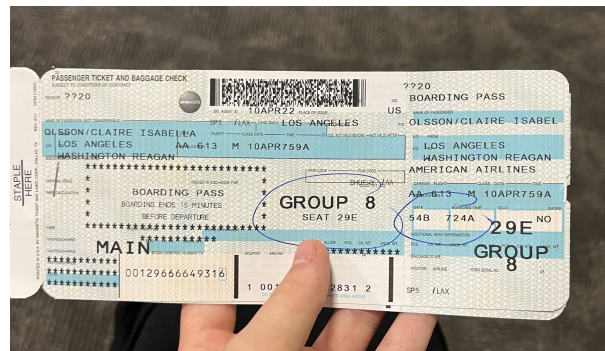
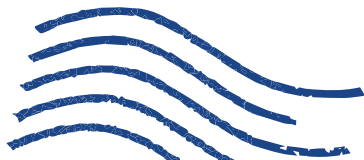


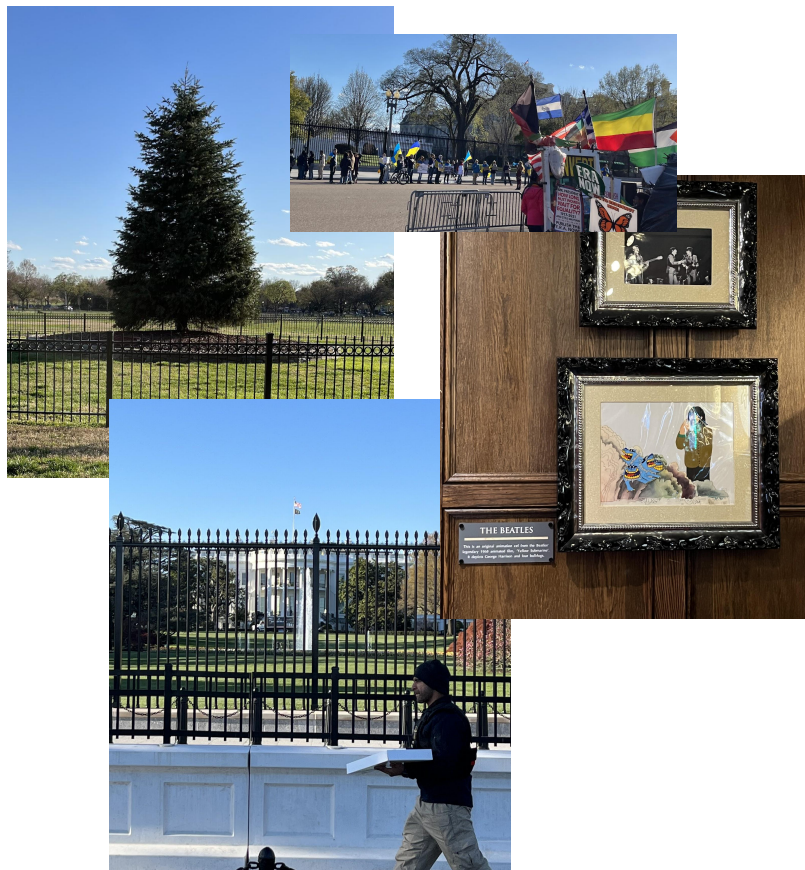
Day 1 Arrival



4/10/22



This day was quite simple. Jacob and I sat next to each other on the airplane, so I forced him to watch the newest Spiderman movie and Legally Blond. There was more and more turbulence as we got closer to DC. Once we landed, we met Tara, our guide. Then I took the Metro for the first time. After dropping off our luggage at the hotel, we walked to the Hard Rock Cafe and made some pit stops on the way. We saw the White House, a protest for Ukraine, and the National Christmas Tree, which I never knew existed. The food at the Hard Rock Cafe, I'd give a 4/10. The chicken was cold, small, and dry.



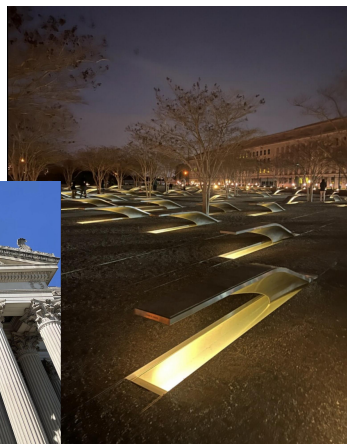


Day 2
Tours

4/11/22

This day was very eventful. After finishing our breakfast, we took the Metro and walked to the National Zoo. The zoo had an extensive range of animals there, from sand cats to pandas. There I learned about some animals I never knew existed, like the "Long Neck Turtle", of course, it was early morning, so many animals were asleep. But, we still had a fun time. After that we took the Metro to the National Mall, there on the grassy fields, we ate our sandwiches. (My leg fell asleep while I was eating, so when I tried getting up, I fell) once we finished, we went to the National History Museum.



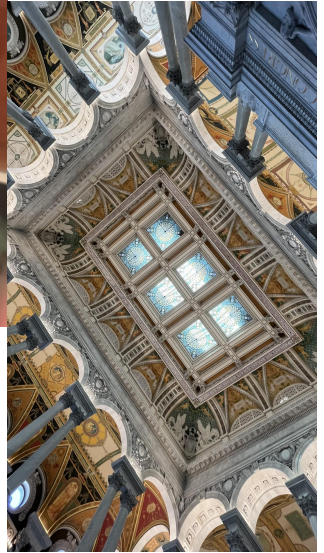


4/11/22



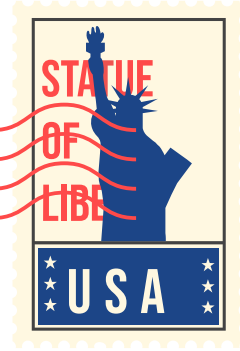
When I was very excited to see the mummy exhibition, I read about what they buried with the dead and why. Once we ran out of time, we headed to the National Archives and got a chance to grab a quick treat (mango smoothie with boba) before we headed inside. Finally, it was dinner, and we had some delicious deep-dish pizza from Uno's. My dad loves that place. To finish the night, we hopped on the Metro and went to the Pentagon, well, the 9/11 memorial. The pentagon is much larger than I thought. It was quiet out there, amicable and peaceful but still cold. We were able to pay our respects and learn of the people who died in such a tragedy. Either way, I enjoyed the day a lot.

Day 3 Memorials



4/12/22

After our group finished our complimentary breakfast (and I took a handful of the free honey jars), we took the Metro to the Arlington Cemetery. This is where we meet Mike, our tour guide. He walked us up the hill, where we could quickly chat with some army soldiers, who were preparing for a funeral, which are often, as well as the gardening. Once we reached the top of the hill, we saw the changing of the honor guard. As we walked down the hill, we saw a mast from the USS Maine and the Kennedy cemetery. For lunch, we went to the food court, where a majority of us got California rolls that weren't exactly the best. As a quick treat, I bought myself a chocolate chip ice cream.



4/12/22

After our lunch, it was off to the Library of Congress! This place was truly beautiful, I wanted to go inside the actual library, but sadly I was two years too young. We were able to stop by a small exhibition where they had artifacts from different points in time. One that intrigued me was the Maya miniature flasks and vessels. Once we left, we decided that instead of traveling to more places, we decided to rest our bodies and grab a small boba treat from down the way from our hotel. After being well-rested, we headed off to dinner at a BBQ place not too far away. Since we finished dinner early, we arrived at the Lincoln Memorial earlier than Mike. Once he arrived, he told us how important Lincoln was to our country. He showed us the war memorials at sunset and pointed out some of the most memorable war heroes. Coming to a close, we sat at the edge of the reflecting pool, where he told us some last exciting facts.



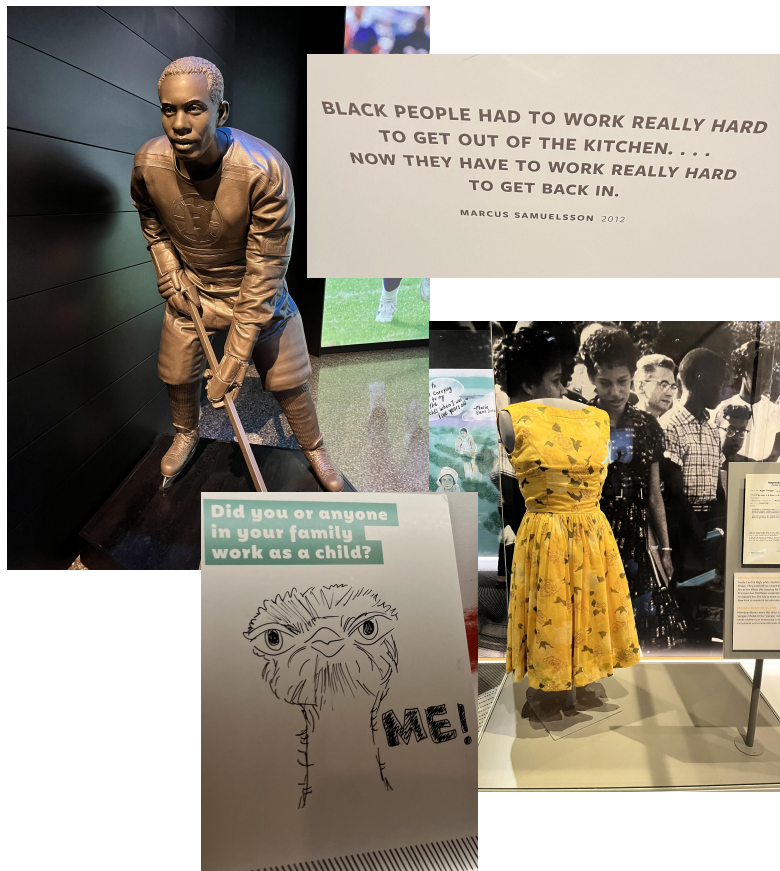


Day 4
More
Museums



4/13/22

Today was the first day we took a shuttle or private bus anywhere in DC. Due to the roads being bumpy and I wanted to have fun, I sat on the way back, where I got thrown around a bit which was a lot of fun. We arrived at Mount Vernon. Before we could head out and explore, we watched a short movie on this national monument. Once finished, we walked up the hill to the house Washington lived in. We got a brief tour inside and looked inside the colorful rooms. Once we finished, we separated into smaller groups, all collecting an exciting fact (mine being that Washington earned a majority of his wealth from fishing.) after exploring, we met for lunch which was quite crowded. Once we finished, we were back on the road and on to the next museum. The National Museum of American History, in fact. This place was huge. It was very similar in a way to the discovery cube back home.



4/13/22

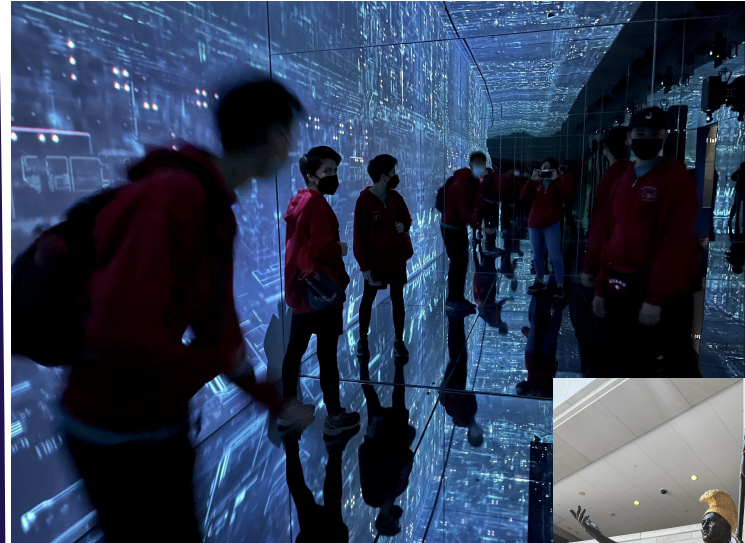
I particularly took an interest in the Girls' History Museum. Once a majority was explored, we went to the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture. I took an interest in the floor, talking about cooking, music, and cinema, including the statue of the first African American hockey player, Willie O'Ree. Then after another quick treat from the food trucks, since it was so hot, we went back to the hotel to freshen up and head to dinner. There I had a large bowl of salad and jambalaya. Since our meals came later than expected, we missed our ghost tour but were given a chance to do our own research instead and make our tour that we would walk the following night.

Day 5
Almost
The End



4/14/22

This was one of the days I was most excited about. We were going to the international spy museum. This was a very exciting place. Not only did we learn what it was like to be a spy, but we also got to play a game as if we were one. My partner Nathan and I ran through the whole course, being the 2nd pair to finish. We had lots of fun helping each other with their tasks. But after that, it was off to the capital! On the way to the central spot, we saw the fantastic art chosen from each district over the past couple of years. Another cool thing we saw was the statues sent from each state. Also, did you know that initially, Washington was supposed to be buried in the capital, right in the center? That's why the small room precisely in the middle of DC is called "The Crypt."



4/14/22

We then took the metro to the Holocaust museum. This place was very solemn. Being polite, we stayed quiet and learned how terrible the event was. Then it was off to our last tour with Mike over at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Instead of taking the whole time, we stayed at this memorial but still learned of all the others. It started to rain in the middle of the tour, so we fled inside, away from the rain. Once it cleared, we finished the tour and headed back to our hotel to freshen up. Most of us changed for our last meal in DC. Once we met Ms. Simms's mentor and finished dinner, we had our self-guided ghost tour, which was fun.





Day 6
Bye DC
Hello CA



4/15/22

This was our day of goodbye. We all loaded our luggage onto the shuttle, taking us to the airport. We got on our plane on time, seated far back. I was pretty tired and decided to take a nap, but right before I could doze off me and my classmate, Lauren, was asked to switch seats with these younger children after the young girl had thrown up so they could be by their mother. This gave me the window seat I had always wanted. The funny thing was we also sat right next to an FBI officer who was quite lovely. I proceeded to sleep for at least the next two-thirds of the flight as Dune and The Amazing Spider-Man played in the background. Although I was sad our adventure was over. I was grateful it happened.



The End

This trip has taught me so much about not only American history but also essential qualities. Like buying medicine, what do I do if I'm sick, how can I manage my time, take cool photos, what to do if I lose something, and how can I take lots of mini honey jars from breakfast (haha). Since I've been able to experience this, I know I'll be more prepared for the future than I thought I could be. Plus, this was a fantastic time being able to take a breather from school and life in general.