

Fact and opinion

Grade 5 Reading Comprehension Worksheet

As you read Marco's letter from Uncle Ben, think about what parts are **fact** and what parts are **opinion**.

If something is *true*, or it *really happened*, it is a **fact**.
If something is *what someone thinks or believes*, it is an **opinion**.

Marco got a letter from his Uncle Ben, the airplane pilot.

Dear Marco,

I'm so glad you're coming to visit me here in Washington D.C. I'm sending you a flyer that has pictures and descriptions of some of the places we'll be visiting. You'll be here just in time for the National Cherry Blossom Festival. The 3,000 trees were a gift to the city from Japan in 1912.

Here's a bit of background on our capital city. Washington D.C. didn't exist before the U.S. Constitution was signed. The creators of the Constitution decided that the new country needed a new city for its capital. It didn't seem fair for the country's capital to be in any one state, so the states of Virginia and Maryland each gave up some of their land to be the District of Columbia, which is not a part of any state. It is pretty amazing that these states gave up part of their land. Countries have waged wars that lasted for years over ownership of even less land that these states gave up.

So a new city was built. The heart of the city is the National Mall. The Mall is a two-mile park that stretches east to west from the Capital Building at the far east side to the Lincoln Memorial on the far west side. Along the two-mile stretch, there are all kinds of museums and galleries—and cherry trees! Toward the middle, on the north side of the Mall, is the White House. The White House faces the Washington Memorial. Inside the Memorial, you can take an elevator to the top and look out over the entire city. From there, the view of the Capital Building is amazing. The National Mall is a tribute to this country's strength and beauty.

At the far west end of the Mall is the grand Lincoln Memorial. I'm sure you've seen pictures of the enormous statue of Abraham Lincoln. The way he sits makes the chair look like a throne. Lincoln's face looks like he is thinking about an important problem, and one of his hands is closed in a fist, as if he has just made a decision.

I'm looking forward to seeing you and showing you all around D.C.!

Yours truly,

Uncle Ben



Here are some things Uncle Ben said in his letter. Which ones are **facts** and which are Uncle Ben's **opinions**? Circle the word "fact" or the word "opinion."

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|-----|--|------|---------|
| 1. | Uncle Ben thinks Marco is going to like Washington, D.C. | fact | opinion |
| 2. | 3,000 cherry trees were a gift to the city from Japan. | fact | opinion |
| 3. | Washington, D.C. didn't exist before the U.S. Constitution was signed. | fact | opinion |
| 4. | The creators of the Constitution decided that the new country needed a new city for its capital. | fact | opinion |
| 5. | It didn't seem fair that the new country's capital should be in any one state. | fact | opinion |
| 6. | The states of Virginia and Maryland each gave up part of their land. | fact | opinion |
| 7. | It is amazing that these states gave up part of their land. | fact | opinion |
| 8. | The Capital Building faces a two-mile park called the National Mall. | fact | opinion |
| 9. | The view of the Capital Building from the top of the Washington Memorial is amazing. | fact | opinion |
| 10. | The National Mall is a tribute to this country's strength and beauty. | fact | opinion |
| 11. | The White House is part of the National Mall. | fact | opinion |
| 12. | The White House faces the Washington Memorial. | fact | opinion |
| 13. | The way Lincoln sits, in the Lincoln Memorial statue, makes the chair look like a throne. | fact | opinion |
| 14. | One of Lincoln's hands is closed in a fist. | fact | opinion |
| 15. | Lincoln's closed fist looks makes it look like he has just made a decision. | fact | opinion |
| 16. | What is one other fact from Uncle Ben's letter about Washington D.C.? | | |

Answers

1. opinion
2. fact
3. fact
4. fact
5. opinion
6. fact
7. opinion
8. opinion
9. fact
10. opinion
11. fact
12. fact
13. opinion
14. fact
15. opinion
16. Accept any reasonable response.