**Прочитайте и переведите текст на русский язык**

**Washington, DC**

Washington, DC is the capital of the United States of America. It is situated in the mouth of the Potomac River, in the District of Columbia (DC), not belonging to any state. The city is unique in its own way — it was specially designed as the capital of the USA. The architect, who drew up the plan of the city, Pierre 1’Enfant, wanted it to be very convenient. The place for the capital was chosen by the first president, George Washington, and in 1800 the Government moved there.

There are a lot of Governmental offices, but probably the best known, as well as the most important for the country’s life are the White House and the Capitol. The White House is the official residence of the President of the United States. It was built in 1799. It is a three-storeyed house where the President and his family live. At the same time it is the place where official receptions are held and the administration gathers for the meetings. The Capitol is the seat of the Congress. The comer stone of the Congress was laid by George Washington in 1790. The Congress has two chambers: the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The city of Washington, DC is rather large and very beautiful, being at the same time different from all the other cities in the USA, because there are no skyscrapers. According to the law, no house in Washington, DC must be higher than the Capitol.

Washington, DC has the population of about 900,000 people. Being the administrative centre of the country, it doesn’t have any industry. They say, nothing is produced in Washington, DC except wastepaper. Thousands of documents are drafted, approved or denied in the city every day. People living there either belong to the administration, or are employed in the service industry. Besides, thousands of tourists come to see the capital of the country. There is a lot to be seen: Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Library of Congress, the Washington Monument and much more. The Washington Monument is the most remarkable of these: it is a column rising 160 metres, and from the top of it the visitors can enjoy the view over the city. Among the attractions of the capital it is necessary to mention the museums: the National Gallery of Art, the National Museum of History and Technology, and others.

1. **Answer the following questions:**

1. Where is Washington, DC situated?

2. Why is the city unique?

3. When did the government move to Washington, DC?

4. Where is the official residence of the President of the USA situated?

5. What is the Capitol?

6. How many chambers are there in the Congress?

7. Why aren’t there any skyscrapers in Washington, DC?

8. What is the population of the city?

9. Is there any industry in Washington, DC?

10. What are the main attractions of the city?

2.**Translate into English.**

Вашингтон, округ Колумбия, — не очень крупный город по американским меркам. В нем проживает около 900 тысяч человек. Это очень красивый город со множеством интересных мест и достопримечательностей, главные из которых — Белый дом и Капитолий. Белый дом является официальной резиденцией президента Соединенных Штатов, где он живет со своей семьей, работает и устраивает официальные приемы. Капитолий — место заседания парламента страны. Американский парламент состоит из двух палат — палаты представителей и сената. Первый камень Капитолия заложил первый президент США Джордж Вашингтон в 1790 году.

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