

The White House





- The White House is the residence of the President of the United States
- It is located in Washington DC, at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
- Every President since John Adams has lived in the White House



- The White House was built between 1792 and 1800
- President George Washington held a contest and chose James Hoban's design
- Hoban was an Irishman living in South Carolina. He was influenced by country estates in Ireland and in France
- It was originally called the "Executive Mansion" but the term "White House" soon became popular



- In 1814, during the War of 1812, British troops sailed up the Potomac River and attacked Washington. The White House was looted and burnt.
- First Lady Dolly Madison grabbed a painting of George Washington as she ran out of the House. This is the only surviving piece because...
- The British loaded their ships with loot from the White House and then sailed into a storm and sank.
- Reconstruction began immediately after the war and President James Monroe moved back into the House in 1817.



- Every President tries to add onto the White House or redecorate it in some way
- President Theodore Roosevelt moved most offices to the West Wing, for example
- By 1948, the White House was near collapse. It was extensively renovated, which took four years.



- The White House consists of the Executive Residence (the main building), the West Wing, and the East Wing
- The Executive Residence has six floors, two of which are below ground
- The President's family lives on the second floor

- The West Wing houses the President's Oval Office and offices for 50 other employees. Others work in office buildings nearby. The Cabinet Room, the Situation Room, and the Press Briefing Room are also in the West Wing



- The East Wing houses offices for the First Lady and her staff. Beneath it is a bunker built during World War II.





- In the early days, Presidents often held receptions or parties open to the public
- In the 1990's the streets in front of and behind the White House were closed to traffic
- Public tours are now heavily restricted



The West Wing

The Situation Room



