

Welcome to the Thomas Jefferson Building!

Students must be accompanied by chaperones at all times.

- **Chaperones are responsible for students' behavior and whereabouts.**
 - The Library asks that 1 adult accompany every 8 students.
 - Larger groups should break up into smaller groups, each led by a teacher and/or chaperone.

Before touring the Library, please remind your group of the following guidelines and tips:

- Watch your step. Use handrails on staircases and steps may be uneven.
- Do not stop on the steps and keep to the right.
- Do not block doorways, stairwells or corridors. Please do not sit on stairs or floors.
- Observe signage, and do not enter areas that are restricted or roped off.
- Photography is permitted. However, flash photography is prohibited in several areas as indicated by signs.
- Turn all cell phones and other electronic devices to silent mode and do not use while in motion.
- Dispose of all open food, drink and gum before the start of your Library visit.
- Advise your group to present all packages, purses, backpacks, etc., for inspection as you exit.

- **In an emergency**, move towards the nearest exit; follow US Capitol Police and staff directions.

Below are two suggested paths based on your available time:

<i>In 15–30 Minutes</i>	<i>In 30–60+ Minutes</i>
Great Hall and Bible Gallery	Main Reading Room Overlook*
First Floor Exhibition— <i>Mapping a New Nation</i>	Second Floor Exhibition— <i>Exploring the Early Americas</i>
Main Reading Room Overlook*	Great Hall and Bible Gallery
	Ground Floor Exhibitions

*You may have to wait to enter the Main Reading Room Overlook for 10–15 minutes, during peak visitation times. Staff will direct you to the line and will facilitate entry.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact the Visitor Services Office at 202–707–9779 or at vso@loc.gov



Please see the reverse for maps and interesting facts. Enjoy your visit!

The Jefferson Building Highlights

The **Giant Bible of Mainz** and the **Gutenberg Bible** were both created in **Mainz, Germany**, in the mid-1450s.

The **Giant Bible of Mainz** was written entirely by hand by a scribe with a quill. The **Gutenberg Bible** was the first book printed with a movable metal type printing press in Western Europe.

The lunette panels in the Bibles Gallery, *The Evolution of the Book*, depict human communication throughout history from pre-historic times through the invention of the printing press.

The **Main Reading Room** is the largest and most elaborate of the Library's 20 research centers. The 8 plaster female figures around the room represent 8 subjects for study. The 16 bronze statues beneath them portray men known for their achievements in these areas, such as art and history.

The **Waldseemüller 1507 world map** was the first map to use the name "America." This is the only known surviving copy.

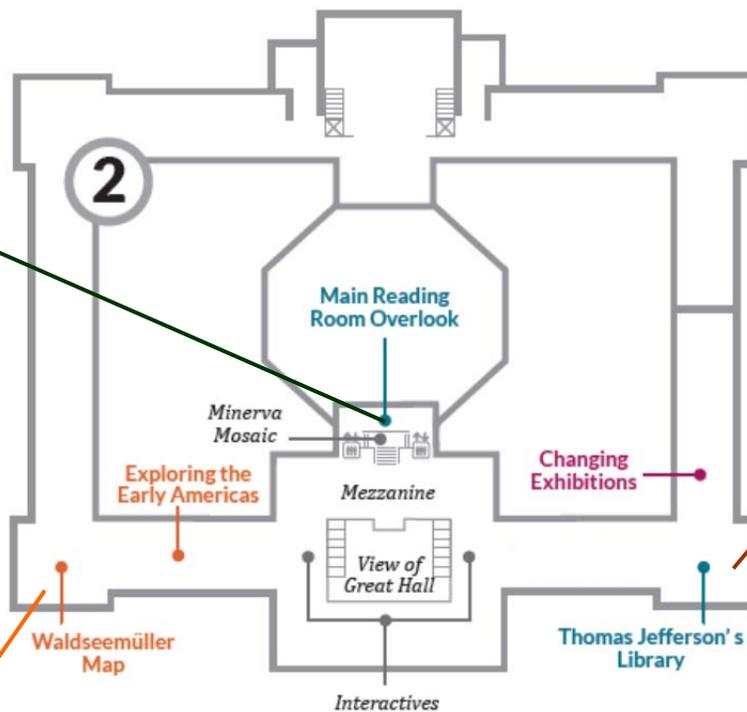
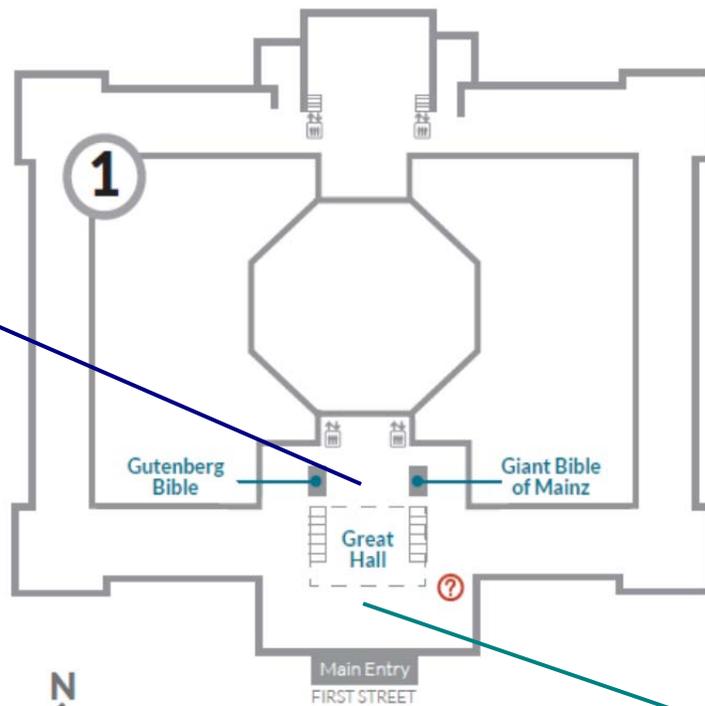
The **Library of Congress** was established in 1800. This building, named for **Thomas Jefferson**, opened in 1897. The original collections were housed in the Capitol Building.

The Library of Congress is the **largest library in the world**, with more than 158 million items in its collections, including books, photographs, maps, sound recordings, films, and manuscripts.

The Jefferson Building was designed to be a library. The **Great Hall's** decorations, art, and architecture relate to **learning, literature, knowledge, creativity, and achievement**. The triangular vaults near the ceiling contain names of the world's leading writers and thinkers.

British soldiers burned the Capitol in 1814 during the War of 1812, destroying the Library's original collections. In January 1815, Congress purchased **Thomas Jefferson's personal collection of 6,487 books** to re-establish the Library.

Thomas Jefferson collected books for 50 years on many different subjects and in many languages. He organized his library into three overall categories – **Memory (History), Reason (Philosophy), and Imagination (Fine Arts)**.



Exit, Restrooms and Shop at Ground Level