

Read the passage and answer the questions that follow.

The Washington Monument

The Washington Monument was built to honor our first president. This monument is an obelisk—a four-sided pillar that gradually narrows as it rises and ends in a pyramid at the top. Made of marble, granite, and sandstone, it is located near the west end of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. It is the tallest obelisk in the world. It is also the tallest stone structure in the world.

There were two stages in the monument's construction. One occurred between 1848 and 1856; the other lasted from 1876 to 1878. The pause occurred for several reasons. For one thing, there was not enough money available to continue construction. In addition, the conflict among people of different political views got in the way of construction.

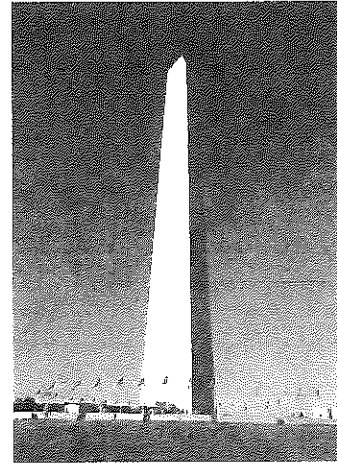
The idea for the monument actually began several years earlier. In 1783, Congress made its first proposal for the monument: a statue of George Washington. Although the proposal was approved, and a site was chosen for it in 1791, construction would not begin for many years. After Washington's death in 1799, there was a renewal of interest in creating a public monument. Funds were not available for the construction. Soon a group called the Washington National Monument Society was started. The society sponsored a contest for the monument's design. Robert Mills won the contest. He suggested an obelisk surrounded by pillars. A statue of Washington in a chariot was planned to sit on top of the obelisk.

Construction began in 1848. The cornerstone was laid in place on July 4, 1848. Raising funds for the construction was a steady problem, and work halted in 1856. When the Civil War broke out in 1861, raising funds became even harder. By the time work resumed in 1876, the original design had changed. The new design was much simpler—just an obelisk with a pyramid-shaped top. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers took the lead in managing the construction. The monument opened to the public on October 9, 1888.

The Washington Monument weighs 81,120 tons and is 555 feet and 5 1/8 inches tall. At the monument's base, its walls are 15 feet thick. Near the top, the walls are 18 inches thick. The white marble blocks that make up the walls came from Maryland and Massachusetts. At the 150-foot point, you can see a slight color change. This was where construction slowed in 1854.

The hollow monument contains 896 steps inside, supported by an iron framework. An elevator runs up through the monument's center, taking tourists to the observation level. The windows at this level offer grand views of the city. When the monument was built, it was the world's tallest structure. In 1889, however, the Eiffel Tower in Paris was completed, which was taller.

The monument has been closed twice for repairs. It was closed from late 1997 to mid-2000, and then from December 2000 to February 2002. Fixing the monument's exterior cost about 10 million dollars. Repairs have also included rebuilding the elevator system; replacing the heating, electrical, and air-conditioning systems; and increasing the size of the observation areas.



10. In paragraph 3, the word site means a

- A. design.
- B. location.
- C. view.
- D. proposal.

11. In paragraph 3, the word design is used as a

- A. noun.
- B. verb.
- C. definition.
- D. synonym.

12. What is the root in the word construction?

- A. construct
- B. struction
- C. tion
- D. struct

13. Which words from the passage help you figure out the meaning of observation?

- A. "grand views of the city"
- B. "world's tallest structure"
- C. "The hollow monument"
- D. "through the monument's center"

14. In paragraph 6, the word framework means

- A. the base of a building.
- B. a square-shaped window.
- C. a structure that supports something.
- D. the outer covering of a building.

15. Read this dictionary entry.

level *n.* 1. a tool for establishing a horizontal line 2. rank
3. height *adj.* 4. steady

Which definition BEST fits the meaning of level in paragraph 6?

- A. definition 1
- B. definition 2
- C. definition 3
- D. definition 4

16. Read this thesaurus entry.

agreement *n.*

SYN: peace, harmony,
cooperation

Which word in paragraph 2 is an antonym for agreement?

- A. different
- B. conflict
- C. pause
- D. money