

# Let's Visit the White House & Washington Monument |

## Lesson Plan

How do acts of service and understanding our national heritage inspire responsible leadership?

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Students will understand the purpose and historical significance of the White House and Washington Monument through the story of Otto and Smidge. They will recognize that leadership entails duty, responsibility, and selfless service to others.

### Learning Objectives:

- Understand the role of selflessness in leadership in the story, relating them to the roles of leaders and historical figures associated with the White House and Washington Monument.
- Examine how the story represents leadership through duty and responsibility.
- Understand the historical significance and purpose of the White House and Washington Monument.
- Identify key vocabulary related to the White House and Washington Monument.

### Key Vocabulary:

- **White House:** The official home of the President of the United States and the First Family, located in Washington, D.C.
- **Washington Monument:** A structure standing just over 555 feet tall in Washington, D.C., built to honor George Washington.
- **Obelisk:** A tall, four-sided structure that commemorates an important figure and tapers to a pyramid shape at the top.
- **Selflessness:** Putting the needs and well-being of others before one's own.

**Educational Standards:** CCRA.R.7, CCRA.W.7, CCRA.L.3, CCRA.L.5, CCRA.SL.1, CCRA.SL.2, CCRA.SL.6

**Academic Subject Areas:** America, American Values, History, U.S. Monuments

### What You'll Need

- Video: Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the White House & Washington Monument (Watch [Here](#))
- Book (optional): Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the White House & Washington Monument (Purchase [Here](#))
- Worksheet: Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the White House & Washington Monument (Click [Here](#))



## Lesson Plan (45 mins.)

### Warm-Up: (10 mins.)

1. Begin by showing students images of the White House and Washington Monument.
2. Engage them in a discussion about these landmarks, focusing on their purpose, history, and significance.
3. Discuss historical figures associated with the landmarks who exemplified selflessness in their leadership roles (e.g., George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, etc.).
4. Introduce the Enduring Question: *How do acts of service and understanding our national heritage inspire responsible leadership?* And briefly discuss how it might relate to the White House and Washington Monument as symbols of leadership.
5. Lead a short conversation about examples of selflessness that students can personally relate to in their lives.

### Watch and Discuss: (15-20 mins.)

1. Watch "Otto's Tales: Let's Visit the White House & Washington Monument."
2. After the video, discuss the following topics with the students, inviting them to respond.
  - What would it be like living in a home also available to the public for tours?
  - How about living in a home, knowing it is temporary?
  - What is the difference between a king and a president? What is the role of the First Lady?
  - Why was the Washington Monument built?
  - What are some different ways Teddy, Jackie, and George helped Otto and Smidge?

### Wrap-Up: (15 mins.)

1. Create short, simple scenarios where students can act out or role-play a choice demonstrating selflessness or leadership. (e.g., sharing resources with a friend or classmate, picking up lunch bags after lunch, being kind to others, etc.). Ask for volunteers to act out the scenarios.
2. Initiate a discussion, tying back to the Enduring Question: *How do acts of service and understanding our national heritage inspire responsible leadership?*
  - Reflect on the story and discuss how selflessness was shown and its effects.
  - Ask students to share ideas on how they can apply selflessness in their own lives to resolve conflicts and be better leaders.
3. Conclude by handing the worksheet to the students to complete as a formative assessment or coloring activity.

## **Don't have time for the complete lesson? Quick Activity (15-20 mins.)**

After watching the video, discuss the concepts presented in the video, then distribute the worksheet for students to complete.