Freedom and the Capitol Dome

On top of the ***Dome*** is a statue of a lady. She is called ***Freedom***. She is 19 feet, 6 inches high. (That is almost as tall as a giraffe.)

The Capitol building is 288 feet high, almost as high as a football field is long. The building is made of marble and sandstone.

The Dome of the Capitol is made of cast iron.

Cast iron was used because it was less expensive and weighed much less than stone. The Dome is painted white so it looks like the white marble.

Cast iron is a metal like steel. While it is no longer used, it was used in buildings and bridges in the 1800s. Your parents or grand-parents may have something made of cast iron in the kitchen.

To color this picture: You will need brown and green crayons or colored pencils for Freedom. Freedom is brown with a shade of dark green. The Dome is white. You also could use gray for the shadows on the Dome. (Look at other pictures on the cover for examples of shadows.)

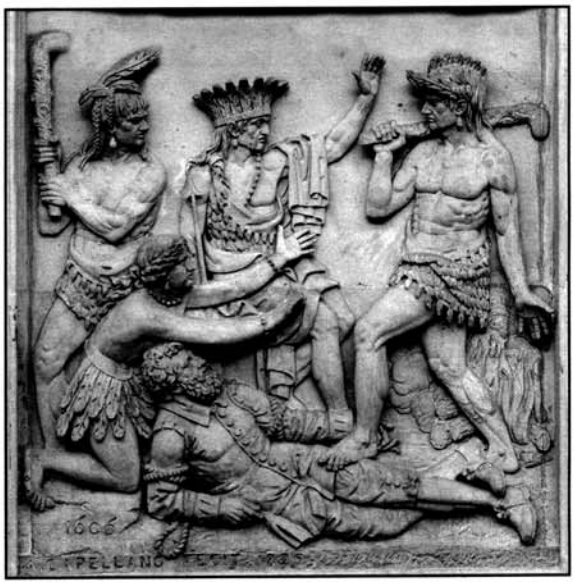
To Begin Your Tour: Walk up the East Front steps (the center staircase) and go through the doors to the Rotunda (1).

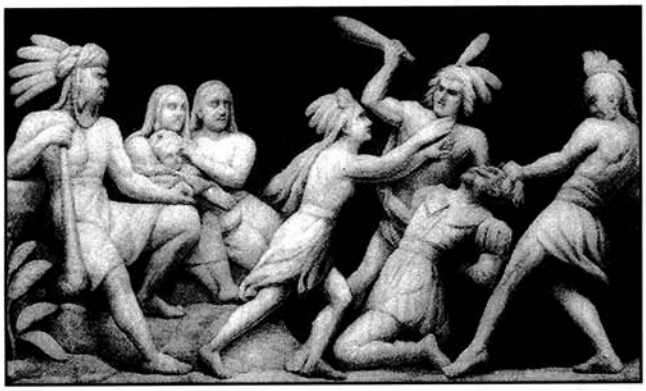
The Rotunda

The Capitol's ***Rotunda*** is a room where people can meet. The word rotunda means round room with a dome.

You can see many statues and pictures in this room. The pictures tell stories about important people and what they did in American history.

You also can find statues of six ***Presidents*** and other people who worked to make all people equal. Can you find them all? (Check below for the answers.)





Pocahontas was the daughter of a Native American chief. She saved ***John Smith's*** life at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607. John Smith was one of the leaders of the first English settlers in America. One picture is painted and the other is done in stone.

Pocahontas is the main person in one of the eight large paintings in this room. Find the painting of Pocahontas and learn more about her life.

Answer: Presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses Grant, and James Garfield. Civil Rights Leaders: Martin Luther King, Jr., Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Lucretia Mott.

The Dome of the Rotunda

An artist named ***Constantino Brumidi*** (brew-mē-dē) painted this picture. He was born in Italy and later came to America. He worked in the Capitol for more than 25 years.

Brumidi painted ***George Washington*** looking down from heaven. He painted this picture in 1865. It took him about 6 months to paint this picture on the inner Dome. (To make people look lifesize to us, he had to make them 15 feet tall.)

To color this picture: George Washington's uniform is blue and tan. The cloth over his lap is a light purple color. ***Liberty's*** dress (on his right) is light purple with a dark purple cloth on her lap. ***Victory*** (on his left) is in white with a dark gray cloth. ***Freedom*** has a red cape, a white dress, and a gold helmet.

Next Stop: Exit the Rotunda past the statues of Andrew Jackson and James Garfield. Go straight ahead and follow the signs for the Old Senate Chamber (2).

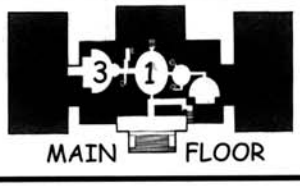
Old Senate Chamber

The United States Senate met in this room between 1810 and 1859. The two most important topics that ***Senators*** talked about during that time were the growth of the nation and ending slavery.

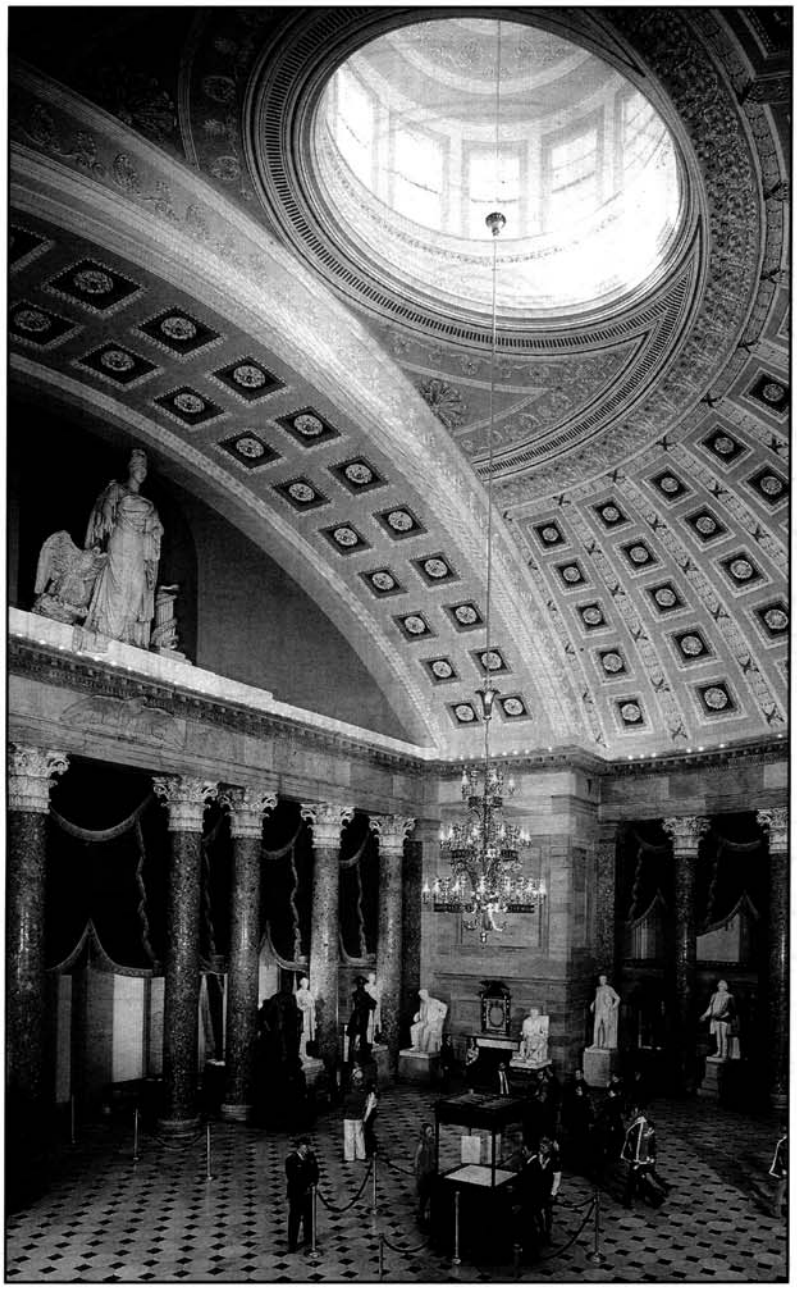
Each state has two Senators. Today there are 100 Senators. Every two years 33 Senators are elected. Senators serve a six-year term. (That is the number of years you will spend in school from the first grade until you go into the seventh grade.)

To color this picture: Walls are a light yellow or off-white, the columns are gray, the rug and drapes are a dark red, the desks are wood (dark brown), and the eagle and American shield are gold.

Next Stop: Go back to the Rotunda (1). Continue straight ahead through the south door and into the House wing. National Statuary Hall (3) is straight ahead.



National Statuary Hall



In this room you will find statues of famous Americans. They include writers, inventors, generals, lawyers, teachers, and a king.

This room also is known as the ***Old Hall of the House***. From 1807 to 1857 the ***House of Representatives*** met here.

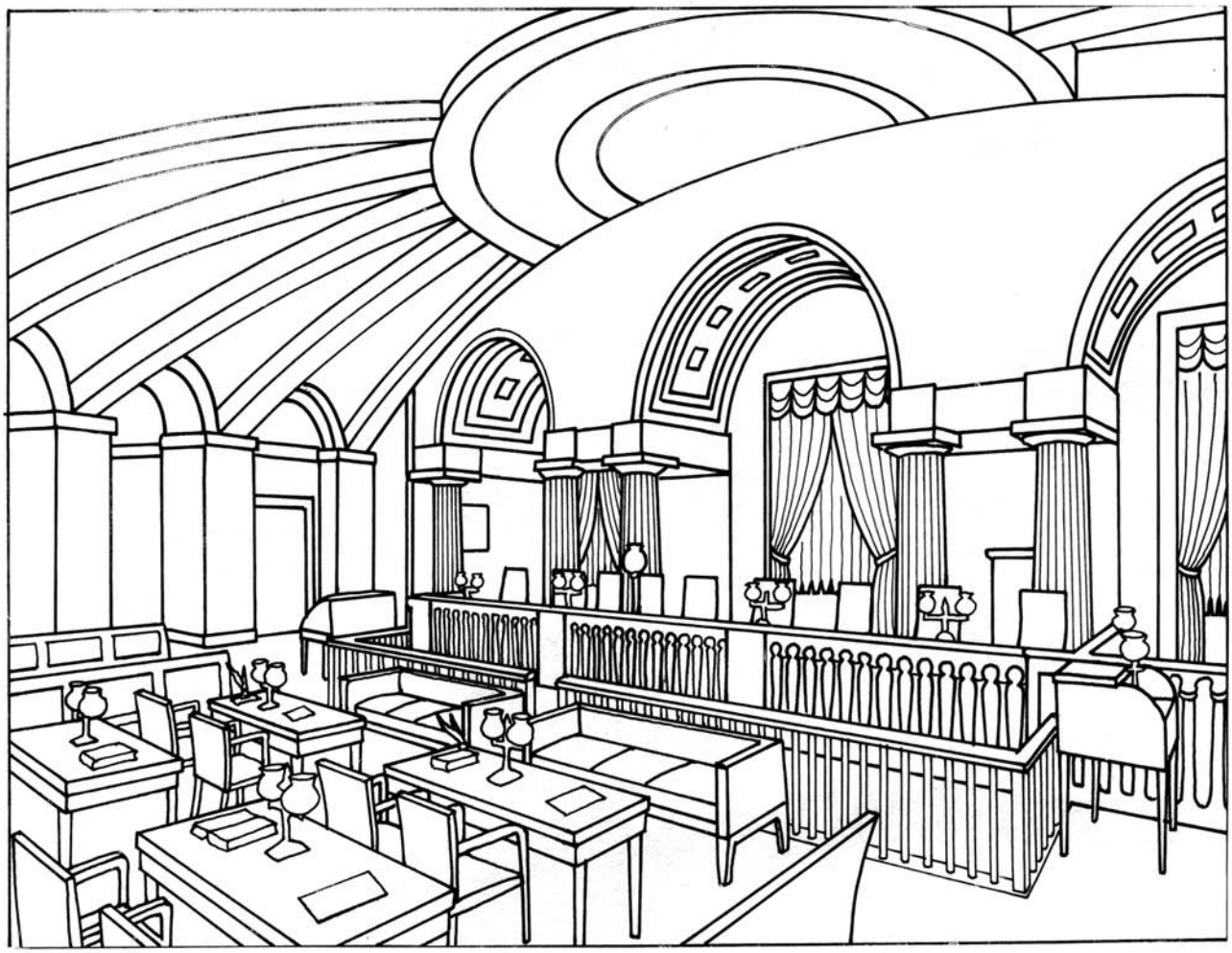
Seven Members who sat in this room also served as President. You can see where they sat by finding the floor markers. (Check below for the names of these Presidents).

Today there are 435 Members in the House of Representatives. States with small populations have only one ***Representative***. States with a large population have many. California has more than 50 Representatives. All Representatives are elected every two years.

Answer: John Quincy Adams, James K. Polk, Millard Fillmore, Franklin Pierce, James Buchanan, Abraham Lincoln, and Andrew Johnson

Next Stop: Exit toward the Rotunda. Go down the stairs on the right. At the bottom turn left, then right into the Crypt (4). Continue until you enter the small rotunda. Look for the door and sign on your right on the Supreme Court Chamber (5).

Supreme Court Chamber



The ***Supreme Court*** of the United States met in this room from 1810 until 1860. This is the most important, highest, court in the nation. Most courts have only one ***Judge***.
The Supreme Court has nine Judges. All nine Judges listen to every case.

The President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, picks the Judges for this Court.
To become a Supreme Court Judge, you must know and understand the ***Constitution***.

To color this picture: Walls are a light yellow or off-white. The rugs, sofas, and drapes are a dark red. The tables have green tops. The railing and desks are wood (dark brown).

End of Tour: This is the end of the tour. There are some fun facts and puzzles on the following pages for you to learn more about Congress. Also, you may visit us at: www.uschs.org .

Capitol Hill Word Search

Capitol
Senate
Washington
Freedom
House
Mall
Rotunda
Dome
Vote

Remember: look across, down, and diagonally.

W	R	Y	Q	A	P	M	F	R	D	A
C	A	P	I	T	O	L	R	O	V	C
E	T	S	E	N	A	T	E	T	F	I
Q	C	V	H	D	I	Z	E	U	E	P
I	E	H	O	I	E	J	D	N	M	V
T	E	B	U	Y	N	L	O	D	S	I
W	R	G	S	E	C	G	M	A	L	L
D	O	M	E	T	X	I	T	E	E	O
R	A	U	Y	S	N	E	V	O	T	E
E	T	I	W	J	E	Z	A	O	N	R

A Member's Day on Capitol Hill

For Members of Congress, the day begins early. Every day is a little different. Every day Members meet people and talk about problems facing the nation.

Breakfast: 7:30 AM

Breakfast with other Members or voters.

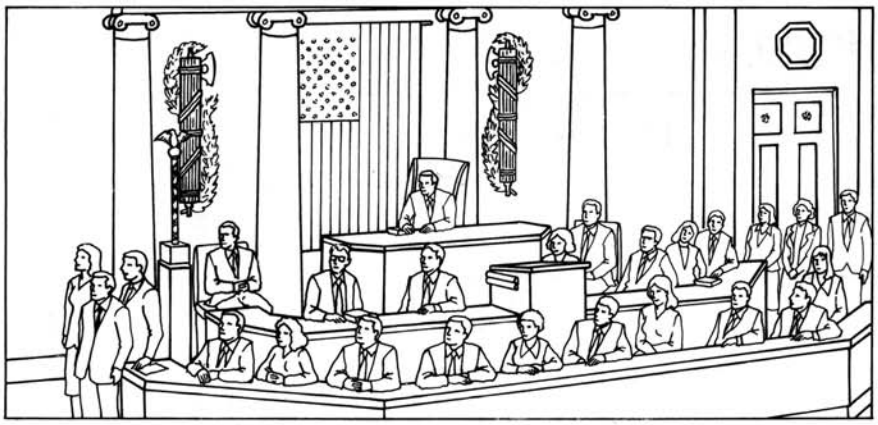
Capitol Hill Office: 9 to 10 AM

Meet with staff and read the mail. Go over the things to do that day. Meet or talk on the phone with people.

Committee Meetings: 10 AM to Noon

Members go to their ***Committees*** and work on ***Bills*** (new laws or changes in old laws.) There are 23 Committees in the Senate and 21 in the House. A Committee is a group of people who work on one kind of problem.

On the Floor of the House or Senate: Noon to 5 PM



In the picture on the left, Representatives meet in the House ***chamber*** (room) in the Capitol.

Senators meet in the Senate chamber. Members talk about new Bills. (Do the maze on page 9 and have fun learning about how a Bill passes Congress.)

Work Group: 5 PM to 6 PM

Members learn what other Committees are doing. They find new ways to work with other Members.

Meetings and Dinner: 6 PM and Beyond

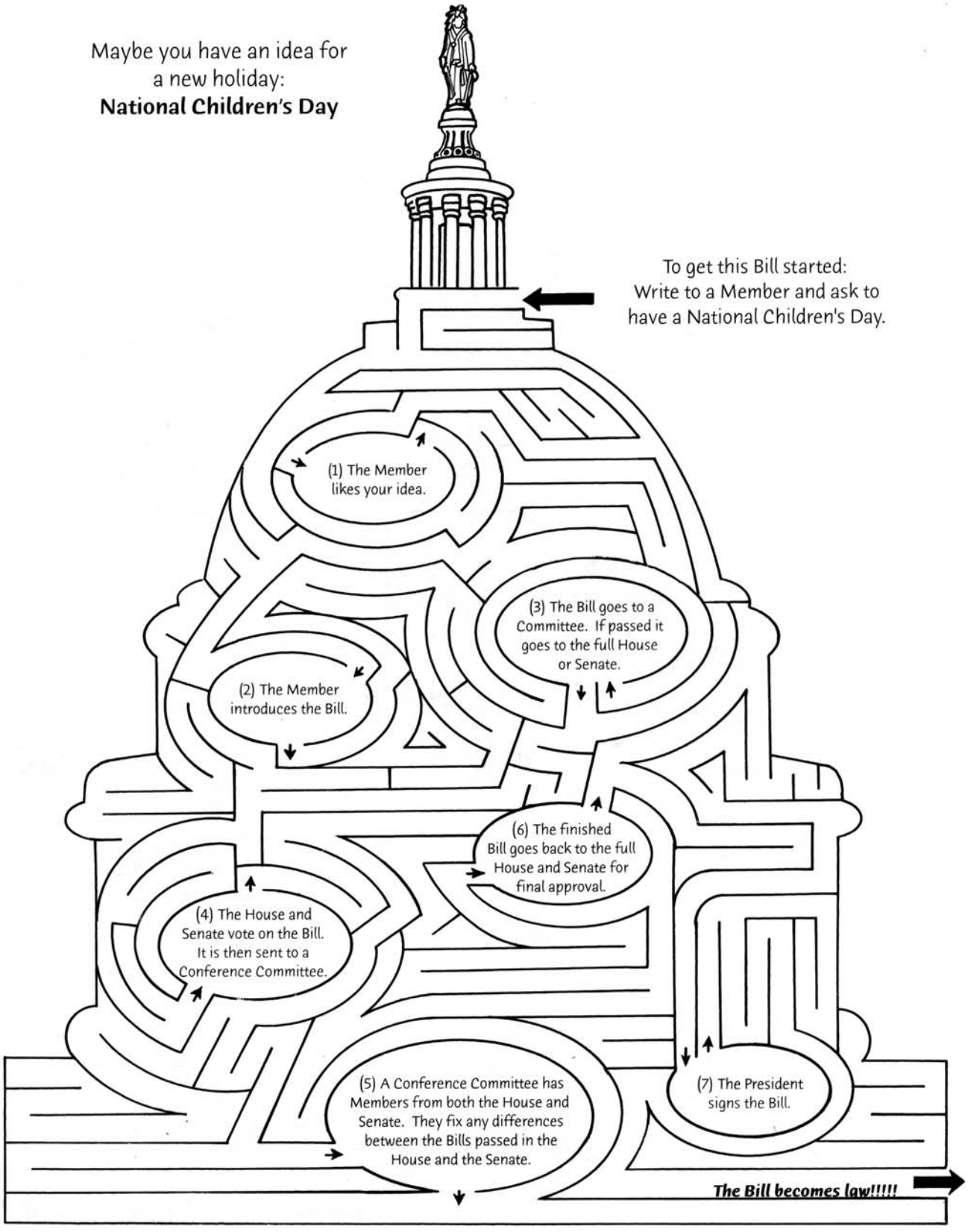
Members like to go to large events to meet and talk to people. Members also like charity parties.

Bedtime: 11:30 PM ?

Sometimes Members work long after you have gone to bed.

How to Pass a Bill

Maybe you have an idea for a new holiday:
National Children's Day



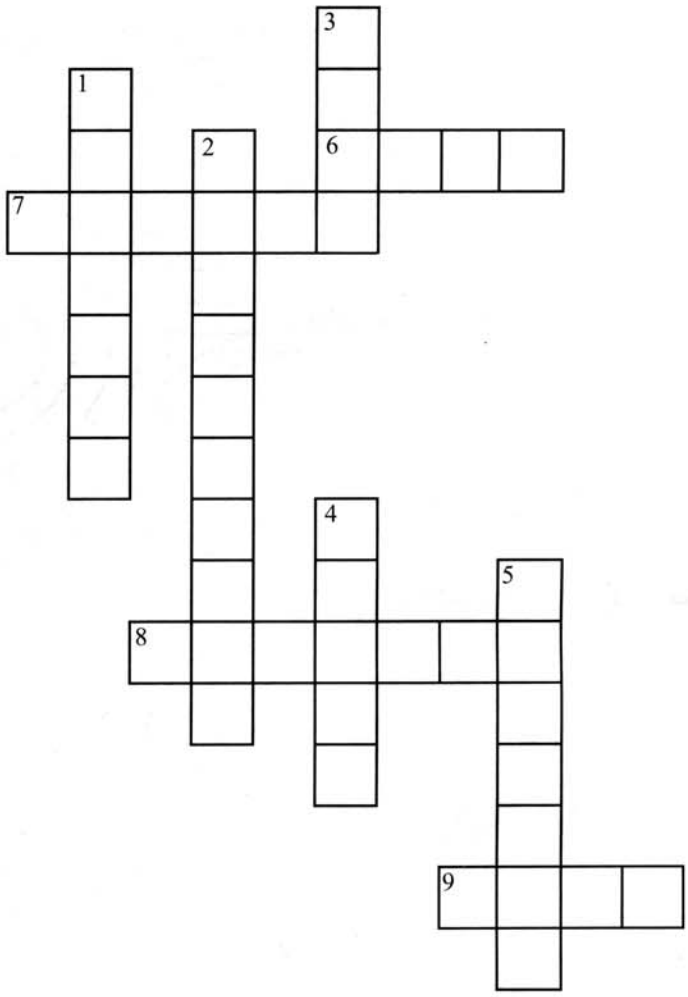
Crossword Puzzle

DOWN:

1 Name of the statue on top of the Capitol
2 First President of the United States
3 The part of the Capitol made of cast iron
4 The part of Congress where people serve a two-year term
5 Building where Congress meets

ACROSS:

6 Grassy area between the Capitol and the Washington Monument
7 The part of Congress where people serve a six-year term
8 A round room with a dome
9 People do this on election day



Answers: 1) Freedom 2) Washington 3) Dome 4) House 5) Capitol 6) Mall 7) Senate 8) Rotunda 9) Vote