

# THE PENTAGON

The Pentagon is the headquarters for the United States' Department of Defense, a combination of all the branches of the U.S. military. Built in 1943 to give military *officials* a proper workspace, The Pentagon has now become the symbol for all branches of our country's military, and people often use simply the words "The Pentagon" to refer to the military as a whole. The Pentagon is a large building, laid out flat rather than tall, with about three times the floor space of the Empire State Building. Despite being so big, it only takes about seven minutes to walk from one end to another. It is not in Washington, D.C., but is located just across the Potomac River in Arlington, Virginia.



The Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia



## Vocabulary

*official*: a person who was elected to an office or holds a position of authority, such as a police officer, a commander, or a town mayor. "The officials in this glee club do not approve of your singing."

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

1. Why do you think it is important for all the different parts of the military to have an official meeting place?
2. Why does the United States need a Department of Defense?