

Why America? Hamilton's Vision

In partnership with the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center

Who Am I?





There are many statues in the United States Capitol. Statues come to the Capitol in different ways. Every state sends two statues to the Capitol.

The statues honor someone important who lived in that state. You can see 14 state statues and a statue that is a gift to Congress from the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. (Frederick Douglass), in Emancipation Hall.

Let's take a closer look at the statues. The artists give us clues about the person honored by including something about the person in the statue. The clues include clothing and objects found next to or held by the person. See if you can find these statues by the clues below:

O Jack Swigert, Jr., (Colorado)
was a pilot and astronaut. He
was a member of the 1970 Apollo
moon mission and spent nearly
six days in space before returning

safely to earth. Later, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

O Helen Keller

(Alabama) could not speak or hear. When she was a **child**, she learned to "talk" using sign language. Her first word using sign language was "water." She was the first blind and deaf person to graduate from college.

O Chief Washakie (Wyoming) worked to keep Indian land in his state. He was a member of the Shoshone tribe but could speak other languages as well. He wears a head dress and some of his clothing is painted in color!

Chawaii) was a warrior and king who united all the people who lived in the Hawaiian Islands. Because

he is a king, he wears a robe and helmet of **gold bird feathers**. Sometimes he was called Kamehameha the Great.

O Philo Farnsworth (*Utah*) is called the "father of television" because his ideas — some from when he was in high school — resulted in the invention of TV. He is shown holding a **tube** that was used in a camera.





Sakakawea (North Dakota) is known for her courage in helping explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Since she traveled carrying her baby, other tribes knew

that the explorers came in peace.

Frederick Douglass (statue donated by Washington, D.C.) was born into slavery and became a supporter of equality of all people and human rights.

He published three autobiographies over



his lifetime and started a **newspaper**, *The North Star*. Later in life he made Washington, D.C. his home.

- Mother Joseph (Washington) planned schools and hospitals for the Northwest Territories. She was a Catholic nun. Look for tools used for designing buildings that surround her dress.
- Sarah Winnemucca (Nevada) holds a shellflower, which is her name in her Paiute tribe language. She started a school for Native American children and was the first Native American woman to write a book (her life story).
 - Jeannette Rankin (Montana)
 worked for peace and women's rights. She was the first woman elected to Congress and is shown holding a paper or document.

- O **Po'Pay** (New Mexico) fought against the Spanish in 1680 to help his Pueblo tribe. He was a religious and spiritual leader. The Pueblo people are known for their beautiful **pottery**.
 - O Joseph Ward (South Dakota) traveled to Dakota Territory and opened a school and college. He wanted South Dakota to become a state and helped to write the South Dakota Constitution.
- Eusebio Kino (Arizona) was a priest who was born in Italy but went on expeditions to Mexico and California. He built roads and churches and is holding an "astrolabe," a tool used to determine locations using the stars for guidance.
- William Borah (Idaho) was a great speechmaker and an important member of the U.S. Senate. He is shown standing next to a column with papers representing laws on top of it.
- Maria Sanford (Minnesota) believed that women should have the right to vote and that all children should be educated. She was one of the first women to teach at a college and is holding a book.



The large plaster statue in Emancipation Hall is called Freedom.

When sculptors use bronze to make a statue, they first make a plaster statue that is used to shape the hot, liquid bronze.

The bronze statue of Freedom was placed on the Capitol Dome (in 1863!) but you can see the plaster model in Emancipation Hall. Check out the panels surrounding Freedom that tell her story.

As you walk through the Capitol with your tour guide, pay close attention to the statues. What can you tell about an honored person from observing his or her statue?

