

Goal: to highlight and compare the capital city of ancient China (Chang'an) with the modern day capital of the United States (Washington DC) to display their ordered layout and how they were built to impress.

Strategy: Group Work, Teacher Instruction, Online map resource, Discussion, Inferences

Time/Grade: One day of class time – leading into the year-end project – 6th Grade Students

Key Concept/Synopsis: Both Chang'an during the Tang Dynasty and Washington DC of today are built on a grid pattern with wide boulevards, multiple government buildings, impressive parks, and were models for other countries. Chang'an was built on the ruins of the old city after a civil war, and Washington DC was built where no city existed before. Both cities were cosmopolitan with multiple religions, ethnicities, and emissaries all comingling.

Learning Outcome: Student will be able to identify key locations in the two cities and hypothesize why they were built in those spots. This lesson will build into a year ending project of design a fictitious capital city from their previously developed nation-state.

Resources Needed:

- Visuals of Washington DC (Mall, Capitol, White House) aerial and panorama views – Google Earth and www.aaas.org/dcwest.pdf provide adequate maps online.
- Copies of L'Enfant and McMillian plans for Washington DC.
- Map of Tang Dynasty China
- Map of Chang'an (and modern day Xi'an)
- Visuals of Bell Tower, Big Goose Pagoda
- Copy of "A Splendid Capital", "City Life in the Capital: Chang'an"
- Stratelogica maps
- Xi'an Pictures (personal collection)

ODE Standards:

Grade	Strand	Topic	Content Statement
6	History	Early Civilizations	Early civilizations (India, Egypt, China and Mesopotamia) with unique governments, economic systems, social structures, religions technologies and agricultural practices and products flourished as a result of favorable geographic characteristics. The cultural practices and products of these early civilizations can be used to help understand the Eastern Hemisphere today.
6	Geography	Human Systems	Variations among physical environments within the Eastern Hemisphere influence human activities. Human activities also alter the physical environment.
6	Geography	Human Systems	Political, environmental, social and economic factors cause people, products and ideas to move from place to place in the Eastern Hemisphere in the past and today.
6	Economics	Scarcity	When regions and/or countries specialize, global trade occurs.

7	History	Historical Thinking and Skills	Historians and archaeologists describe historical events and issues from the perspectives of people living at the time in order to avoid evaluating the past in terms of today's norms and values.
7	Geography	Human Systems	Geographic factors promote or impede the movement of people, products and ideas.
7	Geography	Human Systems	Trade routes connecting Africa, Europe, and Asia fostered the spread of technology and major world religions.
7	Geography	Human Systems	Improvements in transportation, communication and technology have facilitated cultural diffusion among peoples around the world.
7	Economics	Markets	The growth of cities and empires fostered the growth of markets. Market exchanges encourage specialization and the transition from barter to monetary economies.

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Background:

Chang 'an

In Ancient History, Chang'an, China is considered one of the four great capitals. The other three are Rome, Athens, and Memphis, Egypt (near modern day Cairo). The city was named Chang'an which means Eternal Peace after a period of warfare. The city was meticulously planned, and is based on Chinese mythology belief that the world was a perfect square with five directions – north, south, east, west, & center. Earth and wood walls associated with Yang had to balance the use of water associated with Yin. Architects took this belief to heart as they planned the city and constructed its square shape with multiple walls and wards within a city. The Chinese also believed the curved roof would confuse demons because they could only travel in straight lines. (Greenblatt)

Chang'an had city walls that covered 30 sq. miles and reached a height of 18 feet tall. Of course none of our cities have walls today, but here is a look at some cities you've heard of and there current square mileage:

- Cincinnati – 77 sq. miles
- Cleveland – 82.5 sq. miles
- Columbus – 212 sq. miles
- Westerville – 15 sq. miles
- Manhattan, NY – 23.7 sq. miles
- Washington, DC – 68.3 sq. miles

In Chang'an there were 11 main avenues running north to south with the widest being the road to the emperor's palace at 500 feet wide. There were 14 avenues running east to west. All roads were at least 11 foot wide, and were lined with trees. [Today's normal residence road is 22 foot wide.] The main problem with the roads was that they were just compacted earth and became muddy messes during rainy season. Today the modern city of Xi'an has walls dating to Ming Dynasty period but they only encompass about 8 sq. miles.

Chang'an boasted a population of over one million people within the city walls with another million people living outside the city walls. The sheer size of this city – in the ancient world - had to be magnificent when you think of the advanced modern architecture of today. Chang'an was sectioned into wards (kind of like our modern day blocks) which also had walls to divide the city up.

Within the city there was the imperial palace area with the administration buildings that dominated the north central portion of the city. The elite patricians lived in the NE portion of the city clustered away from the poor and working classes. The city boasted parks – largest Serpentine and Lotus parks – open public spaces, theaters, fashion district, fields for polo as well as residences. The vibrant markets provided shops/stalls with items from all over Asia. Chang'an during its heyday – Tang Dynasty – was the most cultured and cosmopolitan city in

the world. (Smithsonian). The fabled Silk Road began at the Bell Tower in the middle of the city. The empire exported: jade, porcelain, silk, oranges, peaches, pears, cast iron, gunpowder, crossbow, paper, printing: and acted as a conduit for religion and art. From all of China's advances and ingenuity, it became the largest and wealthiest land in the world, and Chang'an presided over this wealth. Foreign merchants had to pay taxes in order to operate their business but this was viewed as acceptable because of the ability to reach a large market base and the abundance of trading goods moving through Chinese markets. This in turn brought foreigners into the city with their religions and ethnic backgrounds. In fact during the 700's, Chang'an boasted 91 Buddhist, 16 Daoist, 2 Christian and 4 Zoroastrian – temples or monasteries.

Tang dynasty society valued wisdom from whatever group of people who had it. They would embrace the knowledge, make it Chinese, and look for the next good idea. Buddhism is the greatest example of this. Women also enjoyed freedom and influence during this period. Entertainment was in abundance in the city. Festivals were set up based on the lunar calendar and matched all the societies within the walls. Other forms of entertainment were acrobats, illusionists, wrestlers, musicians, animal acts, dance, puppetry, and storytellers. Sports played were polo, archery, hunting and cockfighting, and the important board games were weiqi (go) and pitchpot.

The governing of the Chinese empire at the time was based on four philosophies that passed down through history. The first was the Mandate of Heaven. The second was the belief in the moral right for the emperor to rule. The third viewed China as the center of the universe and Chang'an as the center of China. The last was organicism which mixed dualism (concept of Yin-Yang, emblematic numbers (3, 9, 12), and the five elements (water, fire, earth, wood, metal).

Washington DC

Washington D.C. is a city that was built from nothing. George Washington selected the site on the Potomac as a half-way point between the new nation and on a river to provide access to the interior. The land was untouched and included marshland, farmland, hills and almost no buildings. Pierre Charles L'Enfant – a Frenchman who fought in the Revolutionary War was commissioned to design the city. His plan displayed wide avenues, public squares and awe inspiring buildings based on ideas from Versailles, France. L'Enfant wrote to Washington "No nation perhaps had ever before the opportunity offered [sic] them of deliberately deciding on the spot where their [sic] Capital City should be fixed," he said in a 1789 letter to Washington. "The plan should be drawn on such a scale as to leave room for the aggrandizement & embellishment which the increase of the wealth of the Nation will permit it to pursue at any period however remote."

"He had this rolling landscape at the confluence of two great rivers," said Judy Scott Feldman, chairwoman of the National Coalition to Save Our Mall. "He essentially had a clean slate on which to design the city." He picked the two largest hills to place the most important buildings – Capitol Hill (Capitol Building) and the President's Palace (White House). L'Enfant envisioned a 'public walk' – which is today's modern day National Mall that would stretch two miles from Capitol Hill to the Potomac River. Today this area contains the Smithsonian museums and many monuments. In the early 1800's cows still grazed the National Mall area as most of what you see today was still not even developed. L'Enfant was fired by Washington and

never saw the finished city. However, today is body sits atop a hill in Arlington National Cemetery with a commanding view of Washington DC. Some credit Benjamin Banneker, a black man who aided L'Enfant in surveying the land for maintaining the original plan that L'Enfant took with him when he was fired.

After the Civil War there was talk of moving the capital to Philadelphia or even out to the Midwest as a more centrally located spot. This all stopped with the advent of the McMillian Commission in 1901. This group set to task of completing the original L'Enfant plan. They cleared and straightened the mall area, began the park system, and reclaimed land from the rivers to build the Jefferson and Lincoln Memorials. One idea that never made it to fruition was the cascading waterfall from Capitol Hill to a point below.

The streets were laid out in a grid pattern to allow for easy transportation and impressive views of monuments and buildings. Public areas are evenly distributed throughout the city. Streets are numbered going east to west and lettered going north to south (excluding J – because of confusion with I in 1790's). The crossing or angled streets are named for the states in the union.

Students

TELL: We finish the school year by studying one of the most advanced societies in history – that being the Chinese stretching from the Shang Dynasty all the way to the Tang Dynasty. Beginning with the Qin Dynasty the city of Chang'an (now Xi'an) was the capital of the empire. By the time of the Tang Dynasty (618 – 907 CE) the monster of a city covered over 30 sq. miles – bigger than modern day Manhattan, NY and was the center of multiple ethnicities and religions. *[Continue to supplement with Background Information]* Chang'an and Washington DC share a common trait in that they were wholly planned by the government. In this lesson we are going to look at the two cities layout and design. We will analyze the architecture, location of government buildings, transportation networks, defense, markets, and entertainment options. The end all goal is to provide you with enough information to design your fictitious capital city.

SHOW: This is a visual exercise where I want the students to see the similarities and differences between the city planning of ancient China and Industrial Age USA. The maps of Chang'an are not nearly as detailed as modern day Washington DC and will require more teacher direction and guidance as we locate government structures, markets, entertainment, residences, transportation networks et. al. I will start the lesson by using online medium to project high color and interactive maps {Google earth, Stratelogica, www.aaas.org/dcwest.pdf}

The goal is not to print out the documents – saving paper cost, but some copies may need to be generated for students without home computer access and in special education classes (see note).

GUIDE: Using the background information and the maps for this lesson, teacher will point out significant architecture and layout patterns for students to see and discuss. Ask students if they see any problems with the designs or locations of structures. Remind them that you are

showing them these two cities because they will develop their capital for their nation after viewing these two cities plans. Make sure to point out the cosmopolitan nature of both cities, and the deference to the best locations for the leadership of the government.

TRANSITION: As lesson continues, allow students to point out additional locations within the cities and their use or potential use within the society. Make sure that students cover each of the major identified categories (location, transportation, defense, markets, entertainment, government, residence, history). Once this has been accomplished ensure that all students have method of accessing this information on their own time – whether study hall or at home. Students will need – images, maps, and websites – so they can begin/continue with their fictitious capital. Print outs will be made available to those students requiring them.

DIFFERENTIATION:

- Advanced students will extend previous country creation maps that included resources, geography, demographics, etc. to include a capital
- Special Education students – I will work with the special education teacher to determine the correct modification to make for each student. Hard copies of all materials will be provided to special education teacher – along with directions on how to access the online material.
- Students without online access at home will receive hard copies of the materials presented in class.
- Copies of authors story's on Chang'an – "Building Chang'an: Constructing an Ancient City". The writing here could supplement as different method to give students information on the city of Chang'an. Hard copies are provided or one can use the use the Bibliography to locate online copy.

ASSESSMENT: This particular lesson has no specific homework assignment associated with it, but instead is feeding into a larger project/activity where students will develop a planned capital for their fictitious country.

"A Splendid Capital" by Jacques Gernet

During the Tang dynasty Chang'an became the largest and most cosmopolitan capital in the world, with a population of more than one million. Much of the city had been destroyed in the fighting that ended the Western Han dynasty. Taizong [the second Tang Emperor] rebuilt and expanded it to cover nearly 30 square miles. The surrounding walls were three stories high, with even higher gatehouses. A grand avenue nearly 500 feet wide led from the southern gate to the imperial palace, which lay in the heart of the city, then continued on to the northern gate. It cut the rest of Chang'an in two—the eastern and western sections.

The city was further divided into 108 rectangular wards, each surrounded by a wall that was entered by four gates. (A ward was like a small city within a large one.) The wards in the western section were inhabited by merchants, workers and craftsmen. Every night large drums were beaten to signal the closing of the ward gates. No one was allowed on the streets after dark except the armed soldiers who patrolled them. Bells in the temples and watchtowers were struck at daybreak to mark the reopening of the gates.

The eastern section of Chang'an was called "the Imperial City." It was made up of boulevards lined with the elegant estates of the wealthy officials. Each estate was a separate ward, surrounded by a wall with gatehouses and watchtowers. In this way, the wealthy people lived much as they did in Chang'an during the Western Han dynasty.

North of the palace were beautiful parks, where bamboo leaves rustled in the wind, lotus flowers floated on artificial ponds, and wisteria with tumbling blue flowers wound around open "summer houses."

There were two large markets, east and west. The eastern market was fairly small and served the needs of the wealthy households. The western market was huge. It drew thousands of merchants from such faraway places as Syria, Persia and India. Visitors to this bustling marketplace were often entertained by strolling players, street acrobats, and storytellers.

"City Life in the Capital: Chang 'an" by Conrad Schirokauer

Even the most casual glance at a map of the Sui-Tang capital' Chang 'an, is enough to reveal that it was a planned city. Containing about 30 square miles, excluding the palace area, it was the largest planned city ever built, and also the largest city encompassed by walls. Its roughly one million inhabitants also made it the most populous city in the world, in its day. Roughly another million people lived in the greater metropolitan area outside the walls.

Many cities grow naturally in response to the social and economic needs of their inhabitants, but planned cities express the values and priorities of their builders. The essential feature of Chang 'an is that it was built to be the capital of a great empire. In accord with ancient tradition, it was oriented so that both the city and the imperial palace faced south. The entire city was in a sense the home of the emperor. Its layout resembled that of a typical Tang house, with a service area in front and a garden in the rear. The imposing presence of the emperor and his government were further emphasized by the grand avenue that led from the main city gate to the palace and the government complex. Five hundred feet wide, it was well calculated to impress envoys from lesser lands with the might and grandeur of the great Chinese Empire.

The people of the city, including those employed in the government complex, lived in rectangular wards. Each ward was a self-contained unit surrounded by walls, with entry provided through a gate that was closed each night. Two friends in adjacent wards might be able to see each other's houses but find it difficult to visit. Since it was the center of government, Chang 'an was hardly the place to escape government surveillance and interference. In contrast to medieval Europe, where the city became a refuge and a center of freedom, in China one sought freedom in remote mountains and hills. Not everyone wished to rusticate in a remote village however; there were many who bitterly bemoaned an enforced absence from the great capital—unless, perhaps, they were posted to the secondary capital of Luoyang or to the southern metropolis of Yangzhou.

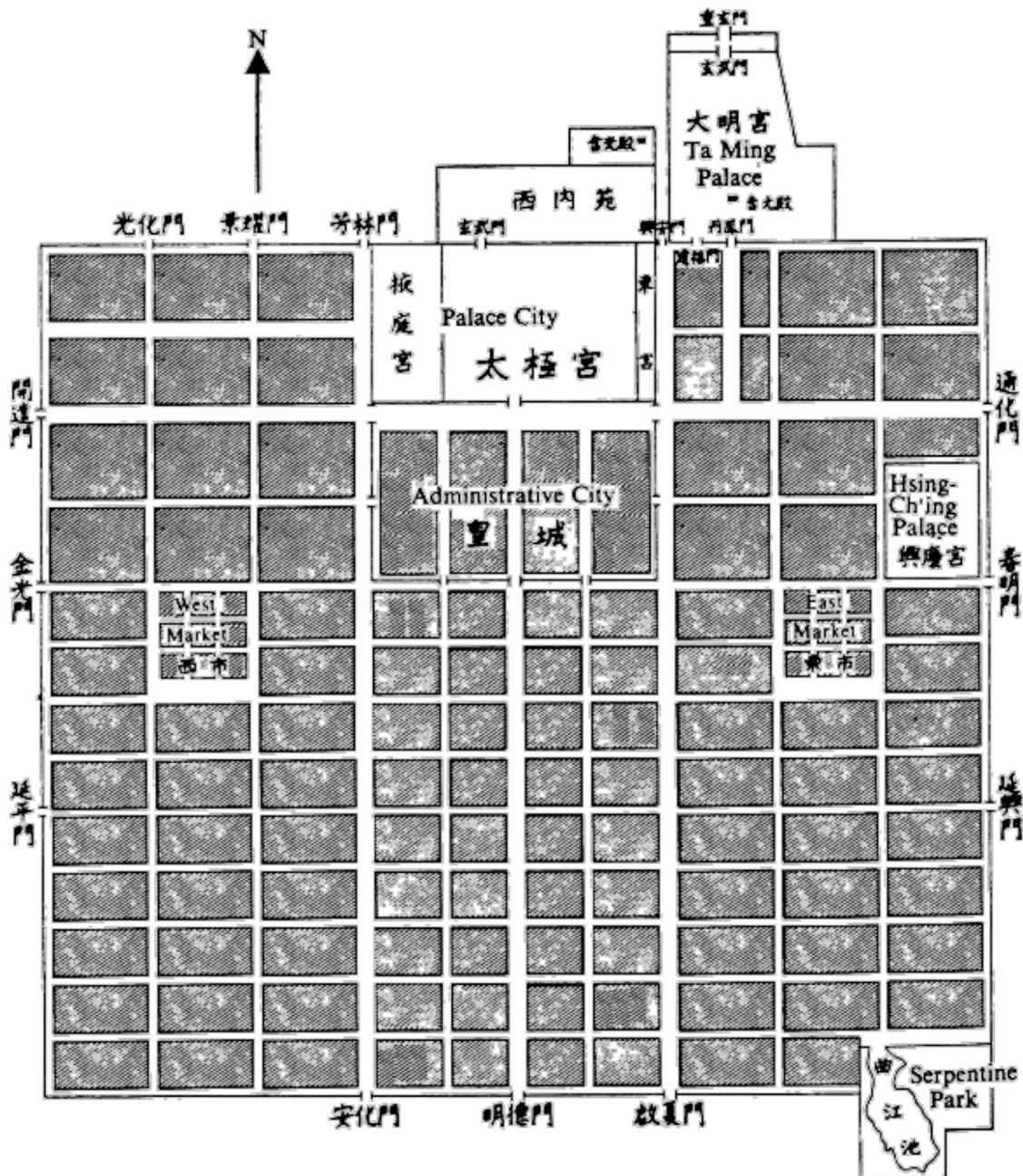
Tang culture was doubly cosmopolitan: first, in the sense that China was open to cultural influences from India and the distant west; second, in the sense that China, itself, was the cultural model for the other settled societies of East Asia. Both aspects were reflected in the considerable number of foreigners who lived in Chang 'an. Some were students. Among these the most numerous were the Koreans, of whom some 8,000 were said to be in Chang'an in 640. Other foreigners were engaged in commerce, coming from as far away as India, Iran, Syria, and Arabia. The West Market was the center for foreign trade, where customers could enjoy exotic foods and beverages and attend performances of foreign acrobats or magicians or see a foreign play. Stylish Tang ladies sported foreign coiffures, while painters and potters had a good time rendering the outlandish features of "barbarians" from distant lands. Images of foreigners from all over Central Asia and beyond to Iran were prominent among the clay figurines manufactured in specialty shops to be used for burial with the dead. Among the tomb figures are camel drivers and grooms for the horses, examples of which can be found in almost all museum collections of Chinese art. Information concerning foreign foods, music, and customs can also be found in Tang writings, particularly poetry. It is characteristic of the robust and cosmopolitan spirit of the period that one of the favorite pastimes of its aristocratic ladies and gentlemen was polo, a game which originated in Persia. The participation of women in such athletic activities and their fondness for riding are worth emphasizing in the light of the very different ethos that was to prevail in post-Tang times.

Among the amenities of the capital were the Serpentine Lake and the Hibiscus Garden in the southeast corner of the city, where newly granted degree holders celebrated their good fortune by floating wine cups on the water, and the emperor himself sometimes entered the Purple Cloud Pavilion to observe the festivities. Notably absent, however, were such public buildings as forums, baths, or stadiums found in cities inhabited by citizens rather than subjects. Nor did Chang 'an boast great, monumental structures of stone or brick. The men of Tang were under no illusion concerning the permanence of stone. In their view, it was the written word which endured.

As the map of Chang 'an clearly shows, the city was also a religious center. Manichean, Nestorian, and Zoroastrian temples testify to Tang tolerance and cosmopolitanism, but their congregations, like those of Buddhist temples during the Han, were largely foreign.



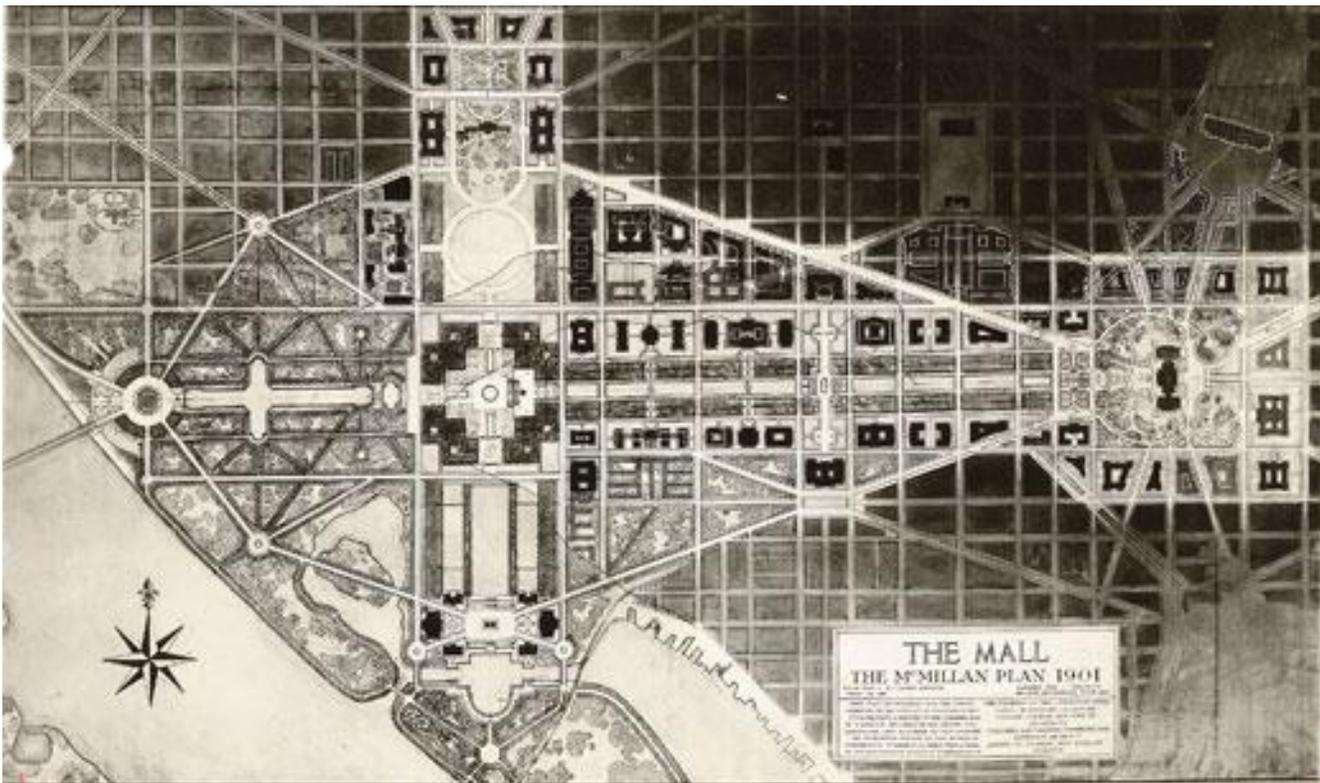
Picture from Charles Nelson, US-China Review



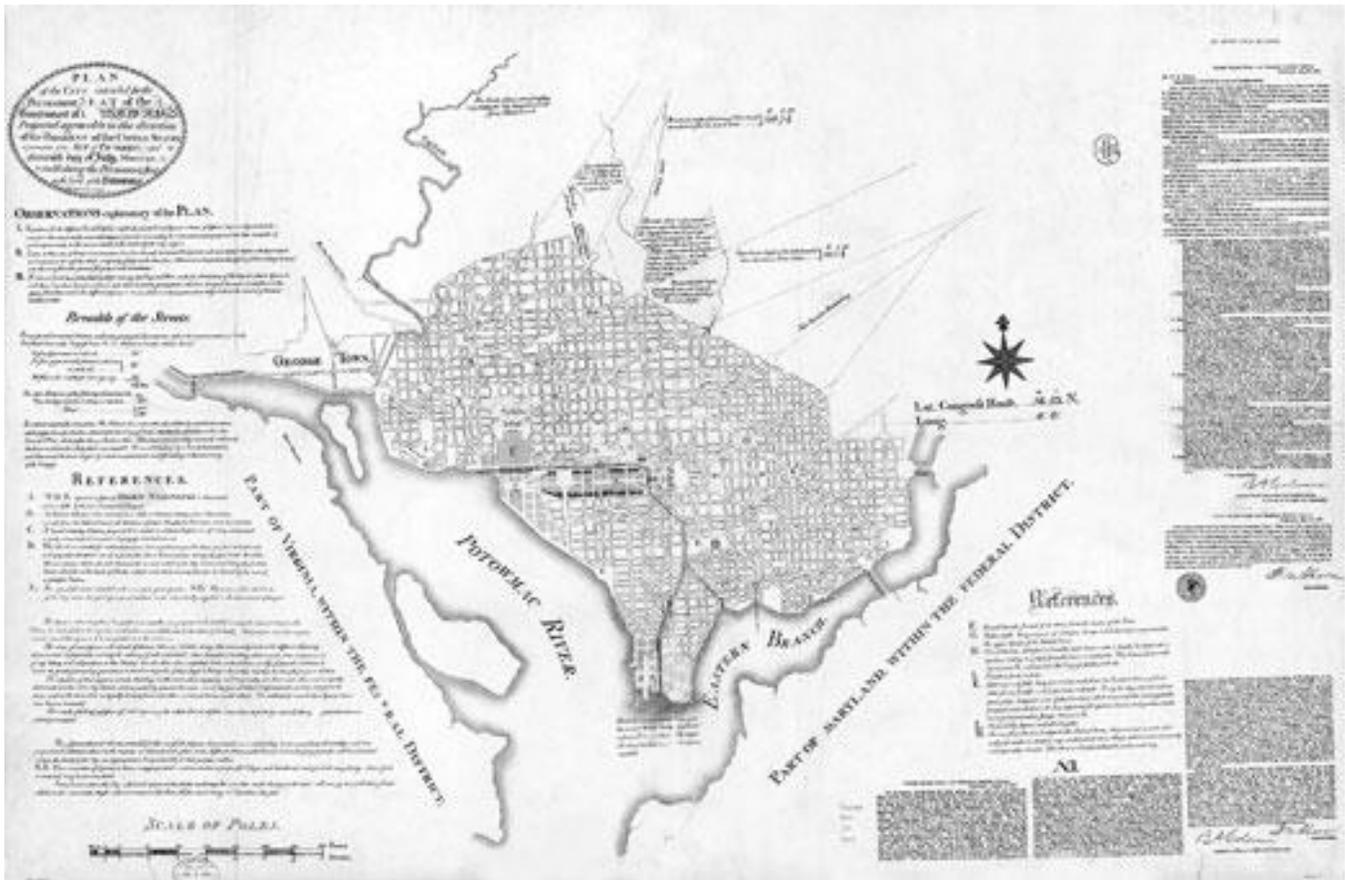
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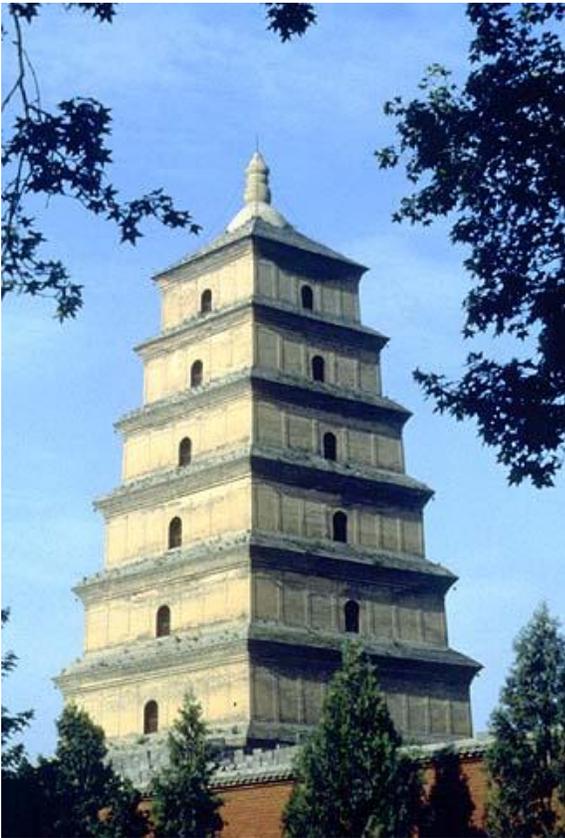
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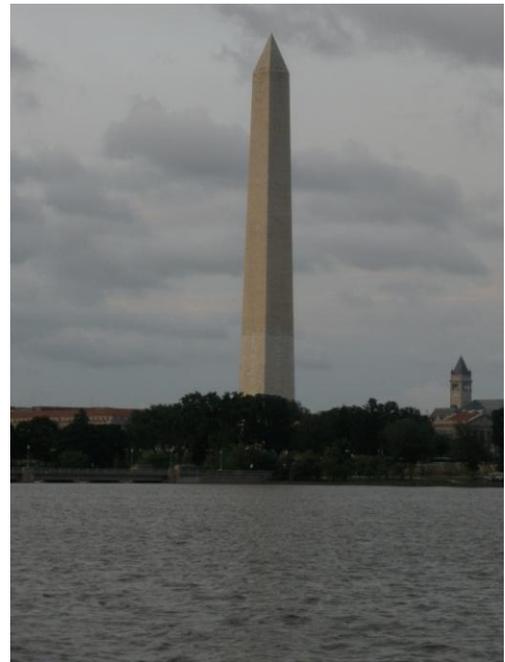
Picture from TravelChinaGuide.com
Bell Tower Xi'an China



Picture from Matthew Yingling – Jefferson Memorial from Tidal Basin



Picture from Daniel Waugh, Silk Rd. Seattle
Big Goose Pagoda Xi'an China



Picture from
L'Enfant Tomb



Picture from Matthew Yingling - View of DC from Arlington Cemetery