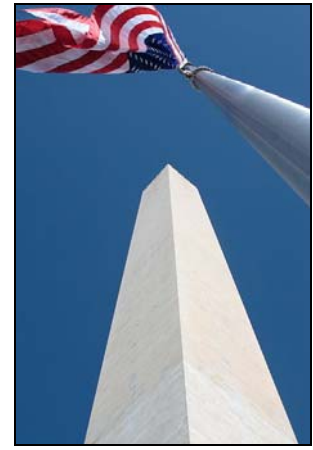


Name: _____

Date: _____

Washington Monument

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions from the reading.



The Washington Monument is a large, tall, sand-colored obelisk (tall, narrow, four-sided, tapering monument which ends in a pyramid like shape at the top) near the west end of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It is a United States Presidential Memorial constructed to commemorate the first U.S. president, George Washington. The monument is made of marble, granite, and sandstone, and is both the world's tallest *stone* structure and the world's tallest obelisk, standing 555 feet 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches in height. It is also the tallest structure in Washington D.C. It was designed by Robert Mills, an architect of the 1840s.

The actual construction of the monument began in 1848 but was not completed until 1884, almost 36 years later. This halt in construction happened because of co-option by the Know-Nothing party, a lack of funds, and the intervention of the American Civil War. Because of the length of time between start and finish of the monument – the builders were unable to find the same quarry stone used in the initial construction and, as a result, the bottom third of the monument is a slightly lighter shade than the rest of the construction.

It officially opened October 9, 1888. Upon completion, it became the world's tallest structure, a title held until the Eiffel Tower was finished in Paris, France. The Washington Monument reflection can be seen in the aptly named Reflecting Pool, a rectangular pool extending to the west toward the Lincoln Memorial.

The Washington Monument brought enormous crowds even before it officially opened. During the six months that followed its dedication, 10,041 people climbed the 897 steps and 50 landings to the top. As early as 1888, an average of 55,000 people per month went to the top, and today the Washington Monument has more than 800,000 visitors each year.

1. **What city is the monument located?**

2. **Why was the monument constructed?**

3. **How tall is the monument?**

4. **What type of stone is the monument made of?**

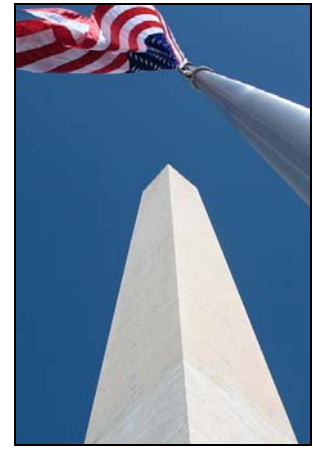
5. **What events caused the delay in construction?**

Name: _____

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Washington D.C.

To commemorate the first President

555 feet 5 $\frac{1}{8}$ inches

**Marble, Granite, and Sandstone
Know-Nothing party, Lack of funds,
American Civil War**