

Capital Quest Map Activity



Try this craft with our Capital Quest virtual program and quiz!

In 1790, the Residence Act was passed making D.C. the capital of the new United States. Thomas Jefferson, Alexander Hamilton, and James Madison made a deal to locate the capital of the United States in the South, a meeting described in the song "The Room Where it Happens" in Hamilton.

Originally, D.C. was a perfect diamond shape, 10 miles on each side, made out of land taken from Maryland and Virginia. However, in 1846 Virginia retroceded, meaning they took their land back, because they wanted to keep the slave trade and Alexandria was a major market in the trade of enslaved people. The Compromise of 1850 outlawed the slave trade in the District.

Enslaved people helped build three of the buildings that were built around 1800 and still stand today: the White House, Dumbarton House, and the Capitol. Enslaved people worked without freedom or pay as carpenters, brick makers, and stone masons.

On the next page, label:

- Washington, D.C.
- Maryland
- Virginia
- The Potomac River
- The Anacostia River
 - This name comes from a group of Native Americans called Anacostans by the English. Anacostans lived in a Nacochtank village along the Anacostia River before the English arrived and forced them off their land.

- North
- South
- East
- West
- The White House
- Dumbarton House
- The Capitol



