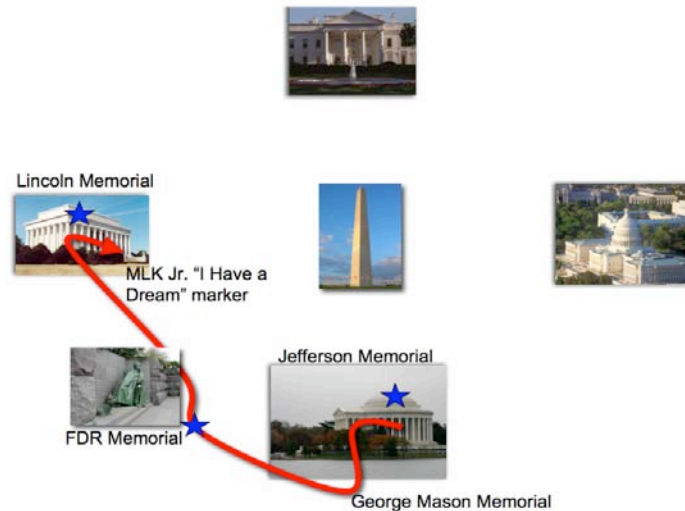


America's Struggle
for

FREEDOM



OUR NATION'S HISTORY IS WRITTEN IN
STONE IN THE MONUMENTS OF THE
NATIONAL MALL. THIS WALKING TOUR
OF THREE MEMORIALS WILL HELP YOU
UNDERSTAND THREE CHAPTERS IN
THIS STORY. AS YOU VISIT OTHER
MEMORIALS, LOOK FOR MORE
CHAPTERS IN THE EVER-EVOLVING
STORY OF OUR DEMOCRACY.

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

Shrine to Freedom

Today...we dedicate a shrine to freedom. To Thomas Jefferson, Apostle of Freedom, we are paying a debt long overdue.*

--President Franklin Delano Roosevelt at the Dedication of this Memorial, April 13, 1943

What story does this memorial tell about the struggle for freedom? Thomas Jefferson was one of America's Founding Fathers, the **principal author of the Declaration of Independence** (July 4, 1776) which announced the independence of the United States from British rule, and 3rd President of the United States, 1801-1809.

In its **architecture, inscriptions, and location on the National Mall**, the Jefferson Memorial symbolizes the importance of the Declaration of Independence and its words that "all men are created equal" for American democracy.



← Roman Pantheon

American nickel with Monticello →



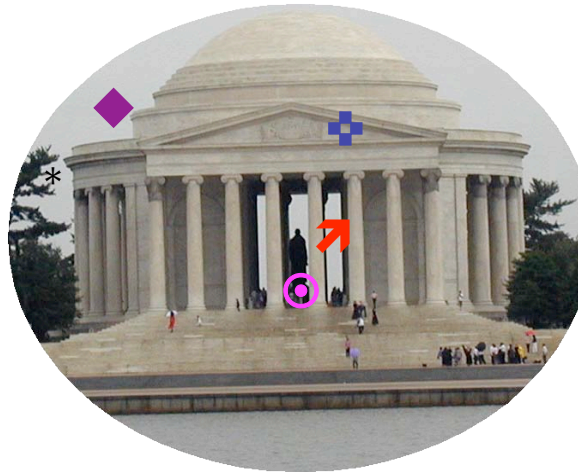
◆ **Why does this memorial look like a Roman temple instead of a modern building?** Jefferson, like other Enlightenment intellectuals, was inspired by the ideas and architecture of the ancient Roman republic. This memorial is modeled on the **Pantheon** in Rome, a building Jefferson so admired he designed his own home at Monticello to resemble it. Jefferson wanted to create a new architecture symbolic of the new nation.

⊕ As you ascend the steps, **look up** to see a sculptured relief of the signing of the Declaration.

DID YOU KNOW that the 1793 design for the Capitol Building also was based on the Roman Pantheon? The taller dome was added in the 1860s.

➤ Read the words of the **Declaration of Independence** on the back wall.

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, THAT ALL MEN ARE CREATED EQUAL, THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED BY THEIR CREATOR WITH CERTAIN UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, THAT AMONG THESE ARE LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.



The Struggle Against Tyranny

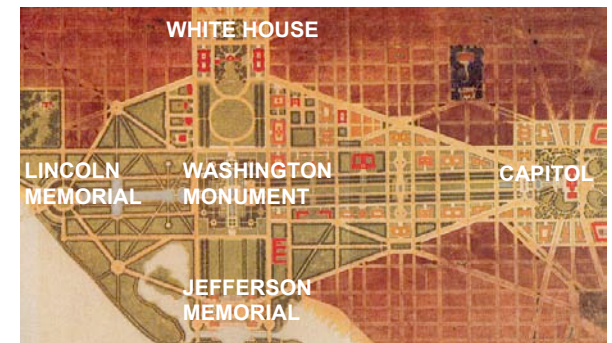
➤ Continue reading. **What does the Declaration say is the role of government?**

And when a government denies these rights, what do the People have a right to do? ➡

Look at the final line on this wall: **By pledging to stand together, what did the signers of the Declaration of Independence stand to lose?**

Benjamin Franklin famously quipped, "Yes, we must all hang together, or most assuredly we shall all hang separately."

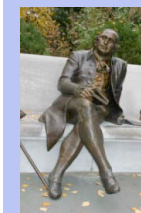
The National Mall Tells the Story of American Government. The layout of the National Mall symbolizes the principles of democratic government established by the United States Constitution (1787): The seat of government (Capitol) at the east end. A mile away--symbolizing the separation of powers--the President's House (White House). To the south, the author of our government's founding document (Jefferson). At the west, the Preserver of that government (Lincoln). And at the center, the monument to the Father of Our Country (Washington). **Which branch of government is left out?** ↓



1902 McMillan Plan for the National Mall

⊙ Stand at Jefferson's feet and follow his gaze. **Which American looks out from his house to this monument every day?**

* **Slavery -- America's "original sin."** Jefferson deplored slavery as "**despotism**" (look for his words on the front wall). But he, like George Washington and Mason (below), owned slaves. The Constitution sanctioned slavery until it was abolished in 1865 with the 13th Amendment. **Why did it take so long?**



Take a small detour "behind" Jefferson to the memorial to George Mason whose Virginia Declaration of Rights was the basis of the **U.S. Bill of Rights**. Mason refused to sign the Constitution because it contained no bill of rights.

FDR MEMORIAL

Freedom From Want And Fear

What story of freedom's struggle is told in this memorial's four rooms? President Franklin Delano Roosevelt held office for four terms, from 1933-1945, a time period of two major national and world crises, the **Great Depression** and **World War II**.

FDR spoke of **Four Freedoms** essential to American democracy and world peace: **speech, worship, from want, and from fear**. The first two were traditional Constitutional values, the latter two responded to the Depression and War. ⇒

In this memorial's sculptures and inscriptions we can read the story of the **struggle for freedom from want and fear** through FDR's New Deal programs and creation of the United Nations. **Look for FDR's famous words to the American public, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself."**

■ **Who are those sad-looking people standing in a bread line?** Over 25% of working Americans lost their jobs during the Great Depression. Many faced starvation and homelessness. The federal government responded with New Deal programs that created jobs, reformed banking, and provided security for the needy and elderly.

What is the "test of our progress" in the New Deal? Read FDR's words on the nearby wall. Do you think he was right? Are his ideas relevant today?

◆ **Why is that man listening to the radio?** American families huddled around their radios (before television) to hear FDR inform and reassure them in "fireside chats" during the dark days of the Depression and WWII. Do you know someone who remembers those broadcasts? Listen to actual recordings at: <http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/medialist.php?presid=32>

Why did FDR think it important to talk directly to the American people? Read the inscription "*I never forget...*" to find out why. What does this tell us about how FDR saw his duty as President?

The Four Freedoms

"In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression--everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way--everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want...everywhere in the world.

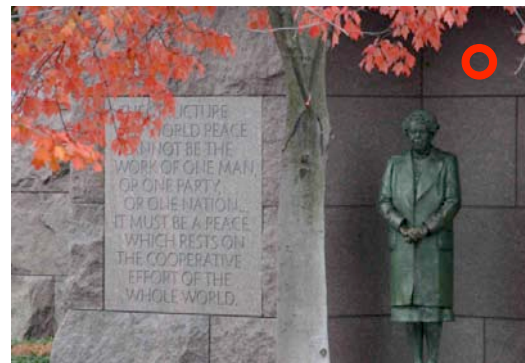
The fourth is freedom from fear...anywhere in the world."

--FDR State of the Union, Jan. 6, 1941 *



⊕ **Why is FDR shown in a wheelchair in one but not the other statue?** Actually, he's in a wheelchair in both. FDR contracted polio at age 39 but hid his disability from the public, two historical truths revealed in these statues. Why do you think he hid his disability? Would knowing the President is disabled make a difference to you?

○ **What role did First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt play in freedom's struggle?** Eleanor Roosevelt was a supporter of New Deal policies, civil rights activist, and promoter of human rights around the world. At the United Nations, where she served as delegate from 1945 to 1952, Roosevelt chaired the committee that drafted and approved the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** which incorporates in its preamble **FDR's Four Freedoms**: "*Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed the highest aspiration of the common people,....*"



○ **Who can bring peace to the world?** Read FDR's words next to the statue of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, "*The structure of world peace...*". Do you think FDR would judge the United Nations a success?

* FDR also spoke of "the preservation of civil liberties for all." However, FDR gave authority to imprison Americans of Japanese descent during WWII. President Ronald Reagan in 1988 signed into law the Civil Liberties Act saying "Here we admit a wrong. Here we confirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law."

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL A New Birth of Freedom

How does the Lincoln Memorial embody the struggle for freedom in America? Abraham Lincoln, our nation's 16th President from 1860 until his assassination in 1865, led the nation during the Civil War (1861-1865). He signed the Emancipation Proclamation (1863) that freed slaves in the rebellious states.*

The Greek-style temple architecture, the great **statue**, **murals**, and **inscriptions** of two of his greatest speeches--the **Gettysburg Address** and the **Second Inaugural**--enshrine Lincoln's memory as the "Great Emancipator" and "Savior of the Union." The memorial has become a **stage** for civil rights demonstrations.

◆ **Walk around the back of the Memorial** and look to Arlington Memorial Bridge that connects Lincoln to Arlington National Cemetery and the Custis-Lee Mansion, former home of Confederate General Robert E. Lee. **What is the symbolism of this bridge built in the aftermath of the Civil War?**



○ **Why doesn't this memorial say anything about slavery and Emancipation?** It does, but it's hard to see. The murals located above the wall inscriptions depict allegories of the **Angel of Truth giving Freedom and Liberty to the slave** (above the Gettysburg Address) and the **Angel of Truth joining the hands of figures of the North and South** (above the Second Inaugural).



➤ Read these words from the **Gettysburg Address** (1863) inside on the left wall--words spoken at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, four and a half months after the Union armies defeated those of the Confederacy at the decisive Battle of Gettysburg.

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal...we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

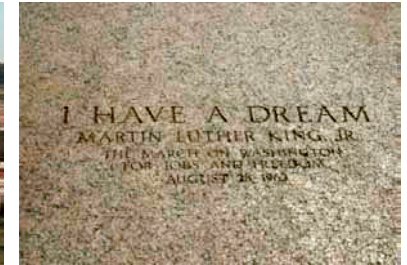


➤ **What is the founding document Lincoln is referring to when he says "Four score and seven years ago"** (a "score" is 20 years) and **speaks of a new nation "dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal"**? Look back to the Jefferson Memorial on this tour.

Why do you think the Gettysburg Address has been called the "refounding" of the nation? Again, compare Lincoln's comments about liberty and equality to Jefferson's.

Are civil rights still an issue in America today? Are there Americans who still seek full freedoms and rights?

A Stage For American Democracy



* One hundred years after the Emancipation Proclamation, and 98 years after the 13th Amendment abolished slavery, African-Americans still had not won full rights as citizens.

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. invoked the memory of Jefferson and Lincoln--and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address--as he spoke from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. That spot is marked with an inscription--"I Have A Dream."

"Five score years ago, a great American, in whose symbolic shadow we stand today signed the Emancipation Proclamation...I have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream...that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal.'"

-- MLK Jr., "I Have a Dream," August 26, 1963



Earlier, in 1939, opera singer Marian Anderson was barred from singing at the Daughters of the American Revolution's auditorium at Constitution Hall because of her black ancestry. First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt arranged for her to sing on the Lincoln Memorial steps.

✚ **Look out over the Mall. Why do you think civil rights leaders chose this place as the stage for their demonstrations?**

For more information about the role of the National Mall as civic stage, read the map/historical guide **The National Mall: Stage For Our Democracy** at www.savethemall.org

Where else on or near the National Mall can you learn more about this story of America's Struggle For Freedom--including stories not told on the Mall?

- ◆ **National Archives:** See the **Declaration of Independence, Constitution, Bill of Rights**, and other documents of American history. 700 Pennsylvania Avenue (across from the National Gallery of Art)
- ◆ **National Museum of American History.** On the National Mall at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue NW
- ◆ **Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial.** On the National Mall at Constitution Gardens (on the island in the lake near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) at 19th and Constitution Avenue NW
- ◆ **Japanese American Memorial** that pays homage to the Americans of Japanese descent who were imprisoned during World War II by order of President Roosevelt, between the Capitol and Union Station at the intersection of New Jersey and Louisiana Avenue and D Street NW.
- ◆ **Women's Suffrage: Sewall-Belmont House and Museum,** documents the struggle for the American woman's right to vote, 144 Constitution Avenue NE (near the Capitol and Senate Office Buildings)

ANSWERS

JEFFERSON--Role of government? "to secure these rights" / **When a government denies these rights?** "it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government" / **What did they pledge?** "our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor" / **Which American looks out on the Memorial?** The President in the White House.

FDR--**What is the "test of our progress"?** it is "not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much: it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little" / **Why talk directly to the people?** "I never forget that I live in a house owned by all the American people and that I have been given their trust." -- fireplace chat, April 14, 1938 / **Why hide his disability?** Out of concern people might challenge his readiness to serve as President. / **Who can bring peace?** "world peace cannot be the work of one man, or one party, or one nation...it must be peace which rests on the cooperative effort of the whole world."

LINCOLN--**Symbols of the bridge?** It physically and symbolically unites Lincoln and Lee, North and South. / **Which founding document?** The Declaration of Independence. / **Why called the "re-founding"?** Lincoln rededicates the nation, now freed from the "original sin" of slavery; to founding principles. / **Why choose Lincoln as a stage?** Lincoln was the "Great Emancipator" whose monument has pride of place on the main axis of the National Mall, in full view of our elected leaders and the American public.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Could a more complete story of America's Struggle for Freedom be told on the National Mall? How? Where?

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This free self-guided tour was designed by the **National Mall Conservancy**, an offshoot of the nonprofit National Coalition to Save Our Mall dedicated to improving the visitor's experience of the National Mall with educational and cultural programming.

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