



U.S. CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER

MIDDLE SCHOOL VIDEO TOUR Follow-Along Worksheet

Introduction

Use this worksheet to write down your answers to the questions posed by the narrator in the video. The narrator will pause after each question. The questions are listed in order, by section, as they appear in the tour.

When you think of Washington, D.C., what images come to mind?

Many of us think of memorials to presidents, like Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln, or even our beautiful cherry trees in spring. **How about this?**

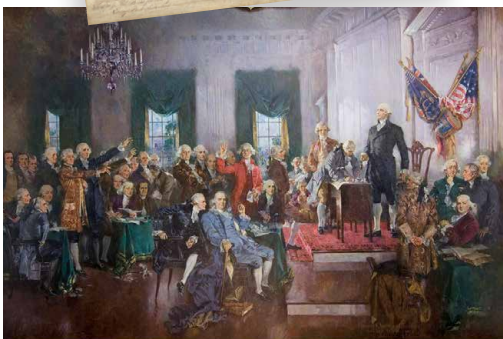


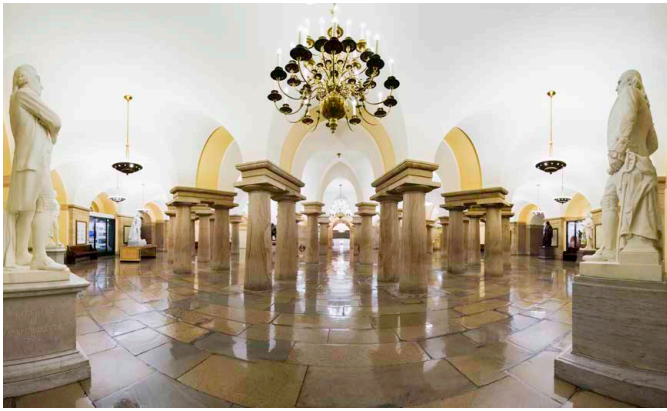
The Constitution

The Constitution starts with three very important words. **What are they?**

What does that mean to you?

What do you think it meant to the writers of the Constitution in 1788?





The Crypt

What do you see?

Do you notice anything else in this room?



The Rotunda

What word would you use to describe this space?

I have heard many people use the word “majestic.” **Do you agree? Y/N**
(Why or why not?)

Apotheosis of George Washington

Do you see the woman with the red cape and spear? That’s Minerva, goddess of wisdom. **Can you recognize any of the people to the right of Minerva? Y/N**
(Name them)



“Out of Many One” **Why do you think this phrase was chosen?**

The artist, Constantino Brumidi, intended to make George Washington god-like in this painting. **Do you think George Washington would have liked this? Y/N**

George Washington Resigns His Commission



Resigning his commission means that George Washington handed his military power back to Congress. **Who does Congress represent?**

What might have happened if he didn't resign his commission?

Now that you know a little more about him, let's revisit that earlier question. **How do you think George Washington would have felt about Brumidi's Apotheosis painting?**

Even though the Constitution refers to "We the People," not every person in America was included when the document was written. The Constitution was created to be an adaptable document through the addition of amendments. **How has "We the People" changed over time?**

What are some of the events that led to the change?





If you could add a piece of art to the Capitol and have it symbolize your belief of “We the People,” would it be:

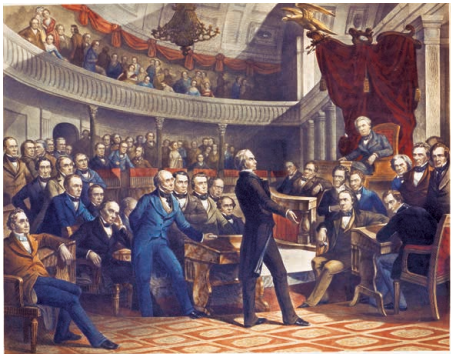
A new painting? **Y/N**

A new statue? **Y/N**

What would be the subject?

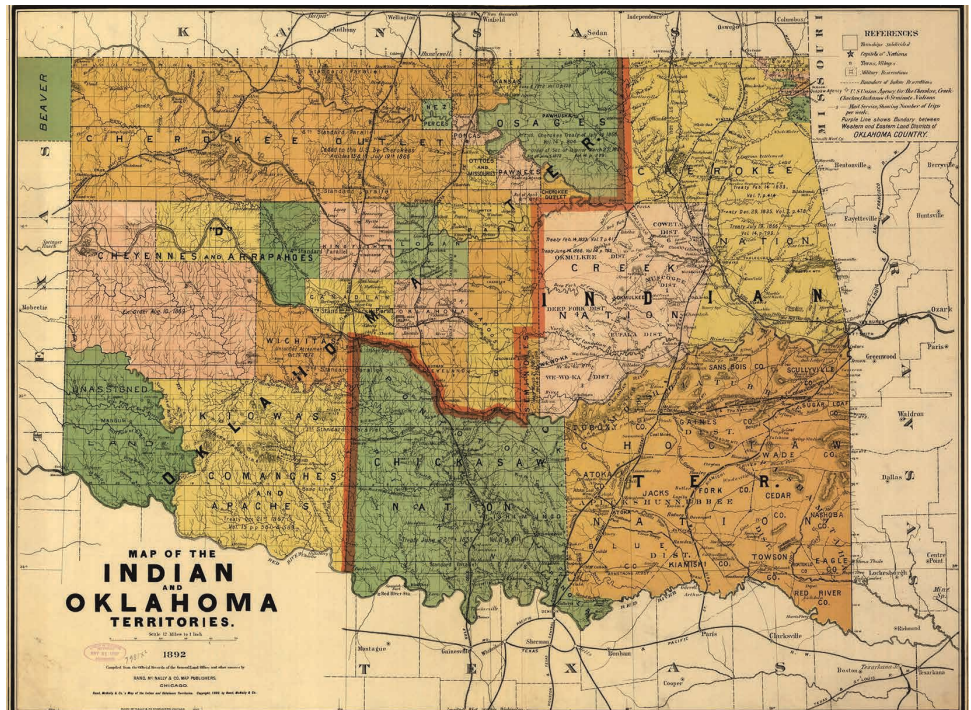
Who would be in it?

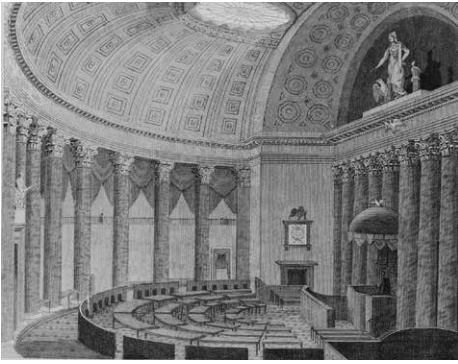
National Statuary Hall



The Missouri Compromise kept a fragile peace for 30 years. **If you were a Representative then, would you have recommended a different choice? Y/N**
(Why or why not?)

And what about the people who already lived in the territories that were now becoming part of the United States? **Did they have a voice? Y/N**





How is this 1840s and 1850s version of America different from today?

What was their idea of “We the People”?

In 1857, the House of Representatives moved down the hall to their current chamber. Now that the Old Hall of the House was empty, **what do you think they used it for?**

What’s your favorite statue in National Statuary Hall?



Resources

Want to learn more about the people and stories in the Middle School Video Tour? Much of the imagery chosen to tell the story of the U.S. Capitol can be viewed online.

- U.S. Capitol Visitor Center** www.visitthecapitol.gov
- Architect of the Capitol** www.aoc.gov
www.aoc.gov/the-national-statuary-hall-collection
- Senate** www.senate.gov
- House of Representatives** www.house.gov
www.history.house.gov
- Library of Congress** www.loc.gov
- The National Archives** www.archives.gov

All photos in the Follow-Along Worksheet are from the Architect of the Capitol unless otherwise noted.