

*North American*  
**GEO QUEST**  
A 13 part *Hist-ography Series*



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Presents

*North American*  
**GEO QUEST**  
*Series*



A 13 Part *Hist-ography Series*

**WASHINGTON  
D.C.**

*INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDE*

## INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

The purpose of this video series is to provide students with a stimulating overview of both the history and the geographical regions of the United States, the Provinces of Canada, and Mexico. Specifically developed to enhance the social studies curriculum, **North American Gequest** is a 13-part **Histo-geography series**.

Filmed on location, these videos present *spectacular photography* along with *dynamic computer graphics*. Other features include; important historical figures, commerce, capital cities, significant points of interest and more! These videos also inform students of the relationships between the geologic, geographic and historical effects upon a region's past and present developments. Some geologic and geographical developments include the formation of mountains, lakes, volcanoes and glaciers and how these strongly influence a region's culture and history.

By understanding the profiles of these regions, students will acquire the knowledge that will define a *balance between the past and present*. Furthermore, as students study these videos, they will learn the geography of North America and about their own *heritage and those of others*.

As a complementary device with the video, this instructional guide suggests exercises to help aid teachers, parents and students. These exercises will reinforce and further develop a student's level of comprehension. The instructional guide provides:

### VDs Allow:

- students to actively participate in the learning experience
- for greater flexibility and interactive learning
- for custom user interfaces
- for a level of control over learning
- for the learner to become more engaged
- for the enhancement of the learning process by combining media and text

### Vocabulary!

### Chronology!

### Discussion Points/Activities!

## GEQUEST 13 Part Series

*Pacific Region*  
*Mountain West Region*  
*Midwest Region*  
*Southwest Region*  
*Mississippi River Region*  
*New England Region*  
*Great Lakes Region*  
*Mid-Atlantic Region*  
*Southeast Region*  
*Washington D.C.*  
*Eastern Canadian Provinces*  
*Western Canadian Provinces*  
*Mexico*

## Available Fall 2002 - Central America Gequest

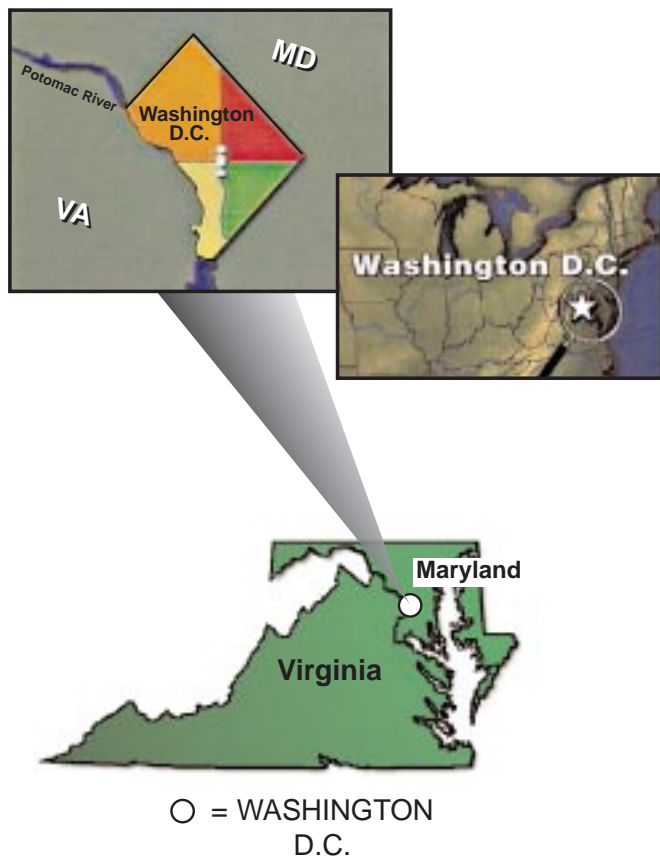
- Belize • Costa Rica • El Salvador
- Guatemala • Honduras • Nicaragua • Panama

### Suggested Usage:

Geography, History, Social Studies,  
Language Arts, Commerce, Environment  
Intermediate, Jr. High, General  
Approx. 22 minutes each video 1998

Permission granted to copy the following  
exercises provided in this guide for educational use ONLY.

Use the map to indicate significant points of interests as described in discussion point #5.



# WASHINGTON D.C.

The first known inhabitants to occupy this land were the Piscataway Indians. However by the early 1600's European settlers began to arrive.

Aboard ships, these early settlers arrived in the New World seeking religious and political freedom. Eventually, tensions grew between the new settlers and the British authorities in Europe. Those tensions lead to the Revolutionary War in 1775. After the war, George Washington chose the site for the nation's new capital, which later became known as Washington D.C. Throughout the history of the United States, Washington D.C. has developed into one of most powerful political centers in the world. Measuring only 70 square miles in size, the politicians of this small city debate, analyze and discern those decisions which commonly effect both individual lives and global relations. Today, the dynamics of this city continues to cultivate the ideals upon which this nation was founded.

In addition to its rich history, Washington D.C. also has geographical significance. Located along the Potomac River, in an area bordered by Maryland and Virginia, this area from its historic monuments to its piedmont landscape, attracts millions of visitors each year.

As we study Washington D.C. we begin to understand where we as a nation have been, and how far we have gone—as this area offers us a place of origin, a place of beauty and a place to learn.

**ABOLITIONIST MOVEMENT:** A group organized to end slavery, during the 1800's.

**ANDREW ELLICOTT:** Replaced L'Enfant, to complete the building project for the nation's capital of Washington D.C.

**BENJAMIN BANNEKER:** An African-American and noted mathematician/astromer, who assisted Andrew Ellicott to complete the building of the nation's capital of Washington D.C.

**CAPITAL BUILDING:** Designed in 1792 by William Thornton, This building houses the administrative members of the U.S. Congress.

**CIVIL WAR:** From 1861-65 the Washington D.C. area becomes a heavy battleground between the Confederate states of the south seeking independence from the Union states of the north. This war attempted to resolve two issues; 1) the distribution of power between the Federal Union and the states; and 2) the existence of slavery.

**DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE:** A document adopted by the Continental Congress on July 4th 1776. Its primary author Thomas Jefferson, proclaimed the reasons for the separation of the 13 colonies from Britain. This document eventually became the preamble for the U.S. Constitution.

**DUDDINGTON MANOR:** Built in 1663, this large estate became a part of Washington D.C.. Like many large plantations, Duddington Manor was operated with slave labor cultivating tobacco crops.

**GEORGE WASHINGTON:** The first president of the United States, who in 1790 also chose Washington D.C. as the site of the nation's capital, where it remains today.

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5. Draw a map (if you like, use a computer or the map provided on page 8) of Washington D.C., indicating significant points of interest. For example, famous monuments, i.e. Lincoln Memorial; important events, i.e. Battle of Manassas, in 1861; names of historic figures, i.e. George Washington etc..

6. America was founded by many principles originating from the early Washington D.C. settlers, i.e. *religious freedom*. What are those principles, and how do they differ from those originating in other countries throughout history? What impact do these principles have on past and future generations? Choose an issue i.e. allegations of Microsoft monopoly, and discuss or role play how by using the framework of the U.S. Constitution, legislative, and executive to help resolve public issues.

7. Many battles during the Civil War were fought on the soil of Washington D.C.. Discuss the issues involved with this conflict and the profiles of the two groups represented in the North and South (the Union and Confederates). Then assemble the students into two groups to have a political debate on the issues. Perhaps have each group nominate a leader to represent President Abraham Lincoln for the Union and President Jefferson Davis for the Confederates.

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## Discussion Points/Activities

1. Today such conveniences as computers, telephones, automobiles, electricity, etc. are used to enhance our modern day lives. Explain how these enhancements differ to those used during the time Washington D.C. was being discovered. Use this information for the following study points/activities.

2. Imagine what it would be like to be an early settler. Discuss issues which may have concerned these early settlers: weather conditions, commerce, regional terrain, food/vegetation, dealing with homeland authorities in Britain, France, or Spain etc..

3. Both geographical and historical information has been documented throughout the world. Explain why this type of information is important when studying Washington D.C., and how it relates to our everyday lives? Furthermore, how do the disciplines of geography and history interact or relate with other areas of study in your school's curriculum?

4. If possible, arrange a trip near your community to visit museums, cultural centers, state parks etc. to stimulate your imagination to explore the beautiful history and geography of Washington D.C.

**NORTH AMERICA:** The third largest continent in the world consisting of Canada, the United States, Mexico and Central America.

**PIERRE-CHARLES L'ENFANDT:** French engineer who for 2 years developed the original plans to build the New Federal Capital otherwise known as Washington D.C.

**PISCATAWAY INDIANS:** a sub-tribe of the Algonquin Indian community, these Indians occupied the Washington D.C. area upon the arrival of the first Europeans in the early 1600's.

**U.S. CONSTITUTION:** Founded upon the principles of the Declaration of Independence, this document defines the three branches of government; judicial, legislative, and executive. Included are the preamble, 7 articles and 26 amendments, of which the first 10 are known as the "Bill of Rights".

**WAR OF 1812:** During this conflict between the U.S and Britain, an invasion force of 5,000 British soldiers assaulted the nation's capital causing massive damage upon many government buildings.

**WASHINGTON D.C.:** Known as the national capital of the United States, its' location lies along the Potomac River, in an area bordered by Maryland and Virginia.

**WHITE HOUSE:** Designed by James Hoban and referred to as the Presidential Palace in its original plans, this 132 room neoclassical mansion, built in 1793-1801, is the official residence of the U.S. president.

## Chronology of WASHINGTON D.C.

- 25,000 years ago:** Paleo-Indians migrate from Asia into North America—by using a land bridge which at one time connected Asia with Alaska.
- Early 1600's:** The first Europeans arrive in the Washington D.C. area—descendants of the Paleo-Indians, the Piscataway Indians occupy the region during their arrival.
- 1634:** The land that is now Washington D.C. becomes part of a colony in Maryland.
- 1663:** Duddington Manor is built.
- 1775:** The War for Independence begins, better known as the Revolutionary War, between the early American settlers and the British.
- 1776:** In Philadelphia, the Declaration of Independence is adopted by congress.
- 1789:** George Washington is inaugurated as the first U.S. president.
- 1790:** Congress approves George Washington's chosen site to build the nations new capital.
- 1792:** The Capital Building is designed by William Thornton. As a gift to the entire nation, Maryland donates the land that is today the District of Columbia and home of Washington, D.C. the U.S. capitol
- 1793-1801:** The White House is built.

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- 1793-1827:** Construction of the Capital Building.
- 1800:** Congress moves its operations from Philadelphia to Washington D.C. John Adams as the 2nd president of the U.S., becomes the first resident of the White House and Congress meets in the uncompleted Capital building for the first time.
- 1812:** War of 1812 begins.
- 1814:** British troops cause massive damage to the government buildings in the nation's capitol.
- 1848-1880's:** The construction of the Washington monument. This 555 feet monument was designed by Robert Mills and dedicated to George Washington.
- 1850:** Slavery outlawed in the nation's capitol.
- 1852:** Opening of the Smithsonian Institute.
- 1860:** Abraham Lincoln is elected U.S. President.
- 1861:** Battle of Manassas, also known as Bull Run, becomes the first major battle fought in the Civil War.
- 1861-65:** The Civil War is fought.
- 1863:** During the Civil War, the bloodiest battle in U.S. history occurs at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.
- 1865:** Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrenders to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant thus ending the Civil War. Five days after the war ended, President Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth at the Ford's Theatre in Washington D.C.
- 1975:** Walter Washington elected the first Mayor of Washington D.C.

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