

Landmarks Tell Stories

Read how national landmarks represent ideas, people, and history.

5.16.D “explain the significance of important landmarks, including the White House, the Statue of Liberty, and Mount Rushmore.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the name of each landmark. Underline the words that explain why each landmark matters.

Three Places, Big Meanings

- ① The White House in Washington, D.C., is the official home and workplace of the president of the United States. Presidents meet with advisers and welcome visitors there. This building is significant because it represents the executive branch of the federal government. It reminds people that the president has duties, but also must follow the Constitution and the law each day.
- ② On Liberty Island in New York Harbor, the Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France to the United States. Dedicated in 1886, it shows a robed figure holding a torch high. The statue is significant as a symbol of liberty and freedom. For many immigrants arriving by ship, seeing it near the harbor suggested hope and a new beginning.
- ③ Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota has huge carvings of four U.S. presidents: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt, and Abraham Lincoln. The leaders were chosen to represent major parts of the nation's history, such as its founding, growth, development, and preservation. The memorial is significant because it invites people to think about presidential leadership and the history of the United States.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why is the White House significant? Include what it represents and what it reminds people about the president.

2 How does the Statue of Liberty symbolize liberty and freedom for immigrants arriving by ship?

3 Why were the four presidents carved on Mount Rushmore, and what does the memorial invite people to think about?

4 How are the White House and Mount Rushmore significant in different ways?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose an important landmark in your community or state that was not in the reading. Write two sentences that name it and explain what it helps people remember or understand.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle the name of each landmark. Underline the words that explain why each landmark matters. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why is the White House significant? Include what it represents and what it reminds people about the president.	It represents the executive branch of the federal government. It reminds people that the president has duties and must follow the Constitution and the law.
2	How does the Statue of Liberty symbolize liberty and freedom for immigrants arriving by ship?	For many immigrants, seeing the statue near the harbor suggested hope and a new beginning.
3	Why were the four presidents carved on Mount Rushmore, and what does the memorial invite people to think about?	They were chosen to represent major parts of the nation's history. The memorial invites people to think about presidential leadership and U.S. history.
4	How are the White House and Mount Rushmore significant in different ways?	The White House represents the executive branch and the president's duties. Mount Rushmore represents important parts of U.S. history and presidential leadership.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Texas Capitol in Austin is the seat of our state government. It helps people understand where Texas lawmakers meet to make laws for the state.

Accept any real community or state landmark with a clear, accurate explanation of its significance. Students may explain that a landmark represents history, government, freedom, a community event, or an important person.