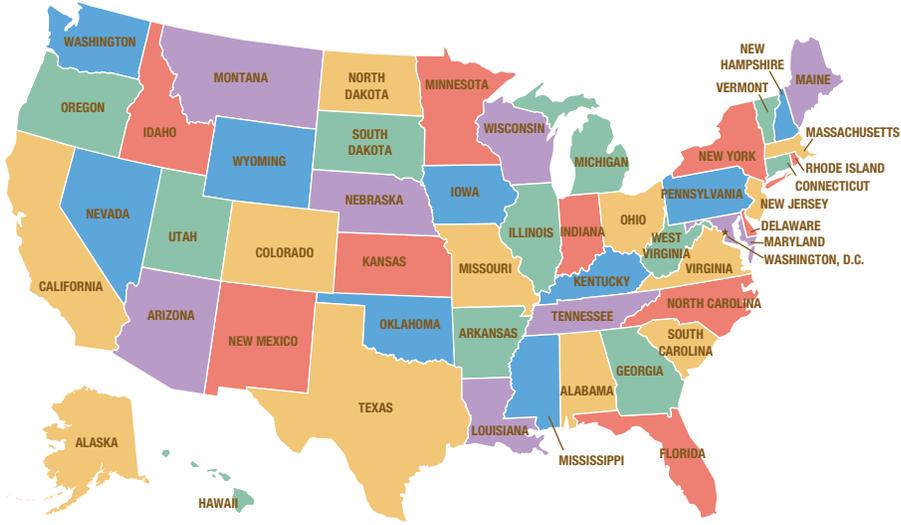




A STUDENT TOUR OF Emancipation Hall

Welcome to the U.S. Capitol! People from all over the U.S. and the world visit the Capitol. It is here that members of the U.S. Congress meet to make the rules or laws of the country. Each state and city has laws, too. **Where do you live?**



Let's take a tour of Emancipation Hall,
the great room on the lower level of the Visitor Center.

STOP #1: Look above the desks on either side of Emancipation Hall for bronze pictures of the Capitol that hang on the wall. **Can you think of three words that describe the Capitol building?**



The U.S. Congress, made up of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, meets in large rooms called "chambers" at either end of the building. The Senate meets in the north wing of the building, and the House meets in the south wing. The center of the building, the Rotunda, is used for important ceremonies.

STOP #2: Walk to one of the desks and look up through the large window (skylight) in the ceiling.

What do you see? A dome is a rounded roof. Isn't that an amazing sight? When people see the Capitol building with its Dome they think of the American people and their government.

A statue of a woman stands atop the Capitol Dome. Her name is Freedom.



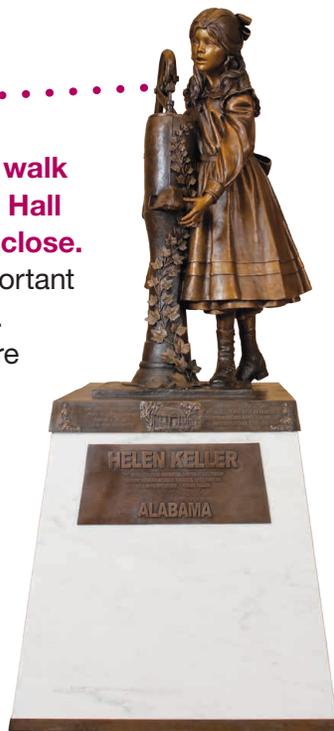
STOP #3: Find the Statue of Freedom in the center of Emancipation Hall. It is almost exactly the same as the statue on the Dome. Learn more about Freedom from the reading panels surrounding her.

Why did the builders place the Statue of Freedom on the Dome? What does freedom mean to you?

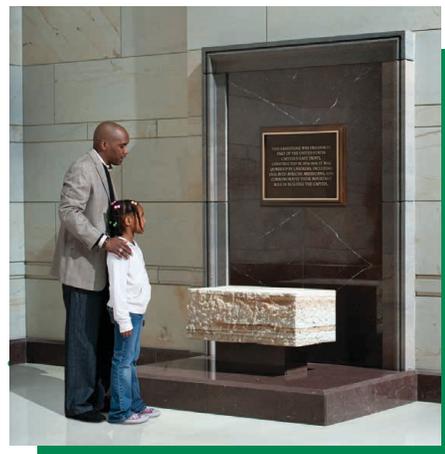


STOP #4: Be sure to walk around Emancipation Hall to see the statues up close.

They honor people important to our country's history. Most of the statues were donated by states; each state sends two statues to the Capitol. One statue is a gift that Congress has accepted on behalf of the American people. If you go on a tour of the Capitol, ask your tour guide to tell you about one of your state statues.



STOP #5: You probably noticed that the Capitol is built of stone. Go to the corner of the building nearest to the North Orientation Theater. **You can touch stone that was carved with a chisel 200 years ago!** Many of the workers who built the Capitol were not free; they were enslaved. Years later, after the Civil War, Congress and the states decided to end slavery in our country.



“Emancipation” is the act of setting somebody free. Emancipation Hall is named for the enslaved workers who helped to build the U.S. Capitol.