

Name: _____

Historical Tour Guides

Instructions: You will be planning, drafting, and revising an organized script for a tour guide. You will be sharing research and information—in your own words—about five different points of interest on the tour you are planning. Also, inspired by the book [Help Wanted at Mount Vernon](#), the tour you are scripting will be given by an animal that possesses the power of speech. You must use interesting, true facts about your animal somehow during your scripted tour. Below, you will find twenty-six historically significant sites to possibly tour, and you will find twenty-six North American animals to potentially provide that tour. Choose one from each column, and then do research on both before planning your script.

Great Historical Sites to Tour	American Animal Tour Guides
A. Ford’s Theater (Washington, D.C.)	A. Desert tortoise
B. Monticello (Virginia)	B. Rattlesnake
C. Gettysburg National Military Park (Pennsylvania)	C. Black-tailed prairie dog
D. FDR Memorial (Washington, D.C.)	D. Grizzly bear
E. Hoover Dam (Nevada-Arizona border)	E. American bison
F. The U.S. Capitol Building (Washington, D.C.)	F. North American porcupine
G. Pearl Harbor Memorial (Hawaii)	G. California condor
H. Lincoln Memorial (Washington, D.C.)	H. American alligator
I. Mount Rushmore (South Dakota)	I. Florida manatee
J. Alcatraz (California)	J. Sage grouse
K. The White House (Washington, D.C.)	K. Moose
L. Independence Hall (Pennsylvania)	L. Opossum
M. Colonial Williamsburg (Virginia)	M. Swift fox
N. The Alamo (Texas)	N. Puma
O. Mesa Verde (Colorado)	O. Bald eagle
P. Fort McHenry (Maryland)	P. Gartner snake
Q. Ellis Island (New York)	Q. Bighorn sheep
R. Yellowstone National Park (Wyoming)	R. Sea otter
S. Niagara Falls (New York)	S. Black-footed ferret
T. Civil Rights Memorial (Alabama)	T. Wolverine
U. Oklahoma City National Memorial (Oklahoma)	U. Bobcat
V. Fort Ticonderoga (New York)	V. Skunk
W. Fort Sumter National Monument (S. Carolina)	W. Burrowing owl
X. Manzanar National Historic Site (California)	X. Pronghorn
Y. Vicksburg National Military Park (Mississippi)	Y. Acorn Woodpecker
Z. USS Constitution (Massachusetts)	Z. Cactus bee

Site for my tour: Washington Monument (inside the stairwell)

What are six, general interesting facts about the historical site you found in research? Think about facts you might share as you start your tour!

- It stands 550 feet tall, and the observation deck is 500 feet off the ground.
- Construction began in 1845, and monument was officially opened in 1885.
- It's the tallest building in Washington, D.C., and no new building is allowed to be taller.
- The commemorative stones were sent in from many sources between 1849 and 2000. Most were placed between 1849-1855.
- Visitors are no longer able to walk down the stairs to see the commemorative stones.
- The Washington Monument was built in two phases, and you can see the difference in the color of the marble, which marks those two phases.

What is the first stop on your tour? What are four or five interesting facts you can share about this stop?

Philadelphia Fire Dept. Stone

- This stone is one of the more elaborate stones sent to the monument, and it shares the stairwell landing with stones from other fire departments and organizations.
- It's eroding—like all the stones are.
- It's exactly halfway between the base off the monument and the observation deck.
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What is the second stop on your tour? What are four or five interesting facts you can share about this stop?

What is the third stop on your tour? What are four or five interesting facts you can share about this stop?

What is the fourth stop on your tour? What are four or five interesting facts you can share about this stop?

What is the fifth stop on your tour? What are four or five interesting facts you can share about this stop?

Don't write complete sentences on this note-take; instead, write short, bulleted lists of the facts.

Animal Providing the Tour: AMERICAN BEAVER	
Interesting Fact about animal:	How might I link this to my tour?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beavers don't hibernate and they stay very active in the cold 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much snow falls at the Washington Monument, and how cold does it get there? If the tour's in winter, I might mention the no hibernation thing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are two species of beaver in the world: the North American and the European 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything European in the Washington Monument that I can make a connection with? You know, pretend I have a relative from Europe?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The largest beaver dam ever discovered (Alberta, Canada) can be seen from space, and is over 850 meters in size. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What does 450 meters translate to in feet or yards? How does that compare to the Washington Monument's size?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaver's teeth are orange because they have iron in their tooth enamel, which makes their teeth extra strong for chewing trees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could a beaver chew through marble? Probably not. Is any of the marble at the monument discolored—like a beaver's teeth?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a giant, pre Ice-Age version of the beaver called a "Castoroide" that was 8 feet long and weighed close to 200 pounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could I link this fact to the fact the Washington Monument will always be the tallest structure in Washington, D.C., because the law decrees it so.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beavers' tails promote balance when the animal is on land, and in the water the tail is used as a rudder and—when slapped—as a warning to other beavers. It has two purposes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there anything in the Washington Monument that has a dual purpose?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beavers secrete a goo from their castor glands under their tails. It is used for marking territory but smells like vanilla. The FDA has approved the goo as a natural flavoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a snack bar at the monument where they might serve something vanilla flavored? Gross idea!

Need more space? Replicate this graphic organizer on your own piece of paper and continue finding facts!