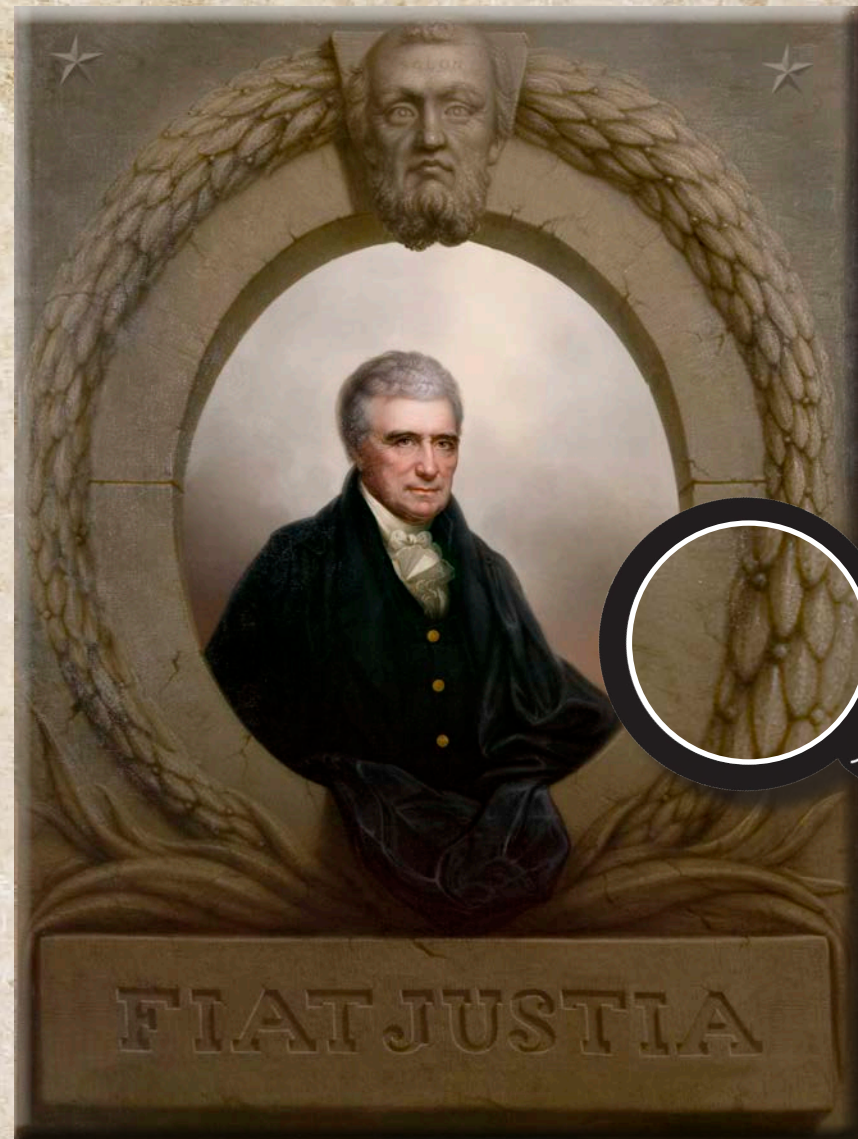
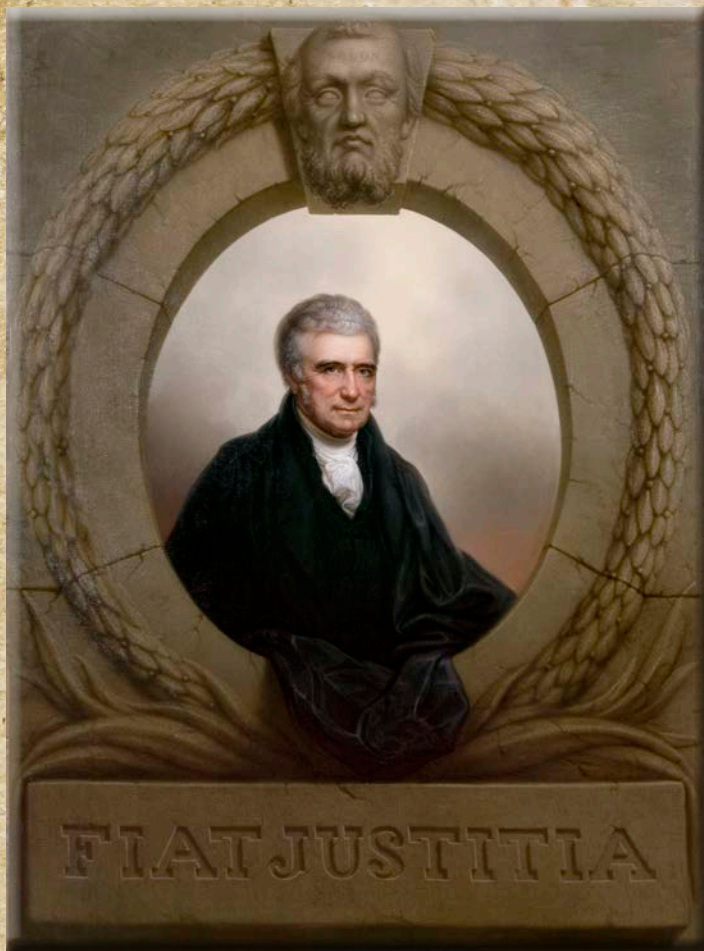


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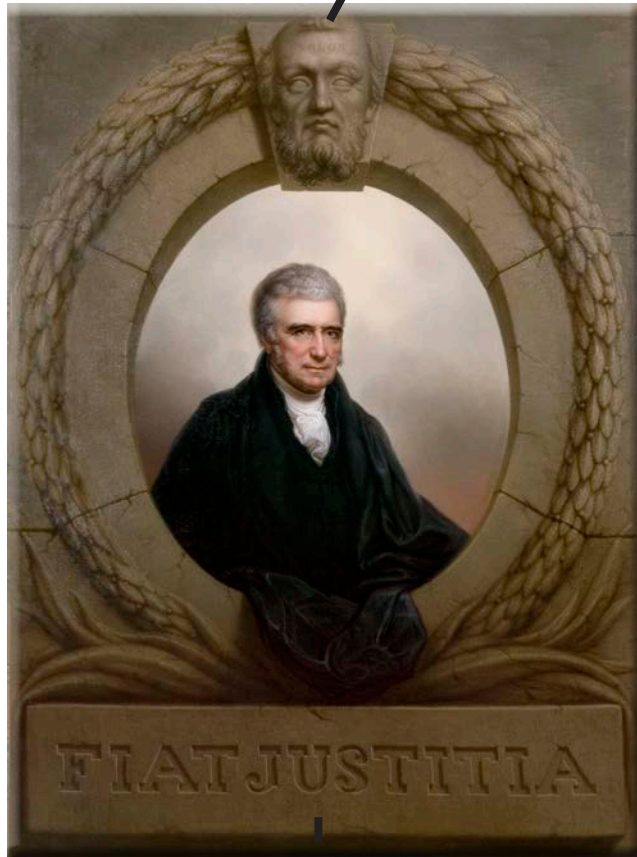
Detect the Differences: John Marshall's Portrait



Portrait of Chief Justice John Marshall (1775–1835) by Rembrandt Peale, 1834



Solon



"Let Justice Be Done"

This portrait of the nation's fourth Chief Justice, John Marshall, was painted by American artist Rembrandt Peale (1778–1860). To emphasize the heroic nature of his subject, Peale placed Marshall behind an oval stone wall from which he gazes down upon the viewer. To reflect the Chief Justice's contribution to the law, additional symbolism was incorporated into the portrait: the keystone features the head of the Greek lawgiver **Solon**, connecting Marshall with the great lawgivers of history; and across the bottom, as if chiseled in stone, is the Latin phrase "**FIAT JUSTITIA**," meaning "*Let justice be done.*"



The olive and palm leaves that decorate the oval stone wall symbolize peace and achievement.



Marshall's neckwear is called a **cravat**, a popular neckcloth during the Federal Period (1786–1820). Starched and then tied around the neck in intricate knots, a cravat could be fashioned into many elaborate styles.

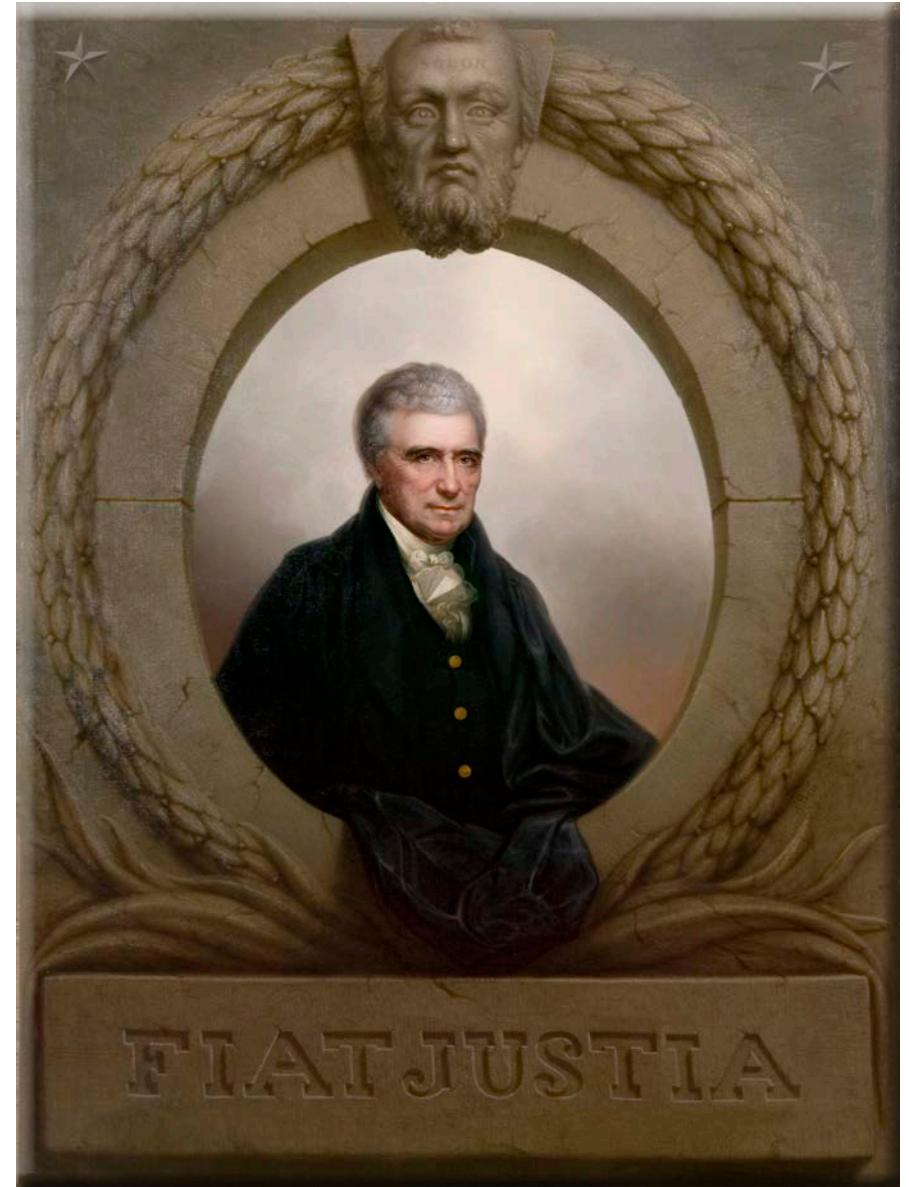
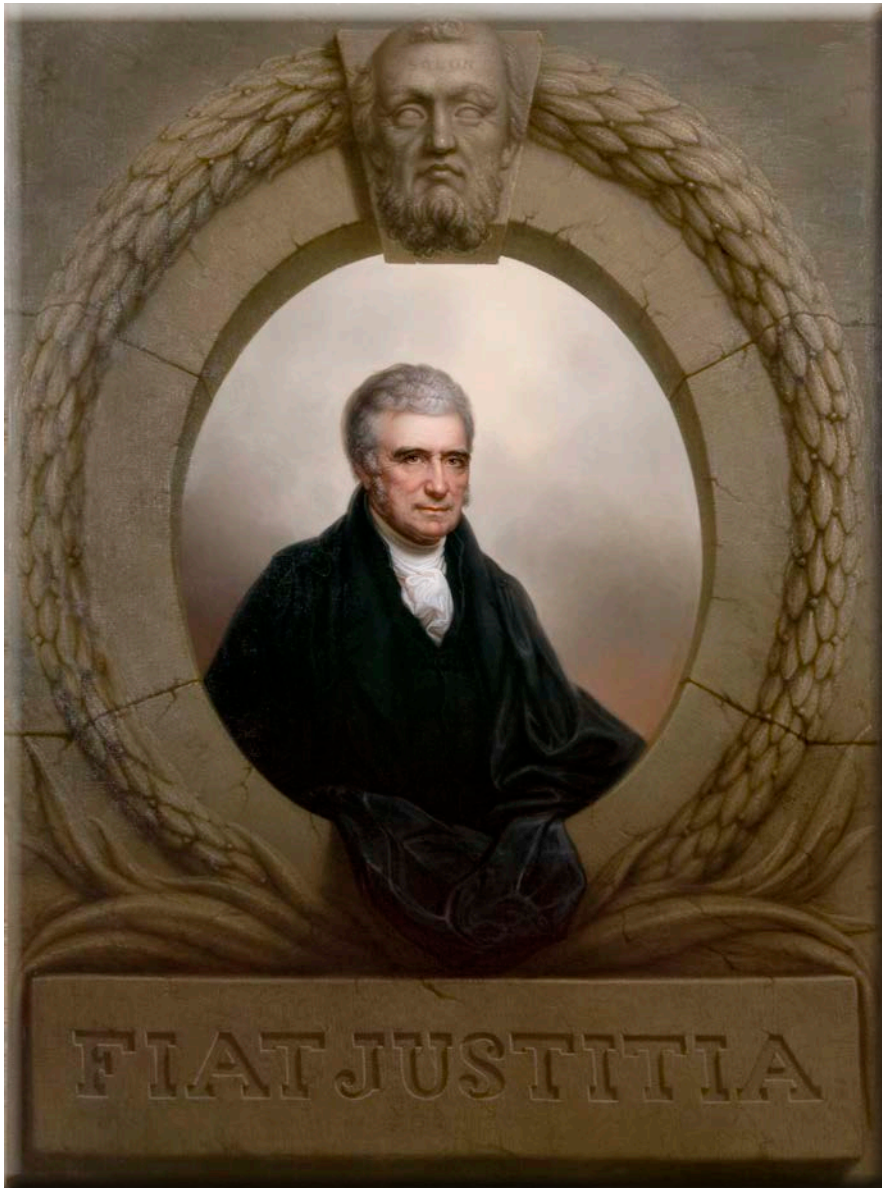


Peale used a technique called **trompe l'oeil** which is French for "*to trick the eye.*" It is a method for making a two-dimensional surface, such as a canvas, appear as if it were three-dimensional, creating the illusion of depth.



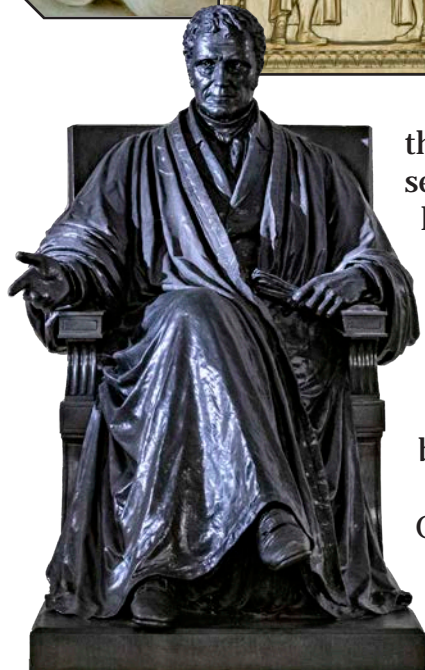
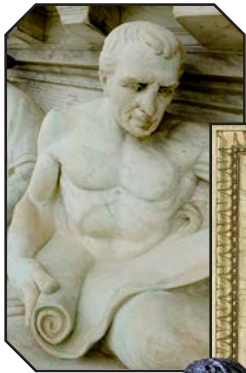
Look Closely and... Detect the Differences!

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?



More to Explore...

Representations of Chief Justice John Marshall appear throughout the Supreme Court Building. Outside the building, Marshall is featured in the West Pediment, the triangular upper part of the front of the building, as a figure representing “*Research Past*.” On the bronze front doors, which can only be seen when the building is closed, Marshall appears in the top panel on the right alongside Justice Joseph Story.



Inside the building, a bronze statue of Marshall sits in the center of the ground floor. Sculpted by William Wetmore Story in 1883, the statue depicts Marshall seated in his judicial robe with his right hand outstretched as if he were discussing the document curled up in his left hand. Also on the ground floor is a half-length portrait of Marshall painted by Robert M. Sully in 1830.

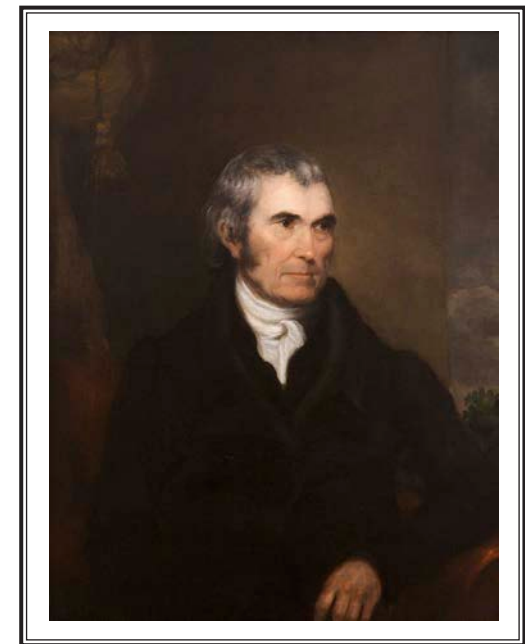


On the first floor in the Great Hall, there is a marble bust of Marshall, showing him draped in classical robes. Marshall also appears in the West Wall Frieze of

the Courtroom, one of four horizontal bands of sculpted decoration just beneath the ceiling. Marshall is part of a procession of “*great lawgivers of history*” selected by the artist, Adolph Weinman, and is the only American depicted in the frieze.



Peale’s portrait of Chief Justice John Marshall is located in the East Conference Room, a ceremonial meeting room in the Supreme Court Building.

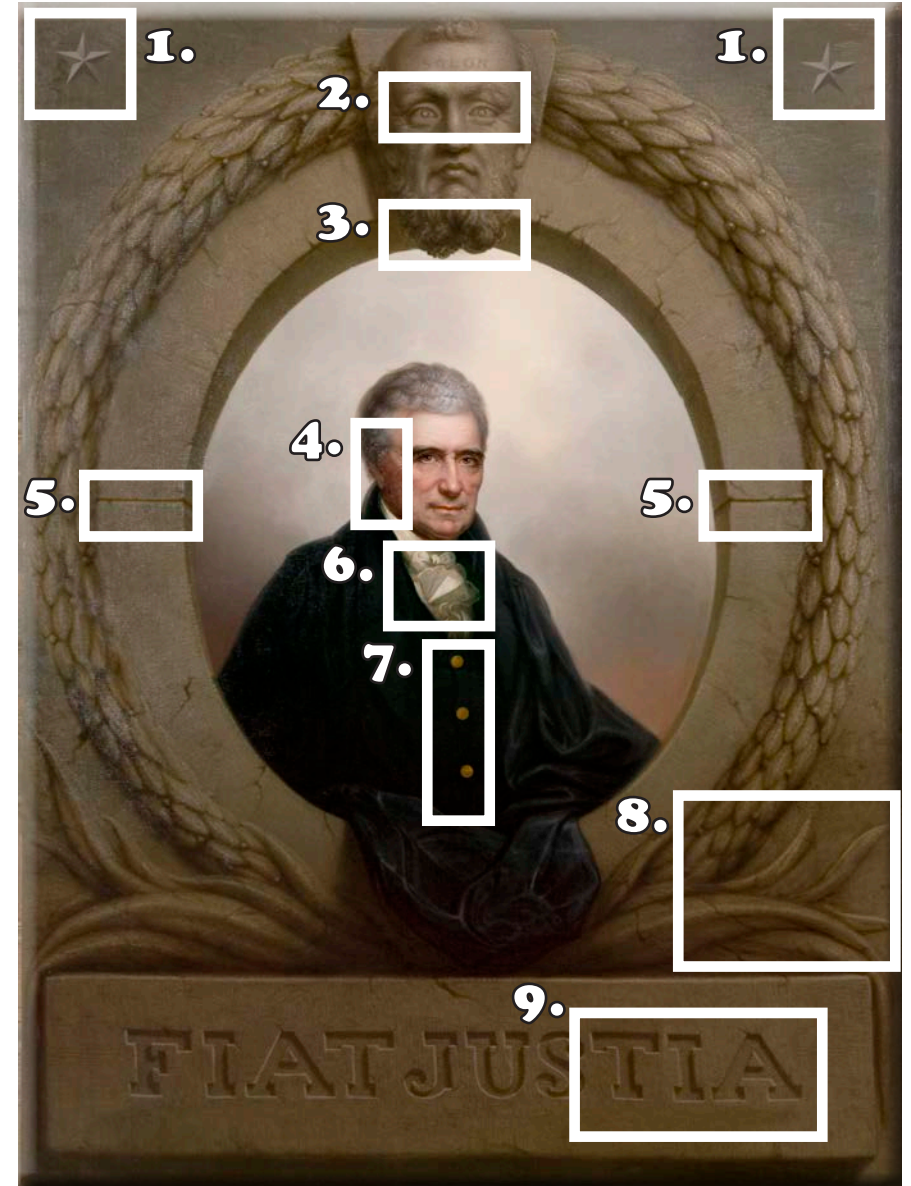


How is Robert M. Sully’s portrait of John Marshall (shown above) similar to the one by Rembrandt Peale? In what ways is it different? Which portrait do you prefer?



Detect the Differences ~ Answer Key

- 1.** Stars in the top corners
- 2.** Solon's eyes are filled in
- 3.** No stone beneath Solon's chin
- 4.** Marshall has no sideburns
- 5.** Different seams in the stone oval
- 6.** Marshall's neckwear is different
- 7.** Marshall has three gold buttons on his vest
- 8.** Some of the plant-like tendrils are missing
- 9.** "*Justitia*" is spelled incorrectly





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