

How much do you know about the famous cities around the world? Here are two cities that you should know something about.

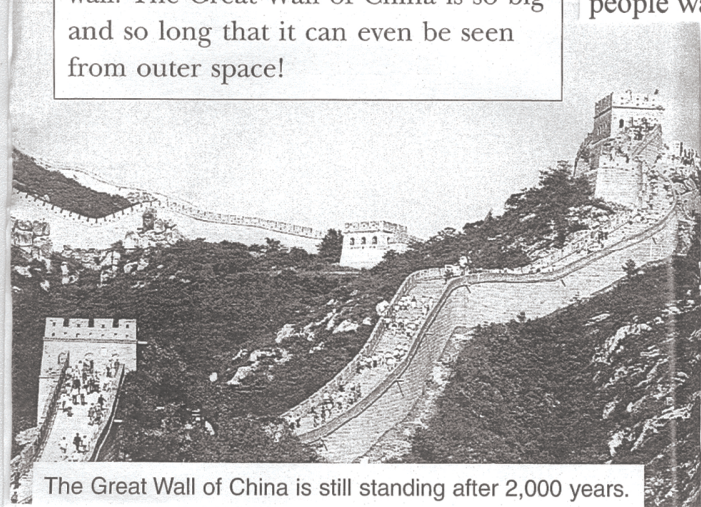
Beijing

Do you know the name of the capital of China? It is Beijing, the second largest city in China. Beijing has many old walls around it. These walls were built long ago to keep the city safe.

Part of the Great Wall of China is in Beijing. It was built 2,000 years ago. It took many, many years to finish the wall. The Great Wall of China is so big and so long that it can even be seen from outer space!

One of the most famous tourist attractions in Beijing is the Forbidden City, which was the imperial palace from the Ming Dynasty to the end of the Qing Dynasty. Today it is a museum. It is located in the middle of Beijing, and has 9,000 rooms full of art. It would take many days to see all the art.

In the middle of Beijing is a big square called Tiananmen Square. On special days, huge parades are held there. On Chinese New Year, people watch fireworks there.



The Great Wall of China is still standing after 2,000 years.



Chinese children practice martial arts.

Vocabulary

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Capital 首都 | 6. Museum 博物館 |
| 2. The Forbidden City 故宮/紫禁城 | 7. Tiananmen Square 天安門廣場 |
| 3. Palace 皇宮 | 8. Parade 巡行 |
| 4. The Ming Dynasty 明朝 | 9. Fireworks 煙花 |
| 5. The Qing Dynasty 清朝 | 10. Martial arts 武術 |
| | 11. Narrow alleys 狹窄的小巷/胡同 |

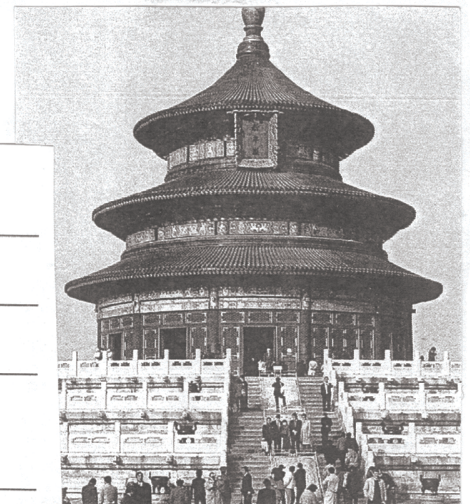
Winters in Beijing are long and cold, but summers are warm. On warm days, you might see people in the parks or at the zoo near the center of the city.

The older parts of the city have very narrow streets. People who live in the Old City have houses along narrow alleys. You might see people there selling fish or vegetables as they walk up and down the alleys.

Questions:

1. Where is the Forbidden City of China? Why is it so famous?

2. What is the weather like in Beijing?





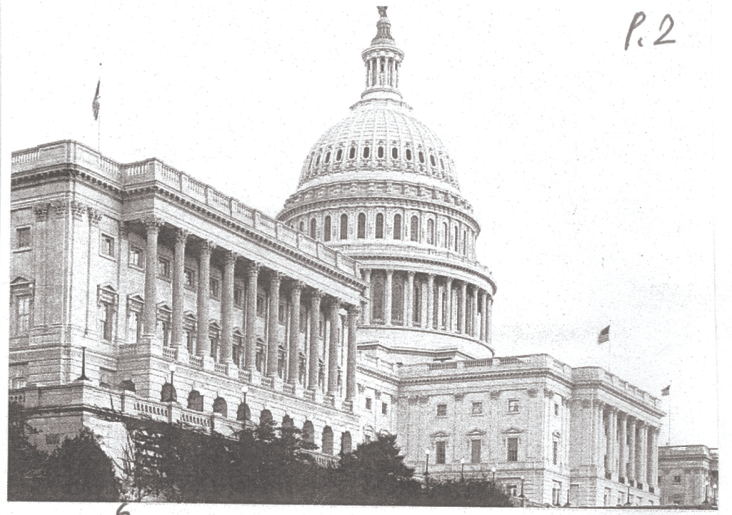
Washington, D.C.

¹ Washington, D.C., is the **capital** of the United States. This is the city where many of the country's leaders work. They make the laws of the country there. The city is named after the first ² president of the United States, George Washington.

Washington, D.C., has many museums, parks, and zoos. The National Zoo has many kinds of animals. It even has some pandas and gorillas. Each year, thousands of people visit this amazing zoo.

The most famous house in the United States is the ⁴ White House. This is where the President of the United States lives. Many people visit the White House each year.

⁵ When people visit the White House, a guide shows them rooms where past presidents have worked and slept. Some rooms are named after presidents. Other rooms are named for colors used, such as the Green Room and the Red Room.



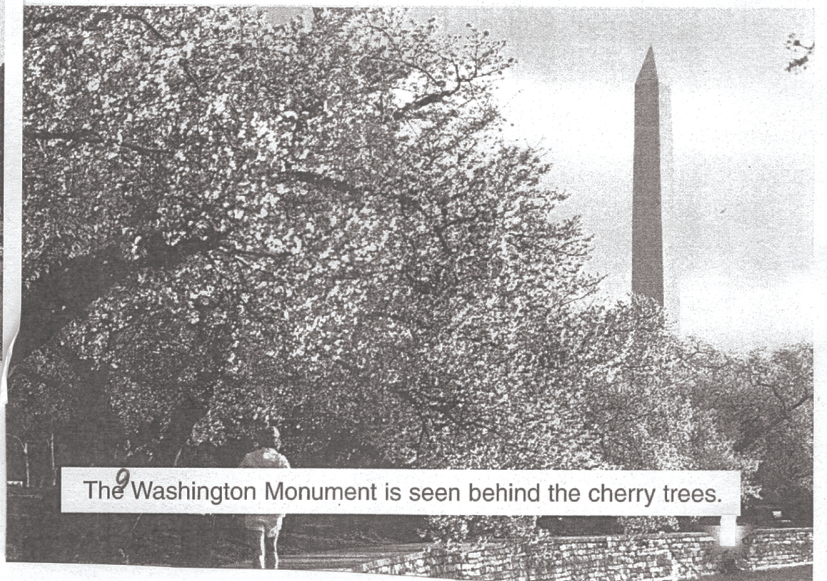
This is the ⁶ Capitol building where laws are made.

Many people visit Washington, D.C., in the month of April for cherry blossom time. Years ago, the people of Japan gave the United States many ⁷ cherry trees as a gift. The cherry trees are planted all around the city.

⁸ When the cherry trees bloom, there is a large **festival** to celebrate. People eat Japanese food, listen to music, and watch a parade. Everyone enjoys the beautiful cherry blossoms.



Five rooms of the White House are open to visitors.



The ⁹ Washington Monument is seen behind the cherry trees.

Vocabulary

1. Washington, D.C. 華盛頓 (哥倫比亞特區)
2. President 總統
3. Gorillas 猩猩
4. The White House 白宮
5. Guide 導遊
6. The Capitol building 美國國會大樓
7. Cherry trees 櫻樹
8. Blossom (n.) / bloom (v.) 花/開花
9. The Washington Monument 華盛頓紀念碑

Questions:

3. Who is George Washington?

4. Why is the Capitol building so important to the US?

5. Who is the current (現時) US President? Where does he live?

6. Cherry trees are mostly found in Japan. How did the US get its first cherry tree?