

The Lost Symbol Scavenger Hunt

Note: most people have cameras in their phones, or friends who have them, or digital cameras. Take a photo of yourself at EACH site you choose; these will be included in your report. Work in pairs or a group of three. If you have four, split up into two groups of two.

For all sites, before you visit, check the internet for information on visiting hours, locations, directions, fees, etc. so that you are prepared. We recommend using the Metro and/or busses to avoid parking hassles.

You must visit #1 and #2; pick one of the other sites listed (3 to 7). Total: three sites visited.

Before you go, bookmark the sections in *The Lost Symbol* that you will be visiting. Take your book with you. Look around each site as carefully and closely as you can. Re-read the passages where Dan Brown describes where you're visiting. Compare what you read with what you see.

Later, you will write a narrative of your trips where you will compare and contrast what you see with the descriptions in *the Lost Symbol*. You'll need to use quotations from the book, and you'll need to describe what you did and saw very carefully and clearly. These narratives will also be the foundation for your ASL presentations at the end of the semester. So take pictures that you want that will help you present what you notice.

1. Required: The Library of Congress. Look up the call number of your favorite book there, write it down/take a photo (can probably get this online), and add to your narrative a paragraph about why this is your favorite book. Look up a topic there that you need to research for a paper for any class this semester and bring a list of the sources that come up. Go there and tour the Main Reading Room in the Jefferson Building and any other areas you can access; take pictures and compare/contrast with the descriptions in the novel.
2. Required: The National Cathedral. Find a list of their gargoyles (online or from a docent there), and go there and find three of these and take photos of them. Look for the altar and the ten stones from Mount Sinai; take a picture of yourself there if you can. Try to retrace the path Langdon and Solomon take, and walk around the grounds. Go to the top and walk around for the view. Take pictures, of course. Visit the gardens and the book store if you like as well!
3. The George Washington Masonic Memorial (across from the King Street Metro). Tour this place and analyze what you see and learn in terms of the novel and Masonic imagery and information. Yes, they didn't ultimately go there, and sent the CIA on a red herring hunt, but *you* can go there.

4. Find Freedom Plaza. Take a picture, of course; analyze what you see in terms of the novel and its events.
5. Find The House of the Temple at 1733 16th St. NW, and the Almas Shrine Temple on Franklin Square near K and 13th NW. Take pictures of yourself at these places, and compare and contrast with what you see in the novel about these places. What kind of buildings are around these locations? Is there a theme?
6. Walk around Kalorama Heights. Are there mansions there that fit the descriptions of Mal'akh's house? Describe. How could he afford such a house, and how did he use his money and power to try to achieve his purposes?
7. The Washington Monument: Go there. Take a tour and go up inside it if you can get tickets. Try to see the capstone, as much as you can, and compare/contrast with the novel's description of it. Find the cornerstone at the base, reflect on the meaning of the fact that there is a copy of the Bible in there that was laid in a full Masonic ritual given what Masons believe about the Bible based on Dan Brown's book, the Illustrated Guide, and any other independent research you find.
8. Visit the US Capitol Building Visitor's Center. You can't get into the Capitol itself and the Rotunda room without an official tour, which is a bit of a headache to set up, but if you want to request a tour pass either through your Congressional or Senate Representatives or the Capitol website and can get in before the due date, that is up to you. How does the Visitor's Center present the history and atmosphere of the building? How does this compare with Dan Brown's book?

DUE: March 1st