



White House Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

At the turn of the nineteenth century, democracy was still a novel form of government and it was uncommon for leaders in other countries to voluntarily leave and relinquish control of power. Elections for heads of state were rare, after all. While not as grand as some European palaces, the White House elegantly serves as a home and working office for our nation's temporary executive. In both name and image, it is an iconic representation of American democracy and is one of the most recognizable buildings in the world. In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



Learn about the history of the White House.

READ: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/White-House-Washington-DC>

1. Who designed the President's residence and how was he selected?

Answer: James Hoban was selected in a contest. He won \$500.

2. When did construction start? What group of people were among the builders of the White House?

Answer: October 13, 1792. Slaves were used.

3. Who was the first president to live in the White House?

Answer: John Adams

4. What happened to the White House during the War of 1812?

Answer: It was burned by the British

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5. During reconstruction of the White House, what was added?

Answer: East and west terraces on the main building's flanks; a semicircular south portico and a colonnaded north portico.

6. It is said that the White House belongs to the people. Why is this true?

Answer: The President only stays there as long as the people want him/her there through elections. Once a new President is elected, the former President leaves the White House.

7. What were some of the major renovations made to the White House in the 1900s?

Answer: Under Teddy Roosevelt, the second-floor offices were converted to family living quarters. In 1902 the West Wing was constructed for more room for the presidential staff and more room for the president. The East Wing was constructed in 1942 for more office space. In 1948, the entire inner structure was rebuilt and a second-floor balcony was added. In the 1960s Jacqueline Kennedy collected and displayed items of artistic and historic value.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*



Read about some of the other additions made to the White House over the years.
READ: <https://www.businessinsider.com/white-house-facts-rooms-2018-2>

1. If you were the President of the United States, what room would you add to the White House? Explain in detail why you would add these features.

Answers will vary.



Did you know that there is an annual Easter Egg Roll at the White House?
READ: <https://www.whitehousehistory.org/questions/what-is-the-history-of-the-white-house-easter-egg-roll>

2. Do you think that events like events like the Easter Egg Roll are important to continue? Why or why not?

Answers will vary.



Wonder what it's like to be a "First Kid" growing up at the White House? Check out this link.
READ: <https://wamu.org/story/17/09/05/good-bad-presidents-kid/>

3. Make a list of pros and cons to living in the White House as the son or daughter of the president.

Answers will vary.