

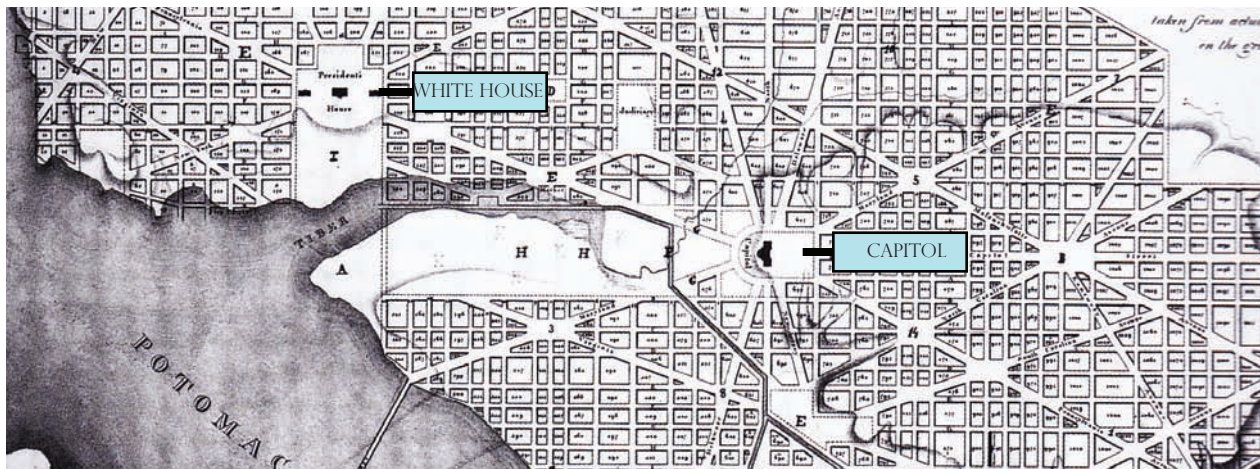
# CAPITOL HILL

Capitol Hill is where both branches of Congress, the Senate and the House of Representatives, meet and where other governmental bodies do their work. The Capitol Building was designed by the winner of a design competition, a doctor named William Thornton who was also an *amateur* architect. In 1793, George Washington laid the cornerstone for the building, as a symbol of the values this country was founded upon. British troops set fire to the Capitol as well as the White House during the war of 1812, but a rainstorm prevented it from burning down.

The Capitol was completed in 1826, but the building became too small as the nation expanded and the number of senators and representatives grew. New legislative wings were unveiled in 1868, but it didn't stop there. As the country grew even bigger, more *accommodations* had to be made. Today, Capitol Hill includes the Capitol Building, six house and senate buildings, three Library of Congress buildings, the Supreme Court, and other *facilities*.



*The Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.*



**Answer the questions below on a separate piece of paper.**

1. Why do you think it was important for President Washington to lay the first cornerstone for the Capitol?
2. Why do you think the British set fire to the Capitol Building

## Vocabulary

*amateur*: someone who does something for fun or who hopes to become a professional. "I'm an amateur wrestler, but I'm hoping to make it big soon."

*accommodate*: to make room for something or someone, to make someone comfortable, or to make something possible. "We can't accommodate your request for fifty pillows to make a fort in your room."

*facility*: something built to serve a specific purpose. "We decided the library was a proper facility to conduct our research in."