**Washington, D. C.**

**Basic Information**

* Washington, D. C., formally the District of Columbia and commonly referred to as Washington, "the District", or simply D. C., is the [capital](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Capital_city) of the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States).
* Washington D. C. is not part of any U. S. state, but it´s also not a state itself. So there are 51 states and one District in the U.S.
* Area: 177 km²
* Population: 617 976 inhabitants
	+ Metropolitan area: 5, 7 mil. inhabitants

**Location**

* Washington, D. C. is located along the Pontomac river on the country’s East Coast
* On the east it borders on Maryland; on the west on Virginia

**History**

* George Washington wanted to build a new capital city on the Potomac River. That is why he persuaded the landowners in Maryland and Virginia to cede their land to the Government. He chose this area in 1790.
* Named in honour of George Washington, the City of Washington was founded in 1791 to serve as the new national capital
* In 1793, Washington appointed French architect Pierre Charles L’Enfant to design the city. Later the plan was completed by other 2 architects.
* The Government moved here after finishing the United States Capitol in 1800.

**Importance:**

* One of the most important cities in the U. S.
* The centres of all three branches of the [federal government of the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_government_of_the_United_States) are in the District, including the Congress, [President](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States), and [Supreme Court](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_the_United_States).
* So there are a lot of important buildings, such as:

The White House:

* The **White House** is the official residence and principal workplace of the President of the United States. He lives here with his family.
* It was built in 1792

The United States Capitol

* The **United States Capitol** is the meeting place of the United States Congress, the legislature of the federal government of the United States
* It sits atop Capitol Hill

The Pentagon

* **The Pentagon** is the headquarters of the United States Department of Defence.
* The building is well known for its shape of the building.
* The Pentagon is the world's largest office building by floor area, with about 600,000 m2

The Supreme Court

* The **Supreme Court of the United States** is the highest court in the United States

**Sights:**

* **The Washington Monument** is an [obelisk](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obelisk) on the [National Mall](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Mall) in [Washington, D.C.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington%2C_D.C.), built to commemorate the first American president, General [George Washington](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington).
* The **Lincoln Memorial** is an American national monument built to honour the 16th President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. It is located on the National Mall in Washington, D. C. across from the Washington Monument.
* The **Thomas Jefferson Memorial** is a [presidential memorial](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_presidential_memorial) in [Washington, D.C.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Washington%2C_D.C.) dedicated to [Thomas Jefferson](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thomas_Jefferson), an [American Founding Father](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Founding_Fathers_of_the_United_States) and the third [President of the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_the_United_States).