



Arlington National Cemetery Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

Located in Virginia, across the Potomac River from Washington, D.C., the national cemetery of the United States is the hallowed resting place of more than 400,000 American citizens and foreign nationals who have given their lives to defending this country. Among these are notable figures, including President John F. Kennedy and civil rights activist and WWII veteran Medgar Evers. What else do you know about the history and significance of Arlington National Cemetery? In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



Learn about Arlington National Cemetery, its history, and trivia about some of the people who are buried there.
EXPLORE: <http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil>

1. What do you already know about Arlington National Cemetery?

2. When was the Arlington National Cemetery designated as a military cemetery?

3. How many unknowns are buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns? Which wars are they from, and when were they buried there?

4. Why is there no soldier from the Vietnam War buried in the Tomb of the Unknowns?

5. Name five things of interest to you that were placed in a cornerstone of the Memorial Amphitheater.

6. Which presidents are buried in Arlington National Cemetery?

7. What is the origin of the name "Arlington"?

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8. How did Pierre Charles L'Enfant come to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery?

9. What is the nickname of the Army's official ceremonial unit?

10. Who guards the Tomb of the Unknowns? Describe the qualifications the guards must meet.

11. How often does the changing of the guard take place?

12. Who can participate in a wreath laying ceremony?

13. List three specific groups of people who are eligible to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Read about Arlington House, located within the grounds of the cemetery.

EXPLORE: <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/Explore/History/Arlington-House>

13. Explain the connection between the Arlington Mansion and the families of George Washington and Robert E. Lee. How did the mansion and its surrounding land become Arlington National Cemetery?

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*

1. Based on what you've learned and read about on the website, what do you think will be the most memorable part of your visit to Arlington National Cemetery?

2. Is it good for our country to have a national cemetery such as Arlington National Cemetery? Why or why not?

3. Imagine what it is like to be a member of the Tomb Guard Sentinels. Why do you think someone would choose to become a sentinel?

4. Why do you think a family member of a fallen soldier would choose to have their loved one buried at Arlington? What are some reasons they would choose not to have them buried there?