Name: _____

The Pentagon

By Olivia Mendoza

Most buildings are squares or rectangles. Some are oval-shaped, like sports stadiums. Buildings in other shapes like triangles or octagons are rare. However, there is a famous five-sided building in the United States—and it has a very important job.

The Pentagon is located on one side of the Potomac River, across from the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Even though it's built in Virginia, it's still considered part of D.C. It is the headquarters for the United States Department

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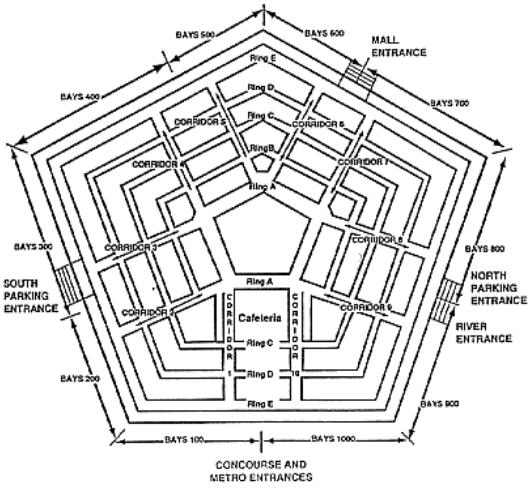
President Franklin D. Roosevelt needed a new building. There were only two requirements. First, it had to use as little steel as possible. Steel needed to be saved for the war. Second, it couldn't be taller than 5 floors. They spent two years and over $83 million (over $1 billion today!) making a new headquarters. In 1943, the Pentagon finished construction. Its insides were later renovated, or rebuilt and updated, between 1998 and 2011.



The U.S. military performs, or carries out, operations in the Pentagon. Branches like the Army, Navy, and Air Force all use the building. But the DOD is more than just the military! Over 26,000 people work in the Pentagon. Many are civilian, meaning they aren't in the

military. Some perform jobs like gathering intelligence to help the government and military make decisions. Many make sure money is spent on the correct projects. Others are lawyers who make sure everyone else follows the law. A lot of the work is keeping clear records. In fact, most of the 6.5 million square feet of floor space looks just like a busy office. The Pentagon is the largest office building in the world!

So why five sides? The place where the Pentagon was supposed to be built was kind of shaped like a pentagon. The building location changed later. But President Roosevelt liked the design so much that he kept it anyway!

The Pentagon is built with 5 rings, or bands of rooms, that are named with letters. The 10 intersecting

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Name: _____

The Pentagon

By Olivia Mendoza

1. What were President Roosevelt's two requirements for building a new headquarters for the Department of War (later Department of Defense)?

1. _____

2. _____

2. Reread the following sentence from the article.

> *The U.S. military performs, or carries out, operations in the Pentagon.*

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_____

_____

_____

4. Why was the Pentagon designed with five sides?

- **a.** Having five sides gives the most possible office space.
- **b.** There are five branches of the U.S. military.
- **c.** They wanted more sides, but didn't have enough time or money.
- **d.** The original building location was shaped roughly like a pentagon.

5. Why do you think the government wanted to renovate the Pentagon? Use one or more facts from the article to support your answer.

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____

The Pentagon

By Olivia Mendoza

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____ n o r v t a e e

clue: *to rebuild or update*

2. _____ y i m r a t l i

clue: *a country's armed forces*

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6. _____ m P a o c o t

clue: *river between Washington, D.C. and Virginia*

7. _____ c e s b a r h n

clue: *different parts of something*

8. _____ q h u r e r e t a d a s

clue: *the main place where something operates*

9. _____ t m e r e q i u n r e

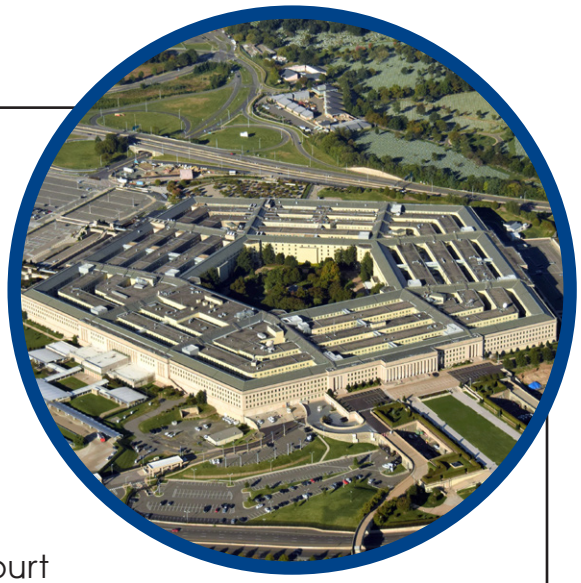
clue: *something that is needed; a condition to be met*

10. _____ g i d s e n

clue: *a plan or drawing showing how something will look*

Name: _____

The Pentagon



By Olivia Mendoza

In the article, "The Pentagon," you learned about one of the main buildings used by the United States government. It houses military and intelligence leadership.

The White House, the Capitol Building, the Supreme Court Building, and the Library of Congress are also important government buildings. Use the internet to research one of those buildings. Write one or two paragraphs about your building. Make sure to include where it is, when it was built, who uses it, and what happens there.

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ANSWER KEY

The Pentagon

By Olivia Mendoza

1. What were President Roosevelt's two requirements for building a new headquarters for the Department of War (later Department of Defense)?

   1. **Make it no taller than 5 floors.**
   2. **Use as little steel as possible.**

2. Reread the following sentence from the article.

> *The U.S. military performs, or carries out, operations in the Pentagon.*

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Answers will vary. An example is: The Pentagon is an important government building, so we consider it part of the capital.

4. Why was the Pentagon designed with five sides?

   a. Having five sides gives the most possible office space.
   b. There are five branches of the U.S. military.
   c. They wanted more sides, but didn't have enough time or money.
   d. The original building location was shaped roughly like a pentagon.

5. Why do you think the government wanted to renovate the Pentagon? Use one or more facts from the article to support your answer.

Answers will vary. An example is: The Pentagon was built in 1943. We had a lot of new technology by 1998 that the government wanted to use.

ANSWER KEY

The Pentagon

By Olivia Mendoza

The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. renovate — n o r v t a e e
   clue: *to rebuild or update*

2. military — y i m r a t l i
   clue: *a country's armed forces*

Preview
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6. Potomac — m P a o c o t
   clue: *river between Washington, D.C. and Virginia*

7. branches — c e s b a r h n
   clue: *different parts of something*

8. headquarters — q h u r e r e t a d a s
   clue: *the main place where something operates*

9. requirement — t m e r e q i u n r e
   clue: *something that is needed; a condition to be met*

10. design — g i d s e n
    clue: *a plan or drawing showing how something will look*