

# A Capitol Adventure



A Guide to the U.S. Capitol and Take-Home Activity Book for Children



The U.S. Capitol is over 200 years old! It was built a long time ago. Then, we were a small country.

Today, the United States is a large nation of 50 states.



Are you ready to learn about the Capitol? Let's begin!

# Visit the U.S. Capitol!

Why do visitors come here?

Why is the U.S. Capitol a special building?

The people who write the nation's rules, called laws, work in the U.S. Capitol. We call the group of people who write the laws Congress.



Every state sends people to work in Congress.

In the space below, write two rules you follow at home and at school.

A large, yellow scroll with brown outlines, unrolled to show horizontal lines for writing. The scroll is numbered '1.' and '2.' in large, bold, red font. The scroll is positioned diagonally across the page. There are three yellow footprints scattered around the scroll: one to the left, one below it, and one to the right.

# Welcome to the Capitol Visitor Center!

A statue is a carved figure. The Statue of Freedom welcomes you to the Capitol. She is over 19 feet tall! Freedom stands on the top of the rounded roof, called a dome.



**Walk into Exhibition Hall.** The entrance is behind the Statue of Freedom. You can touch a model of the Capitol Dome! Can you find Freedom on the model?



# See The Crypt!

A Visitor Guide leads your tour. The Visitor Guide takes you to the oldest parts of the Capitol.

## First, we visit the Crypt.

A column is a pillar or post. They help to hold up the heavy floor above. There are 40 columns in the Crypt!

The Capitol was built to last a long time. The stone used to build the Capitol came from many states. You can touch a column and feel the sandstone.



The Capitol is decorated with art.

**Look for statues in the Crypt.** Some of the statues are gifts from the states. Statues honor important people. The statues are made of bronze (a metal) and marble (a stone).





# Enter the Rotunda!

The Rotunda is the tall round room in the center of the Capitol. It is a special room in the Capitol. National celebrations take place here.



The art in the Capitol tells a story.

See if you can find these important stories in the Rotunda. Each of the stories is found in the Rotunda more than once. Can you find all of them?

- Christopher Columbus
- The Pilgrims
- George Washington



Here are some hints!



# Come into National Statuary Hall!

National Statuary Hall is a fancy room.

**Congress used to meet here.** But, the room became too small so they moved to a larger space.

Symbols are things that are used to stand for something else.

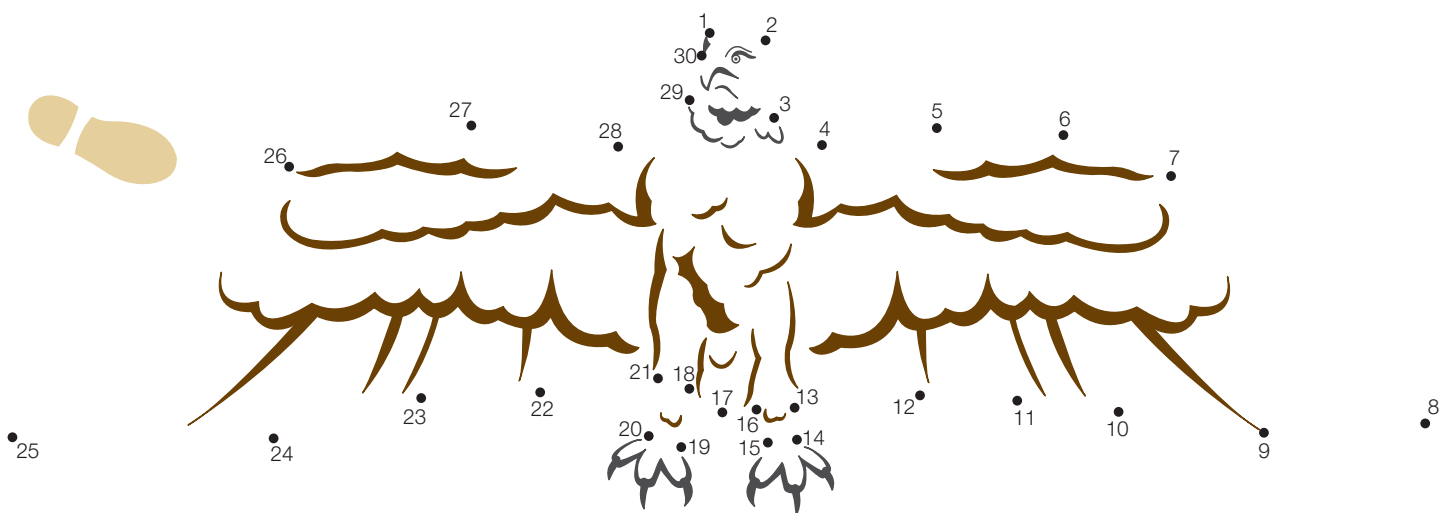
**A large, strong bird is our national bird.** It is a bald eagle! A bald eagle is a symbol of the United States.



**Look for** two eagles in National Statuary Hall.

**Look for** statues of people you may know, like Rosa Parks.

## Connect the dots!

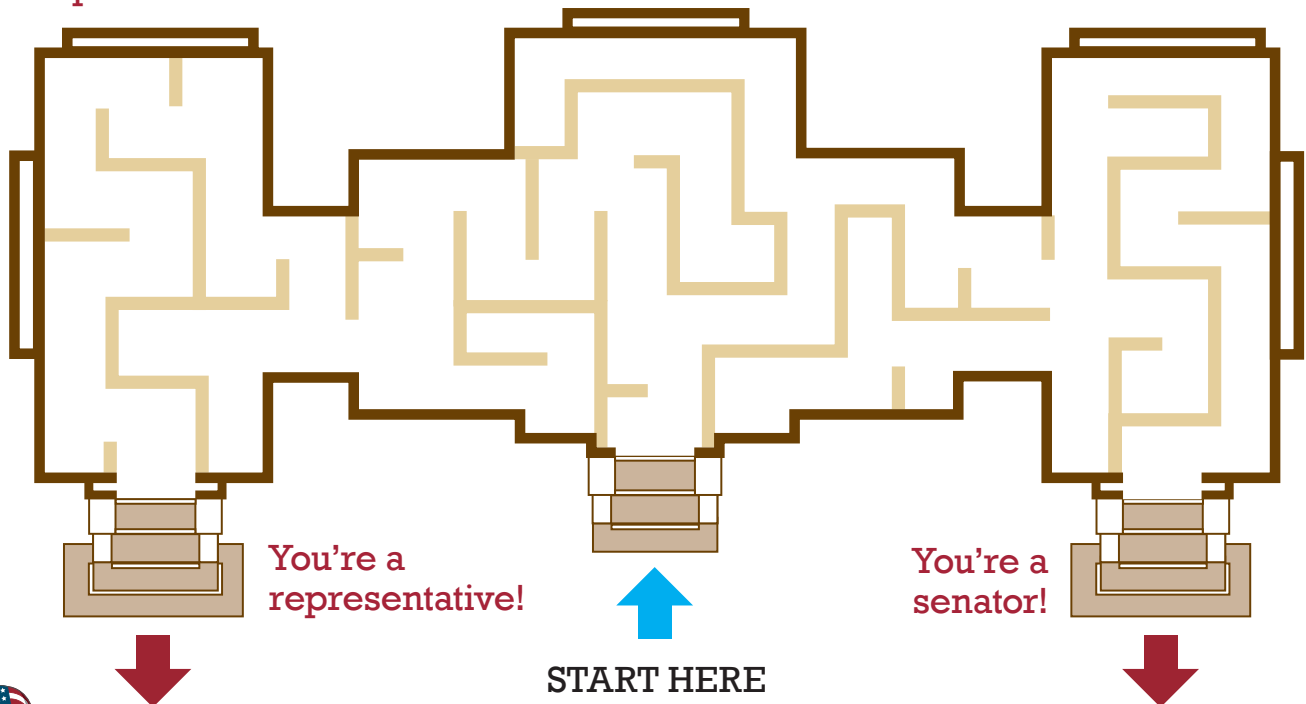


# Capitol Fun at Home!

The Capitol is a large building. It has 540 rooms!  
See if you can find your way out of the Capitol maze.

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Senate



**Many people work at the Capitol.** They have jobs to do. Every job is important. It takes all of us to get the job done.

Draw a line between the picture and the person's job.

Policeman

Gardener

Cook

Painter

Builder

Visitor Guide and Visitor Assistant





Americans work together. In this building Congress  
— the people who make the laws — works together.

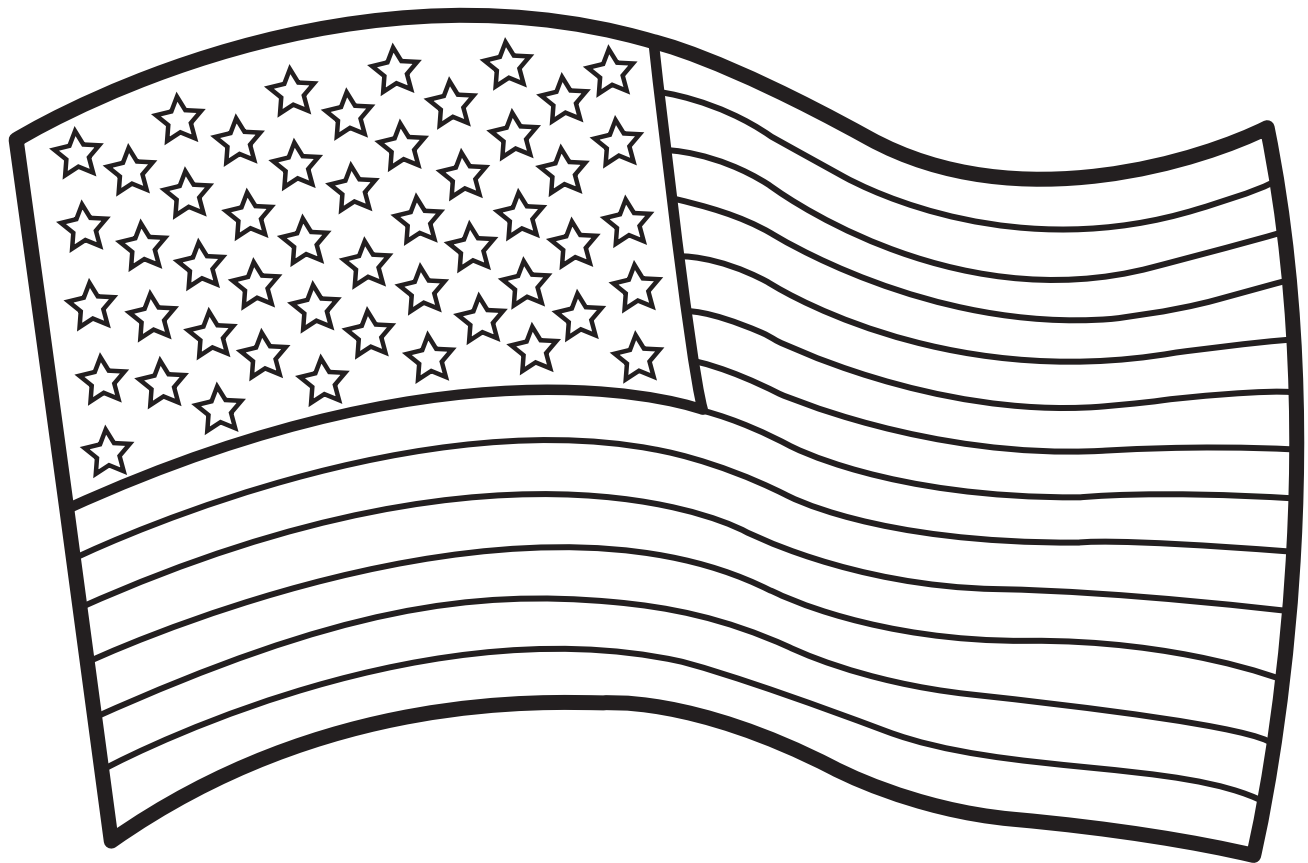
Below are words that you heard on your tour of the Capitol.  
Under each letter in red is a number.  
Put the letter on the line below to spell a word.

CONGRESS   SYMBOLS   PAINTING   ART   STORIES   LAWS   STATUES  
1                      6                      3                      2                      4                      7                      5

\_\_\_\_\_

1      2      3      4      5      6      7

Now, color this  
American flag!



Come visit the U.S. Capitol again!

U.S. CAPITOL  
*visitor center*