



# ACTIVITIES FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

EXCERPTS SELECTED BY THE *GREEN BAG*

*Office of the Curator, Supreme Court of the United States*

“The Curator’s Office was created by Chief Justice Warren E. Burger in 1973 to record and preserve the Court’s history. Our mission is to promote a greater public understanding and appreciation of the nation’s highest court. To this end, we collect the institution’s rich history, share it with a diverse audience through a variety of programs, and preserve it for future generations.”<sup>1</sup> One way Curator Catherine Fitts and her staff share with the public the history they preserve is by producing a steady stream of useful and interesting publications on subjects ranging from judicial oaths to friezes to flagpoles to furniture.<sup>2</sup> Their latest is a series of pdfs and online activities – created by Visitor Programs Manager Nikki Peronace and Visitor Programs Assistant Katherine Chatt – designed for young people. But we think they are good for grown-ups too. With the permission the Curator, we offer a few enticing excerpts here.

— *The Editors*

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<sup>1</sup> Internships in the Office of the Curator, [https://www.supremecourt.gov/jobs/curatorial\\_internship/internshipinfosheet.aspx](https://www.supremecourt.gov/jobs/curatorial_internship/internshipinfosheet.aspx).

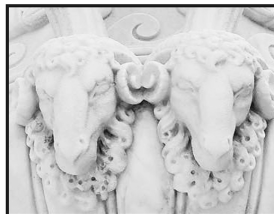
<sup>2</sup> Supreme Court Oaths History and Traditions, <https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/oath/oathshistoryandtraditions06-30-22.pdf>; Oaths of Office Taken by the Current Court, [https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/oath/oathsofthecurrentcourt\\_09-30-2022.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/oath/oathsofthecurrentcourt_09-30-2022.pdf); Self-Guide to the Building’s Interior Architecture, [https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/interiorbrochurewebversion\\_final\\_may2022.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/interiorbrochurewebversion_final_may2022.pdf); Plaza Flagpoles, <https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/flagpoles.pdf>; Chief Justice John Marshall’s Bench Chair, <https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/oath/johnmarshallchairinfosheet.pdf>.

# Animals in the Architecture

## Animal Symbolism at the Supreme Court

The architect, Cass Gilbert, believed that the Supreme Court Building's function should be obvious from its architecture and symbolism. In other words, visitors should be able to tell just from looking at the building and its architectural features that it is a court of law. In addition to symbols associated with the law, there are many animals featured in the building design. Can you find the animals pictured below? What do you think these animals symbolize?

**Hint:** Some of the animals are located on the outside of the building!



*A challenge for Appellate Twitter: Identify where on or in the Supreme Court building these animals are, without peeking. Answer key on page 15 of the "Supreme Court of the United States Activity Booklet." [https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/activities/pdf/Activity\\_Book\\_Web\\_Version\\_Oct2021.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/activities/pdf/Activity_Book_Web_Version_Oct2021.pdf).*

## Activities for Students and Families (excerpts)



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### Games and Puzzles

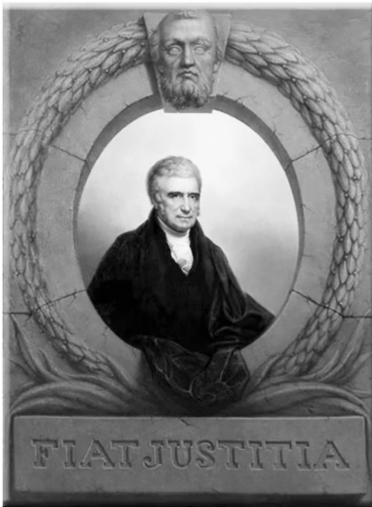
Detect the Differences: John Marshall's Portrait



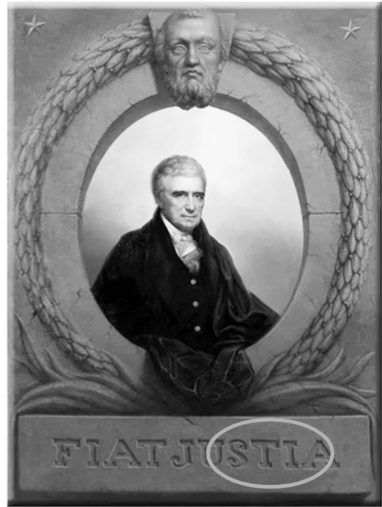
Look Closely and... Detect the Differences!

There are 9 differences between the portrait of Chief Justice John Marshall on the left and the modified version on the right. Can you find them all?

Differences Remaining: 8



Click on the differences that you find.



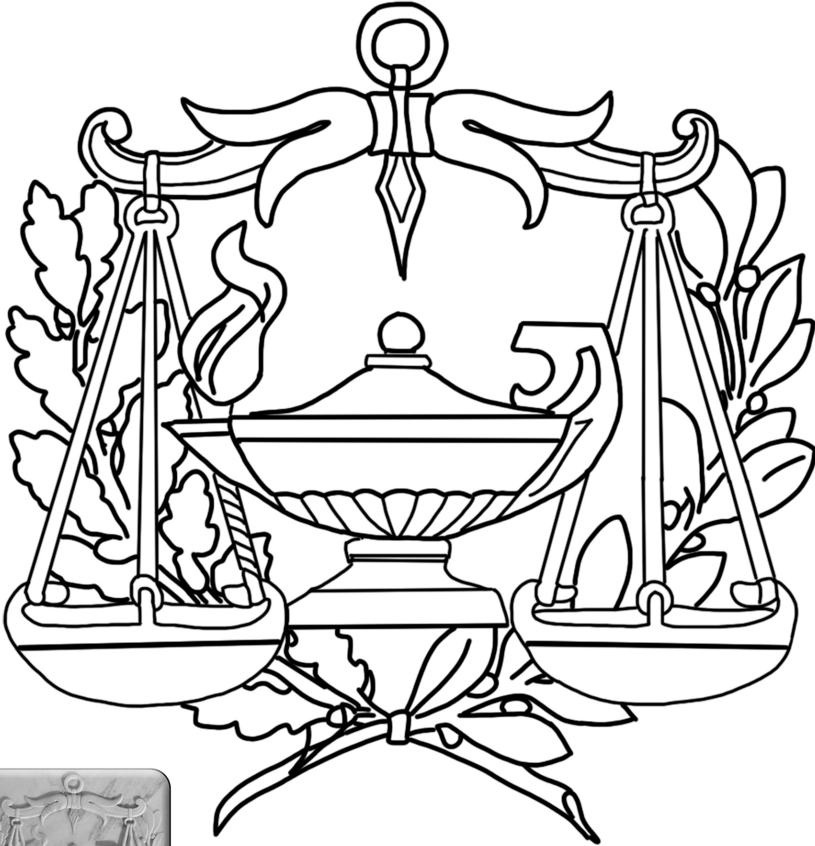
Reveal the Differences

*We've found one of the nine online "Detect the Differences: John Marshall's Portrait."*

*Opening the accompanying pdf draws us in to the meaning of the different word.*

*[https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/games\\_puzzles.aspx](https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/games_puzzles.aspx).*

## Color the Scales and Lamp!

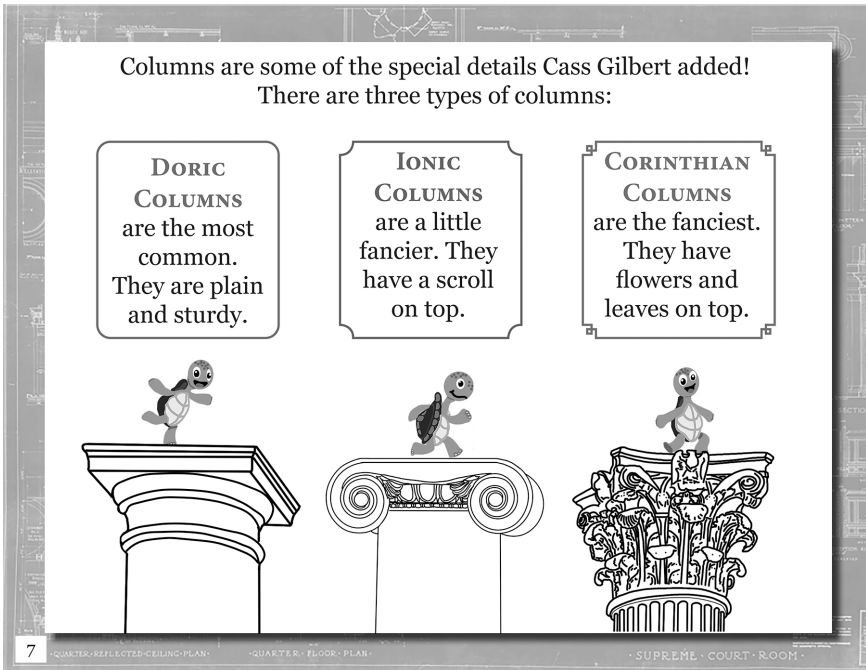


Identified as “Scales and Lamp,” by the Supreme Court Building’s architect, Cass Gilbert, the image above symbolizes **justice** and **wisdom**. This carving and many other symbols associated with the law appear in the Great Hall.

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*One of 11 (not including the cover) colorful lessons in the “Supreme Court of the United States Coloring Booklet.” [https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/activities/pdf/ColoringBooklet\\_Web\\_Version\\_Oct2021.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/activities/pdf/ColoringBooklet_Web_Version_Oct2021.pdf).*

## Activities for Students and Families (excerpts)



*A lesson with Lex, a cheery version of the Court's tortoises, from page 7 of the "Supreme Court of the United States Kids' Activity Booklet." [https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/activities/pdf/KidsActivityBook\\_Jul2022\\_web.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/visiting/activities/pdf/KidsActivityBook_Jul2022_web.pdf). On the next page, young readers learn how many columns there are in the Great Hall. Which brings us to a second challenge for Appellate Twitter, again with no peeking: How many columns?*

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