

The Newest Museum



photo by Alan Karchmer, courtesy Smithsonian

Have you ever visited Washington, D.C.? If so, you probably explored some of the museums along the National Mall between the Capitol and the Washington Monument.

In September, a new museum opened on the Mall. The National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) lies close to the Washington Monument. It will be the last museum to be built on the Mall.

The museum's origins

The idea for an African-American museum started more than 100 years ago. At a reunion of Union Army soldiers in Washington in 1915, black veterans organized an association to build a monument.

Just as organizers were getting approval from Congress and starting to raise money, the stock market crashed in October 1929. The Great Depression followed, and although the dream of a museum continued, other projects were completed while the African-American museum waited for decades.

Finally, in 2003, Congress and President George W. Bush approved a bill to build it.

Building the museum

NMAAHC officials had many things to consider about the structure for the museum. The site was chosen on five acres near the Washington Monument. It had to be constructed within a specific budget. And it had to be a "green" building. Many architects and engineers submitted their ideas.

The winning design was by architect

David Adjaye. The upside-down pyramid, also known as a **corona**, is a design often seen in African countries. The designers felt this design would show the uplift and triumph of black Americans.

The bronze metal latticework on the outside of the building was inspired by black ironworkers and their designs for fences, gates and other metal building decorations in New Orleans and Charleston, South Carolina.



photo by Michael Barnes, courtesy Smithsonian

Inside the museum

Below ground level, the museum has three levels that explore slavery, segregation and the Civil Rights movement. These exhibits show what ordinary people experienced as slaves and immediately after the Civil War, all the way up to the movement against segregation in the South in the 1950s and '60s.



photo by Douglas Remley, courtesy Smithsonian

A Certificate of Freedom is stored in a handmade tin box created by former slave Joseph Trammell in 1852. He had to carry the certificate with him at all times to prove he was not an escaped or current slave.



photo by Warren K. Leffler, courtesy of Library of Congress

A flier advertising the March on Washington in August 1963 is on display, along with photos of the event. About 250,000 people filled the Mall to hear Martin Luther King Jr. make his famous "I Have a Dream" speech.

Community

A few floors up, museum visitors examine how the place where someone lives shapes his or her life. Exhibits show life for African-Americans in small towns and big cities from the 1800s onward.

While black Americans were not always allowed to compete in professional sports, an exhibit called "Leveling the Playing Field" tells the stories of black athletes from Jackie Robinson to Gabby Douglas.

Culture

In the "Cultural Expressions" galleries, the museum displays jazz musician



Louis Armstrong's trumpet

photo by Douglas Remley, courtesy Smithsonian

Louis Armstrong's trumpet and Michael Jackson's black fedora (hat), along with paintings, sculptures, folk art and more.

Resources



On the Web:

- youtu.be/61NQ_qRmA04

At the library:

- "How to Build a Museum" by Tonya Bolden

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of the NMAAHC are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



AFRICAN, AMERICAN, ART, BRONZE, CIVIL, COMMUNITY, CONGRESS, CORONA, CULTURE, HISTORY, MALL, MARCH, METAL, MUSEUM, MUSIC, NATIONAL, REUNION, RIGHTS, SITE, SLAVERY, SPORTS.

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

Cook's Corner

Nutty Wild Rice

You'll need:

- 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 carrot, diced
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1/2 cup wild rice, uncooked

- 1 bouillon cube
- 1 1/4 cups water
- 1/3 cup peanuts



What to do:

1. Cook oil, carrot and onion in a medium saucepan over medium-high heat for 5 minutes or until vegetables are soft. Stir often.
2. Add wild rice. Cook 1 minute, stirring constantly.
3. Add bouillon cube and water. Bring to a boil. Stir often. Add more water if needed.
4. Cover and reduce heat to low. Simmer 45 to 55 minutes or until water is absorbed.
5. Stir in peanuts. Mix well. Serves 2.

* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

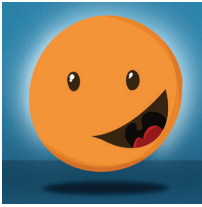
7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. ability to remember things (6) _____
2. children (4) _____
3. what you eat soup with (5) _____
4. not loud (5) _____
5. not working (6) _____
6. sidewalk game (9) _____
7. fastest bird on two legs (7) _____

ON	SC	DS	ICH
OTCH	SPO	BRO	RY
QUI	KI	ME	HOP
MO	OSTR	ET	KEN

Answers: memory, kids, spoon, quiet, broken, hopscootch, ostrich.



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Mini Jokes



Sarah: What's a cow's favorite holiday?
Sydney: Moo Year's Day!

Eco Note



Two Australian neighbors were startled to see a giant huntsman spider carrying off a dead mouse, apparently to feast on it in private. Jason Wormal of Coppabella, Queensland, and his neighbor saw it climbing up a refrigerator door, clutching the rodent by the head. An expert said the spider probably didn't kill the mouse.

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Thank You



The Mini Page thanks Linda St. Thomas of the Smithsonian Institution for help with this issue.

Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit:

bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html

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