



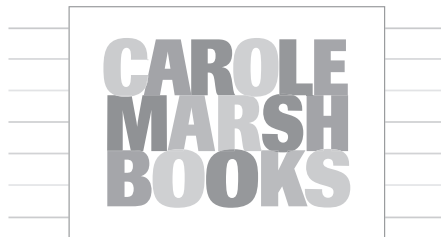
The  
**WHITE HOUSE  
 CHRISTMAS  
 MYSTERY**

**Teacher's Guide**

by  
**Carole Marsh**



Editors: Jenny Corsey & Sheila Phinazee • Art & Design: Lynette Rowe



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#1 THE MYSTERY OF BILTMORE HOUSE



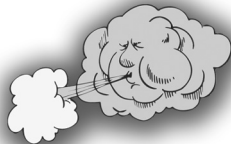
#2 THE MYSTERY AT THE BOSTON MARATHON



#3 THE MYSTERY OF BLACKBEARD THE PIRATE

#4 THE MYSTERY OF THE ALAMO GHOST

#5 THE MYSTERY ON THE CALIFORNIA MISSION TRAIL



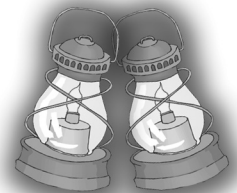
#6 THE MYSTERY OF THE CHICAGO DINOSAURS



#7 THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS MYSTERY

#8 THE MYSTERY ON ALASKA'S IDITAROD TRAIL

#9 THE MYSTERY AT KILL DEVIL HILLS



#10 THE MYSTERY IN NEW YORK CITY

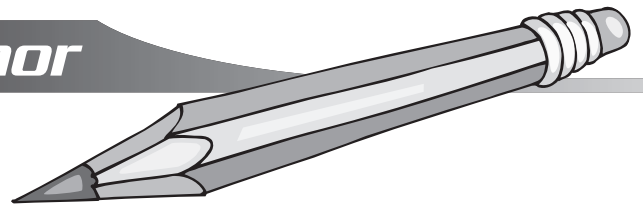


#11 THE MYSTERY AT DISNEY WORLD

#12 THE MYSTERY ON THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



## A Word from the Author



Dear Teachers,

In 1979, I began writing children's mysteries set at historic sites that still existed—primarily so that kids could go and see what they had read about. Frankly, I found no more fun, educational, and stress-free (actually, just plain joyful!) activity to do with my then school-age children than to visit a fascinating historic site!

People say that the White House is one of the greatest historical landmarks in America. Many Americans think it is the “people’s house,” and they’re right! This past spring, my state senator arranged a tour of the White House for my husband and I. We were awestruck by the regal decor that spilled from every nook and cranny! Everyone should visit this place at least once!

Yes, the White House is a tourist attraction, but it’s also one gigantic history lesson. At every room, I tried to introduce the who, what, when, where, why, and how. Not only has it been surprising to me how fascinated the kids are in real life, but it is amazing to also witness the depth of their interest. The first set of these magical experiences eventually transcended into a lifelong ongoing connection between me and my children.



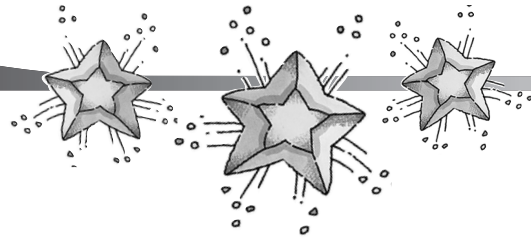
We learned a lot, but what we learned best is that kids and adults can learn together. Reading and going and seeing and doing is what education is all about, and most especially, that “adopting” a subject or place leads to a lifelong interest in an era, a place, the people, and all the fascinating facts that made up their lives. We learned that history is still “living” and is not lost on kids! In fact, it is quite a revelation!

Enjoy your White House mystery and studies,

*Carole Marsh*



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## The **WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS MYSTERY**

# 30<sup>YEARS</sup> AGO . . .

As a mother and an author, one of the fondest periods of my life was when I decided to write mystery books for children. At this time (1979) kids were pretty much glued to the TV, something parents and teachers complained about the way they do about video games today.

I decided to set each mystery in a real place—a place kids could go and visit for themselves after reading the book. And I also used real children as characters. Usually a couple of my own children served as characters, and I had no trouble recruiting kids from the book's location to also be characters.

Also, I wanted all the kids—boys and girls of all ages—to participate in solving the mystery. And, I wanted kids to learn something as they read. Something about the history of the location. And I wanted the stories to be funny.

That formula of real+scary+smart+fun served me well. The kids and I had a great time visiting each site and many of the events in the stories actually came out of our experiences there. (For example, we really did take a private tour of the White House!)

I love getting letters from teachers and parents who say they read the book with their class or child, then visited the historic site and saw all the places in the mystery for themselves. What's so great about that? What's great is that you and your children have an experience that bonds you together forever. Something you shared. Something you both cared about at the time. Something that crossed all age levels—a good story, a good scare, a good laugh!

30 years later,

*Carole Marsh*



## White House Tourist Information

### **Mailing Address**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

### **Phone Numbers**

Comments: 202-456-1111  
Switchboard: 202-456-1414  
FAX: 202-456-2461  
24-hour Visitors Office Info  
Line: 202-456-7041

### **E-Mail/Websites**

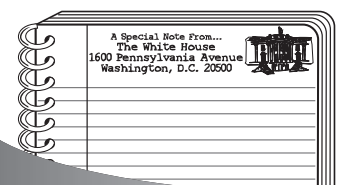
President George W. Bush:  
president@whitehouse.gov  
Vice President Richard Cheney:  
vice.president@whitehouse.gov  
www.whitehouse.gov  
www.whitehousekids.gov

### **White House Tours**

Tours are indefinitely suspended due to heightened national security. However, groups or individuals may contact their state Congress member or Representative to submit a tour request.

### **White House Visitor Center**

Open seven days a week from 7:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Features many White House aspects, including architecture, furnishings, first families, social events, relations with the press and world leaders, as well as a thirty-minute video. Allow between 20 minutes to 1 1/2 hours to explore the exhibits. The White House Historical Association also sponsors a sales area. Please note that restrooms are available, but food service is not.

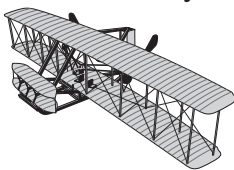




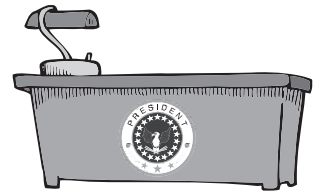
**Chapter Subject**

**EXPLORE!**

- |   |                |  |
|---|----------------|--|
| 1 | Life           | What do you do when you feel bored? What can you do on a rainy day?  |
| 1 | Tradition      | Christina made a wish on a sparkling light on the Christmas tree, as if it were a star. What would you wish for on a star?   |
| 1 | Weather        | Why do areas in the south get rain while places in the north get snow? [The closer to the equator you are, the warmer your weather is.] What about mountains in the southern states that get snow? [Altitude, how high land is from the ground, also affects temperature. The higher you are from sea level, the colder and more snow you will get.]                             |
| 1 | Current Events | Some people in Washington, D.C., the District of Columbia, have been lobbying for statehood. They feel that they have “taxation without representation,” like our forefathers did under Great Britain before America became its own independent country. This means they pay taxes but do not have the same representatives in government who will speak out for their concerns. |
| 2 | History        | We’ve been flying for 100 years! The first controlled powered airplane flight took place on December 17, 1903 by two brothers Orville and Wilbur Wright. Before this, planes could only fly by gliding on the air like kites.  |
| 2 | Life           | What makes goosebumps appear on your skin?   |
| 2 | Tradition      | The number 13 is considered “bad luck” according to superstition. Do you know of any other superstitions?  |



## Next In Line



If the President of the United States dies, resigns, or is removed from office, the Vice President assumes his responsibilities. Congress passed legislation in 1947 and in 1955 to determine the proper succession.

Next in line after the Vice President is:

- Speaker of the House
- President Pro Tempore of the Senate
- Secretary of State
- Secretary of the Treasury
- Secretary of Defense
- Attorney General
- Secretary of the Interior
- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Commerce
- Secretary of Labor
- Secretary of Health and Human Services
- Secretary of Housing and Urban Development
- Secretary of Transportation
- Secretary of Energy
- Secretary of Education

### Trivia

President Dwight D. Eisenhower's favorite dessert was prune



- 3 Vocabulary What does the word “motorcade” mean? [A procession or parade of automobiles.]
- 3 Monuments Do you know which president has a 19-foot statue of himself? Hint: Passages from the Declaration of Independence are written at the bottom. [Thomas Jefferson, our third president.]
- 3 Life What is interesting or special about your hometown? If someone came to visit from a different state, what would you show them?
- 3 Geography Although confusing to the kids, the streets of Washington, D.C. are actually organized very well. Streets named after the letters of the alphabet go from east to west while the streets going north to south are numbered. This is so that you always know in which direction you are headed.
- 3 Current Events What happened on September 11? Why was it more difficult to see the White House after that date?
- 3 Life When we are sad or scared, sometimes remembering good times helps us to feel better. Do you have any favorite holiday memories?
- 4 Tradition Drinking glasses are clinked together to involve all the senses: you can see, smell and taste the drink; feel the glass, and hear the clink!
- 4 Food Belgian waffles are waffles topped with whipped cream and sometimes fruit. They are similar to waffles traditionally served in Belgium, a kingdom north of France.
- 4 History The U.S. has been called the Great American



## Long and Short

- Abraham Lincoln (6' 4")
- Lyndon B. Johnson (6' 3")
- Thomas Jefferson (6' 2.5")
- Franklin D. Roosevelt (6' 2")
- George Washington (6' 2")
- Chester Alan Arthur (6' 2")
- Ronald Reagan (6' 1")
- Andrew Jackson (6' 1")
- James Monroe (6')
- Gerald Ford (6')
- John F. Kennedy (6')
- John Tyler (6')
- James Buchanan (6')
- William H. Taft (6')
- James Garfield (6')
- Warren G. Harding (6')
- Richard Nixon (5' 11.5")
- Herbert Hoover (5' 11")
- Woodrow Wilson (5' 11")
- Grover Cleveland (5' 11")
- Dwight Eisenhower (5' 10.5")
- Calvin Coolidge (5' 10")
- Franklin Pierce (5' 10")
- Andrew Johnson (5' 10")
- Theodore Roosevelt (5' 10")
- Jimmy Carter (5' 9.5")
- Harry Truman (5' 9")
- Millard Fillmore (5' 9")
- Rutherford B. Hayes (5' 8.5")
- Ulysses S. Grant (5' 8.5")
- William H. Harrison (5' 8")
- James K. Polk (5' 8")
- Zachary Taylor (5' 8")
- William McKinley (5' 7")
- John Adams (5' 7")
- John Quincy Adams (5' 7")
- Martin Van Buren (5' 6")
- Benjamin Harrison (5' 6")
- James Madison (5' 4")







**Melting Pot.** Do you know why? Some have suggested that the Great American Pizza might be a better name. What's the difference? [Pizza means all the different cultures can remain unique rather than everything melting together and looking the same.]

- 4 Vocabulary What does budget mean? [The total sum of money set aside or needed for a specific purpose.]
- 4 Life Do you know any older people, like grandparents or neighbors? We can learn a lot from them. Just ask an older person what life was like when he or she was a child.
- 4 Fashion Men and women wore wigs in George Washington's day. What fashions are popular now?
- 4 History Was Benjamin Franklin a president of the United States? [No, this famous American was a statesman, diplomat, author, scientist and inventor though.]
- 4 History Dolley Madison was the wife of the fourth president, James Madison. She is famous for saving a portrait of President George Washington before the White House was burned down by the British during the War of 1812.
- 4 Science Dolphins are actually mammals with fish-like bodies.
- 4 Vocabulary What is a dignitary? [Someone who holds high rank or office, usually in government.]



## A History of Firsts

- George Washington was the first president to appear on a U.S. postage stamp, issued in 1847.

- John Adams was the first president to live in the White House.

- Andrew Jackson was the first president born in a log cabin, in 1767.



- Martin Van Buren was the first president to be born a U.S. citizen. Previous presidents had been born in England before the American revolution!

- James Madison was the first president to regularly wear long trousers (pants) instead of the popular knee breeches.

- James Monroe was the first president to ride on a steamship. He rode aboard the Savannah in 1819.

- Herbert Hoover was the first president to have a telephone in his office.

- John Tyler was the first president to marry while serving in office.

- William Henry Harrison was the first president to die while in office.

- Rutherford B. Hayes was the first president to visit the West Coast. He arrived in San Francisco in 1880.



(continued)


- 5 Life Is it a good idea to stay with your group when you are visiting a new place? Why?
- 6 Nature Christmas trees have been planted in more than one million acres of U.S. land. All 50 states grow them, including Alaska and Hawaii. Oregon produces the most Christmas trees.
- 6 Science Who invented the telephone? [Alexander Graham Bell]



A walkie-talkie radio is a combined transmitter and receiver that was originally invented for military use in World War II.

What if they were never invented? How would the Secret Service communicate? [Perhaps use flags, sign language, shout, etc.]

- 7 Science Spiders are very successful predators because of the sticky webs they make. Spider silk is produced inside glands in their abdomen and comes out through tiny spigots in their rear called spinnerets.
- 7 Vocabulary A spotter is often used in cheerleading and gymnastics. This person stands on guard to keep another person from falling or getting hurt during a flip or other maneuver.

- 8 Science  Although we cannot see very well in the dark, nocturnal animals can. These animals sleep during the day and are active at night.

- 8 Life What do you know about fire safety?

- 8 History Before photography was invented, what did



## A History of Firsts

(continued)

- William H. Taft was the first president to have an automobile at the White House.

- Woodrow Wilson was the first president to visit a foreign country while in office. He negotiated the peace treaty to end World War I in France in 1918.

- Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first and only president to serve four terms in office.

- Dwight D. Eisenhower was the first president of all 50 states. Hawaii entered the Union as the 50th state in 1959 during his second term in office. General Ike was also the first president to have a pilot's license.



- Thomas Jefferson was the first president to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C. George Washington had been inaugurated in New York, and then in Philadelphia for his second term.

- Richard Nixon was the first president to visit all 50 states and was the first president to resign, in 1974.

- Ronald Reagan was the first president to appoint a woman to the Supreme Court; he chose Sandra Day O'Connor.

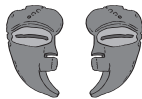


people do to remember people, places and things?

9 Vocabulary A dungeon is a strong prison area or cell that was usually underground in castles during the medieval days in Europe from the 5th century until about 1350.

9 Science Once they are cut from plants, flowers last longer if they are kept cool in water, in a refrigerator.

9 Culture Hanukkah is a Jewish festival that lasts eight days. It celebrates a historic battle victory.



Kwanzaa is an African American holiday celebrating family, community, and culture which lasts for seven days.

9 Life What would you do if you were lost?

10 Vocabulary What does negligence mean? [Carelessness in responsibilities.]

10 History President Theodore Roosevelt had six kids and lots of pets: dogs, cats, squirrels, raccoons, rabbits, guinea pigs, a badger, a black bear, a rat, a parrot, a green garter snake, and a pony who once rode in the elevator!



10 Culture Yard sales are a great American past time. Flea markets began in Europe. They are open air markets where old or used things are sold.

11 Vocabulary In some places, like London and in the South, lunch is called dinner and dinner is called supper.

11 Weather A blizzard is a heavy snowstorm with strong



## Presidential Birthplaces

### Virginia

George Washington

Thomas Jefferson

James Madison

James Monroe

William Henry Harrison

John Tyler

Zachary Taylor

Woodrow Wilson



### Ohio

Ulysses S. Grant

Rutherford B. Hayes

James Garfield

Benjamin Harrison

William McKinley

William H. Taft

Warren G. Harding



### New York

Martin Van Buren

Millard Fillmore

Theodore Roosevelt

Franklin D. Roosevelt



### Massachusetts

John Adams

John Quincy Adams

John F. Kennedy

George H.W. Bush



### Arkansas

William J. Clinton



### Connecticut

George W. Bush



### North Carolina

James K. Polk

Andrew Johnson



(continued)

winds. The winds travel 32 miles an hour or more and carry a large amount of fine snow. Blizzards are dangerous because it is almost impossible to see in the thick clouds of snow.

- 11 Science Poinsettias are native to Mexico and Central America. Their flowers may be white, pink or red.
- 11 History Calligraphy, which means ‘beautiful writing’ in Greek, goes all the way back to the 3rd century A.D. The ideal form of calligraphy includes beauty and legibility. How concerned are you about your handwriting?
- 11 Life Have you ever had goat cheese? What would you do in this situation if you were Grant?
- 11 Logic What are their clues so far? Where were they before they stopped to eat lunch? What do they need to find out?
- 12 Logic Who do you think the secret service guy is talking about?
- 12 Geography Camp David is located in the neighboring state of Maryland.
- 12 Science Do you know at what temperature water freezes? [32°F or 0°C]
- 12 Biology The American alligator is found in the rivers and swamps of southeastern U.S. and areas west of Texas. Do you think an alligator could survive outdoors in a snowstorm in Washington, D.C.?
- 13 Tradition Having gingerbread houses at Christmas time is



## Presidential Birthplaces

(continued)

### Texas

Dwight D. Eisenhower  
Lyndon B. Johnson



### Vermont

Chester A. Arthur  
Calvin Coolidge



### California

Richard M. Nixon



### Georgia

James Earl Carter



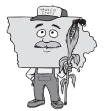
### Illinois

Ronald Reagan



### Iowa

Herbert Hoover



### Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln



### Missouri

Harry Truman



### Nebraska

Gerald Ford



### New Hampshire

Franklin Pierce



### New Jersey

Grover Cleveland



### Pennsylvania

James Buchanan




### South Carolina

Andrew Jackson



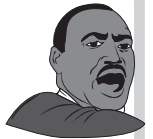
a tradition. It is a type of cake flavored with ginger and molasses.

- 13    Logic            What do you think this next clue means? How does Christina know where to head next?
  
  - 14    Government      The Cabinet is the advisory board to the president. It is made up of the heads of the 11 executive departments of the federal government.
  
  - 14    Life                    Have you ever been on a wild goose chase? Have you ever been on a search for something that seemed hopeless or unobtainable?
  
  - 14    History              A trap door can be found on the floor or on a ceiling. Before the invention of refrigerators, people used to keep some foods and vegetables stored in a “root cellar” to eat during a long winter. A door or trap door would open the cellar.
- 
- 15    History              How many of you have ever seen the Wizard of Oz? Why was the yellow brick road important?
  
  - 15    Health                A concussion is a jarring of the brain, spinal cord, etc. from a blow, collision, or fall.
  
  - 15    Science                Do you know where the gluteus maximus is? [the rump]
  
  - 15    Vocabulary         Although some people use “dumb” to mean stupid, “dumb” actually means unable to speak. Helen Keller was blind, deaf, and dumb.
  
  - 16    Science                Our eyes hurt when we go from dark to light because our eyes must switch between two

## Washington D.C. Events

### January

- Robert E. Lee’s Birthday: celebrated at Arlington National Cemetery and Old Town Alexandria, Virginia
- Martin Luther King’s Birthday: recording of King’s “I Have A Dream” speech is played at the Lincoln Memorial

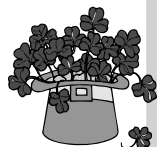


### February

- Chinese New Year: celebrated with parades and live music in Chinatown
- African American History Month: various events throughout the month
- George Washington’s Birthday Parade: occurs in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia
- Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday: wreath-laying ceremony and reading of the Gettysburg Address at Lincoln Memorial

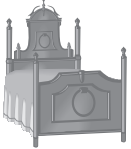

### March

- Washington Home and Garden Show: elaborate gardening display downtown in the D.C. Convention Center
- St. Patrick’s Day: parade down Constitution Avenue celebrates Irish culture, events in Old Town Alexandria, Virginia; dancing, music, and food
- Smithsonian Kite Festival: takes place at the Washington Monument, features hundreds of kite designers competing for prizes





types of vision systems. One works in daylight the other works in dim light.

- 16 Life It is always good to have flashlights and batteries in case of emergencies.
- 16 Logic Do you believe in aliens? What do you imagine an alien would look like?
- 16 History People built shelters to protect themselves from radioactive debris just in case enemies dropped nuclear bombs on the U.S.
- 17 Life  How would you feel if people treated your home like a museum and wandered around your house? Do you think the kids should be in the president's private quarters? Do famous people have the same rights of privacy that we do?
- 17 Government A Secretary is a head or chief administrator of a department.
- 17 Science When a deer is crossing the street and sees the headlights of an oncoming vehicle, sometimes it is shocked so much that it freezes in its tracks.
- 18 Fashion During George Washington's day, underwear would look nothing like Grant's. The underwear back then looked more like long johns or nightshirts.
- 19 History  The Presidential Shield consists of the nation's official bird, the eagle grasping olive branches and arrows. Tradition says that Benjamin Franklin wanted the national bird to be a wild turkey, which he thought to be a noble creature.

## Washington D.C. Events

(continued)

### April

- National Cherry Blossom Festival: parade down Constitution Avenue, features concerts and dancing
- White House Egg Roll: aided by adults, children (aged 3-6) roll eggs across the White House Lawn in a race 
- Imagination Celebration: series of plays take place at the Kennedy Center for young children
- Thomas Jefferson's Birthday: wreath-laying, speeches, and military drills takes place at Jefferson Memorial
- Shakespeare's Birthday Celebration: music, plays, food, exhibits, children's events all take place at the Folger Shakespeare Library

### May

- Goodwill Embassy Tour: features several international embassies
- Flower Mart: flower show at the Washington National Cathedral
- Memorial Day Weekend Concert: National Symphony Orchestra performs on West Lawn of Capitol 
- Memorial Day: ceremonies take place at Arlington National Cemetery and Vietnam Veterans Memorial; jazz festival held in Old Town Alexandria, VA





- 19 Logic Why wasn't the President nervous when he found intruders in the White House?
- 19 Science Macaws are a type of parrot. Parrots really are capable of imitating speech when a word or phrase is repeated often enough.
- 19 People When President George W. Bush and his family moved into the White House, they brought a cat named India (a.k.a. Willie), Barney a Scottish terrier and Spotty, an English springer spaniel (who is the only second-generation presidential pet in history!).
- 19 Life The humane society rescues homeless pets and finds homes for them. If you were given a kitten, what would you name it?
- 19 Vocabulary A souvenir is something kept as a reminder of a place visited or an incident.
- 20 Vocabulary An anteroom is a waiting room or a room which admits into a larger room.
- 20 Life Some people have safe rooms in their own homes. What would you put in your safe room?
- 20 Logic Mimi and Gramps were surprised to see the kids looking a mess. What might they be thinking?



Be sure to read Carole Marsh Mystery #8:  
*The Mystery on Alaska's Iditarod Trail*

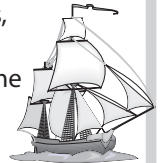


## Washington D.C. Events

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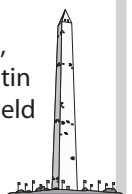
### June

- Shakespeare Free for All: free nightly performances by the Shakespeare Theater Company
- Alexandria Waterfront Festival: tall ships, games, music to celebrate maritime history at Oronoco Bay Park
- Smithsonian Festival of American Folklife: celebration of folk culture
- Washington National Cathedral Summer Festival of Music: modern and classical concerts
- Dance Africa: African dance, street markets, concerts



### July

- Independence Day: parade down Constitution Avenue with fireworks from the U.S. Capitol steps
- Twilight Tattoo Military Pageant: military parade presenting the history of the U.S. Army, held on the Ellipse
- Mary McLeod Bethune Celebration: wreath-laying, gospel music, speeches, held at Bethune Statue in Lincoln Park
- Hispanic-Latino Festival: music, food, celebration of 40 Latin American nations, held at Washington Monument



(continued)

# Discussion Questions

- ❖ If you took a trip to Washington, D.C., what would you want to see? What would you do? In which season would you visit? How would you travel there, by car, plane, or some other way?
- ❖ If you could talk to the President of the United States, what would you ask him?
- ❖ Have you ever visited an interesting place with your family, friends or classmates? Where did you go? What did you like about your visit? What did you dislike?
- ❖ Do you think it was a good idea for the kids to go exploring in the White House basement and looking for terrorists? What would you have done if you were in their shoes? Why?
- ❖ What would you do if you were president? What kinds of laws would you support? Who would you pick to be on your Cabinet?
- ❖ Do you have a pet or a favorite animal? If you could be an animal, what would you be? Where would you live? Why did you choose this type of animal?
- ❖ There are many international restaurants in Washington, D.C. like Italian, Ethiopian, Chinese, Indian, Irish, and Middle Eastern. Have you ever tried food from a different culture? What kind of food would you share with a friend of a different culture to introduce him or her to your culture?



## Washington D.C. Events

(continued)

### August

- Arlington County Fair: food crafts, music, rides
- National Frisbee Festival: contests and games at the Washington Monument

### September

- Labor Day Weekend Concert: National Symphony Orchestra performs a concert on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol
- John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Open House: one-day celebration with blues, rock, jazz, dance, drama, and film offerings
- International Children's Festival: features performers from around the world, held in Wolf Trap Park, Vienna, Virginia
- 18th Century Fair: craft demonstrations and period entertainment held at Mount Vernon, Virginia



### October

- Taste of D.C.: food festival by street restaurants
- Columbus Day: speeches and wreath-laying at Columbus Memorial, Union Station
- White House Fall Garden Tours: public can walk through presidential gardens, accompanied by military band concerts



(continued)

# Geography: Find It!

1. Compare Peachtree City, Georgia (where Grant and Christina live) with the big city of Washington, D.C. What are the differences between the two places? What are some similarities?
2. Draw a map of a historic district in Washington, D.C. Attach information index cards to the map for each historic site.
3. Draw a map of Washington, D.C. Label major landmarks, streets, roads, bridges, waterways, monuments, and bodies of water. Sketch pictures of the sites as well, and use bright colors! Include a key, map symbols, title, and chart of locations.
4. Construct a model of the Potomac River with blue yarn. Wind your river through the Washington, D.C. map project around the various landmarks.
5. Draw an architectural floor plan of the White House. Include rooms, gardens, etc. Would you ever want to live there?
6. How is Washington, D.C. unique in comparison to the 50 states in America? Why do you think D.C. is still not a state? Do you think Congress should make D.C. a state? Why or why not?
7. Make a list of the geographical benefits that Washington, D.C. could provide for your family. Where would you want to live in D.C. if you could? Inside the city or outside the city, in Maryland or Virginia? What disadvantages would there be to living in Washington, D.C.? Perhaps the cold! Christina and Grant were probably happy to get back to the warm Georgia sun after racing through the White House in a snowy Washington, D.C.!



## Washington D.C. Events

(continued)

### November

- Annual Seafaring Celebration: maritime event with displays, music, and food, held at Navy Museum

- Veterans Day Ceremonies: services, wreath-laying, ceremonies, parades at various memorials and Arlington National Cemetery



- Kennedy Center Holiday Festival: free music and theater performances

### December

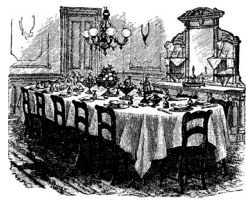

- National Christmas Tree Lighting: the President turns on the lights on the National Christmas Tree, Ellipse south of the White House

- Washington National Cathedral Christmas Services: holiday celebrations with festive music



- White House Candlelight Tours: presidential Christmas decorations on display to the public after the 25th



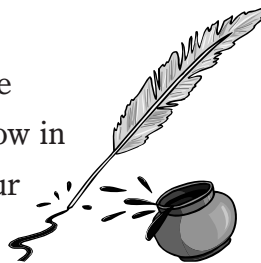
# Mathematics: Calculate It!

1. If 20 dignitaries join the President and First Lady for dinner, and each meal costs \$50, how much is the total cost of the dinner?
2. If there are 8 tables set for 10 guests in the State Dining Room, how many guests are expected for dinner? If every table is adorned with five candles, what is the total number of candles?
3. A budget is a list of expenses. Total this budget for the Washington, D.C. mystery trip.  
\$1000 – airfare, \$250 – meals, \$825 – lodging,  
\$150 – attractions, \$75 – souvenirs and miscellaneous.
4. If the children are lost for five hours and 45 minutes, how many minutes have they been lost?
5. There are 43 U.S. presidents in American history. If each president had one wife, three children, and two pets, and they all attended one big party, how many people and animals are there in attendance?
6. The president in the mystery book is 6 feet, 5 inches in height. How tall is the president in inches?
7. If the Willard Hotel has 13 floors and each floor has 13 rooms, how many rooms does the Willard Hotel have?
8. If Mimi has 187 white lights, 26 gold bows, 5 strands of beads, and 94 ornaments on her Christmas tree, how many decorations are on her tree?
9. Grant is wearing six pieces of clothing. He puts five pieces in the laundry. The laundry loses one sock, and then Grant finds the missing sock. How many pieces of clothing does Grant have then?

## Presidential Trivia

- Experts say that James Buchanan had the best handwriting of any U.S. president.
- According to White House etiquette, the President is served first at meals. No one may leave the table before the President leaves. When he enters the room, all must rise.
- President William McKinley liked to smoke cigars but refused to be photographed with one. He said he did not wish to set a bad example for American children.
- Thomas Jefferson invented the swivel chair.
- Four U.S. presidents were left-handed: James Garfield, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, and Bill Clinton.
- Calvin Coolidge is the only president born on the Fourth of July (1872).
- James Buchanan is the only president who never married.
- Electric lights were installed in the White House during the presidency of Benjamin Harrison, in 1890.
- During his seven summers as a lifeguard, Ronald Reagan saved 77 people from drowning on the Rock River at Lowell Park in Dixon, Illinois.

1. Which character did you like best in the mystery book? Why? What would you change about that person if you could? In what ways would you like to be more like that person? Write a short description of that character and answers to the other questions.
2. Why is the White House sometimes called the “people’s house” by Americans? Write an essay explaining the relationship between citizens and their government representatives.
3. Compose a poem about those who died defending our nation’s capital. Your poem can be any style.
4. Recall each mystery clue after you finish reading the book. Write down the reasons why each clue makes sense now that you know the ending of the story.
5. What is the "conflict" in this mystery? What is the plot? What is the resolution?
6. Write five new titles for *The White House Christmas Mystery*. Write new chapter headings for every chapter in the book.
7. Write a new ending for the last chapter of the mystery.
8. What is a glossary, and why is it important for the reader? Write down a list of words you didn’t know in the mystery. Define each of them to compile your own glossary.
9. Write a fictional story about something exciting, scary, or mysterious that happens in Washington, D.C.



## Presidential Trivia continued...

• When he was 8 years old, Lyndon B. Johnson got a C+ for conduct on his report card.



• John Quincy Adams often swam nude in the Potomac River. His last dip occurred in 1846, when he was 79.

• Thomas Jefferson was the first president and the first American to raise a tomato. People thought tomatoes were poisonous during that time.



• Four state capitals have been named after presidents: Jackson, MS; Jefferson City, MO; Lincoln, NE; Madison, WI.

• Grover Cleveland is the only president to have served two non-consecutive terms. He was the 22nd and the 24th U.S. president.

• Andrew Jackson ordered spittoons for the White House parlors because he loved to chew tobacco!

• Elected in 1921, Warren G. Harding was the first president for whom women could cast their ballots following the adoption of the 19th Amendment.



• Monrovia, Liberia is named in honor of James Monroe, the fifth U.S. president.



# Vocabulary: Spell It!

Study the words below. Then fold the page in half and take a spelling test! Unfold the page to check your work. Study the words you miss!

- TREK \_\_\_\_\_
- GALLIVANT \_\_\_\_\_
- ABRUPT \_\_\_\_\_
- GAGGLE \_\_\_\_\_
- FORBIDDEN \_\_\_\_\_
- TAPER \_\_\_\_\_
- REASSURE \_\_\_\_\_
- CRANE \_\_\_\_\_
- FEEBLE \_\_\_\_\_
- SLUMP \_\_\_\_\_
- COMMUNICATION \_\_\_\_\_
- PAGEANT \_\_\_\_\_
- FUGITIVE \_\_\_\_\_
- ILLUMINATE \_\_\_\_\_
- DEPICT \_\_\_\_\_
- SHRIEK \_\_\_\_\_
- PLUSH \_\_\_\_\_
- EERIE \_\_\_\_\_
- EXTINGUISH \_\_\_\_\_
- MAJESTIC \_\_\_\_\_
- TENDRIL \_\_\_\_\_
- PETRIFIED \_\_\_\_\_
- MUSCULAR \_\_\_\_\_
- HOWL \_\_\_\_\_
- CLAMP \_\_\_\_\_
- SPECULATE \_\_\_\_\_
- EMPHASIZE \_\_\_\_\_

## Presidential Nicknames

George Washington,  
*Father of His Country*



Thomas Jefferson,  
*Father of the Declaration of Independence*



James Madison,  
*Father of the Constitution*

Andrew Jackson,  
*Old Hickory*

Zachary Taylor,  
*Old Rough and Ready*

Abraham Lincoln,  
*The Great Emancipator*



Grover Cleveland,  
*Uncle Jumbo*

Theodore Roosevelt,  
*Rough Rider*

Woodrow Wilson,  
*Professor*

Calvin Coolidge,  
*Silent Cal*



Dwight D. Eisenhower,  
*Ike*

John F. Kennedy,  
*JFK*

Lyndon B. Johnson,  
*Landslide Lyndon*

Gerald Ford,  
*Mr. Nice Guy*



James E. Carter,  
*Jimmy*

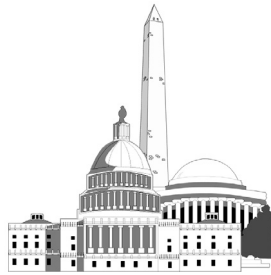
Ronald Reagan,  
*Ronnie*





# Art: Create It!

1. Construct a three-dimensional Washington, D.C. using miniature objects, cardboard, toothpicks, grass, etc. You could even make an edible version and eat it with your classmates!



2. Sketch portraits of each mystery book character. Add specific details in the background like a door, the florist shop, clues, a secret service guy, a painting, or snow.

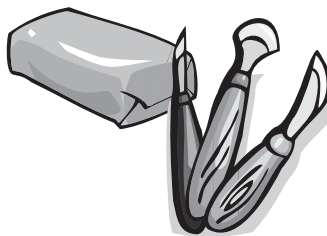
3. Paint a picture of when the British burned down the White House. Don't forget to include First Lady Dolly Madison running away with the George Washington portrait!



4. Sculpt the Washington Monument. You may need to prop it up against something because it's so tall!

5. Design a new cover for *The White House Christmas Mystery* book. You could take photographs or draw your own pictures. Create a new and interesting font!

6. Build a model of the White House with modeling clay bricks. Ask an adult to help you "bake" the clay so it will harden. Make a presidential family for the inside.



7. Draw pictures of each room in the White House. Draw a big outline of the house on a piece of poster board. Glue the pictures in the correct locations to create a colorful project!



## Embassies in Washington, D.C.

Here are some of the many embassies in our nation's capital.

Afghanistan, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahamas, Belize,

Brazil, Canada,



Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland,

France, Germany,



Ghana, Greece, Haiti, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy,

Japan, Kenya,



Korea, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco,

New Zealand,



Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia,

South Africa,



Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, Vietnam,

Zimbabwe

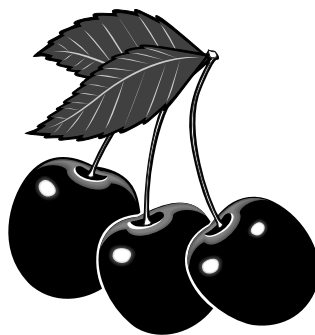
Whip up some Wonderful Washington Cherry Cookies!

## Wonderful Washington Cherry Cookies

### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cardamom (or nutmeg)
- 1 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 cups packed dark brown sugar
- 2 cups applesauce
- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 6 cups rolled oats
- 1 1/2 cups dried cranberries
- 1 1/2 cups dried cherries

Makes plenty of  
cookies for your  
entire class!



### Directions

- Cream butter or margarine in a large bowl with the cinnamon, cardamom, baking soda, and brown sugar.
- Mix in applesauce. Gradually blend flour, then oats, into the mixture. Stir in dried cherries and cranberries.
- Let dough sit for one hour.
- Drop teaspoons of cookie dough onto an ungreased baking sheet.
- Bake at 350° F for 10-12 minutes. Cool on wire rack.

## West Wing Words

**ballot:** the piece of paper on which people mark a choice in voting

**Cabinet:** a group of officials that act as advisors to a head of state

**candidate:** a person who seeks an office

**election:** the process of choosing among candidates or issues by voting

**governor:** the person elected to head a state of the United States

**inaugurate:** to place, or install, in office with a ceremony

**incumbent:** the person who currently holds a political office

**politics:** the way a person believes or thinks in government matters

**polls:** the place where people go to vote

**president:** the head of government in a republic (a nation in which voters elect officials to make laws and run government)

**resolution:** a formal statement by Congress giving its opinion or decision

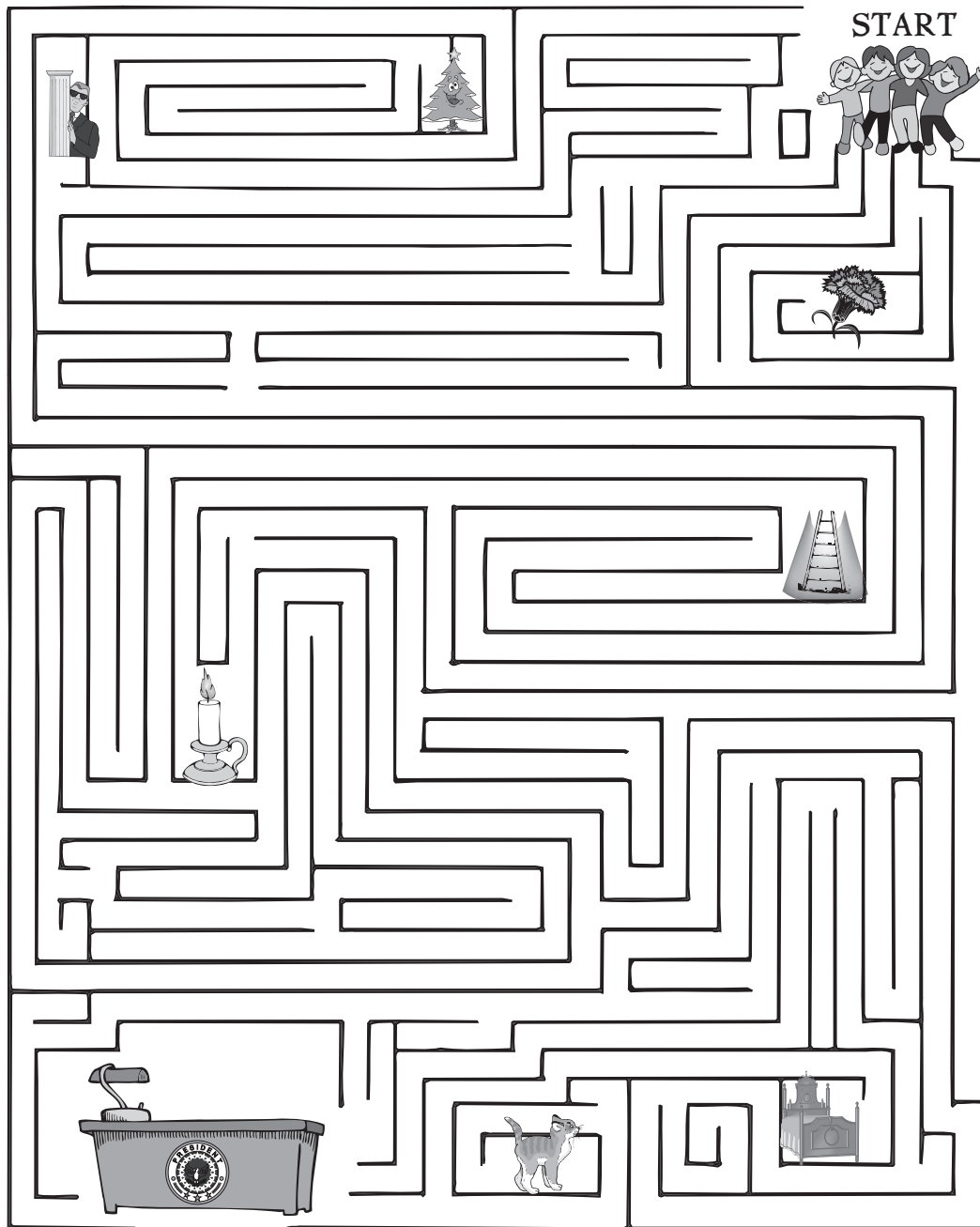
**West Wing:** the wing of the White House where the president's office (the Oval Office) and his staff's offices are located



## The White House Christmas Mystery Maze



Help Christina, Grant, April, and D.C. find their way through the White House maze to find the missing animals!



FINISH



# ***The White House Christmas Mystery Pair Up***



*Match the words on the left with the correct words on the right!*



SECRET

MUSEUMS

FIRST

HILL

WHITE

STATES

CAPITOL

PRESIDENT

SMITHSONIAN

OFFICE

WASHINGTON

MONUMENT

OVAL

D.C.

MR.

HOUSE

UNITED

SERVICE

WASHINGTON

LADY



# The White House Christmas Mystery Gingerbread House!



Make a yummy White House Gingerbread House!

## Gingerbread Ingredients & Directions

- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup honey
- 3/4 cup + 1/8 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom (or nutmeg)
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cups powdered sugar

1. Heat the oven to 350°F and grease a baking sheet.
2. Stir the butter, powdered sugar, and honey in a saucepan over low heat until melted.
3. Mix the flour, spices, and baking soda into a large bowl. Add the melted mixture and egg, mix well.
4. Knead dough into a ball. Chill the dough for 30 minutes (minimum). Roll the chilled dough flat until it is 1/4 inch thick. Cut out cardboard patterns similar to the ones shown. Lightly press each pattern on the dough and cut around the edges.
5. Place pieces on a baking sheet; bake for 20 minutes until firm. Let pieces cool.
6. Mix up the icing and use it as cement to build your gingerbread house (set it on a thick paper plate). Decorate and enjoy!

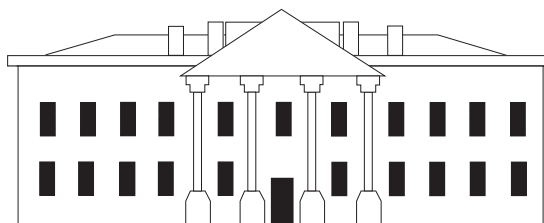
## Gingerbread Icing & Decorating Tips

### Icing

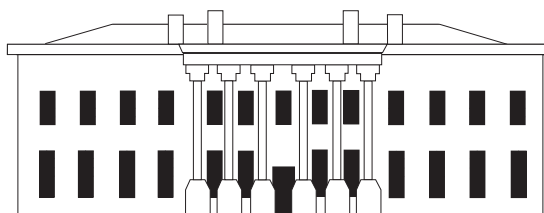
Mix 1 1/2 cups icing sugar, 3 tablespoons meringue powder, 1/2 teaspoons cream of tartar, 1/2 cup warm water in chilled bowl until smooth. It dries quickly so use immediately!

### Decorating tips!

- Make stained glass windows with shards of colored hard candy.
- Use licorice strips as roof tiles.
- Straight peppermint sticks could be interesting columns.
- Upside-down mini candy canes look like sleds.
- Frost Christmas tree cookie trunks to the ground so they'll stay up.
- Spearmint leaves make great trees.

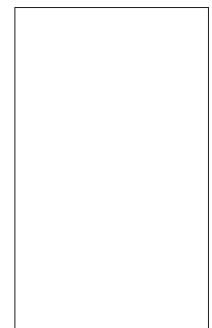


Front



Back

Roof



Side



## The White House Christmas Mystery Clue Scramble



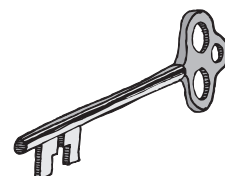
*Unscramble the words below to find the mystery clues!*

1. ARALITLGO \_\_\_\_\_

2. SSEMAEG \_\_\_\_\_



3. OORD \_\_\_\_\_



4. SFLHA \_\_\_\_\_

5. APPRE \_\_\_\_\_



6. NAILTKG TEER \_\_\_\_\_



7. ELGEA \_\_\_\_\_

8. OZO \_\_\_\_\_



# The White House Christmas Mystery Word Search



Search for the mysteriously hidden words below!

W A S H I N G T O N Y A B C A C Q  
 A H E T Y N A M E R I C A L N H Z  
 P P G U A R D E E T K L I O I A M  
 G B R I L I C T E G T J E T T R X  
 H A J I V C S R O V N W S I S A D  
 L D W Q L Y C K O U A J I P I C H  
 G T N E M E S A B F R T B A R T G  
 O P R E S I D E N T G I H C H E R  
 W R W H I T E H O U S E D V C R F

BASEMENT  
 TOUR  
 GRANT  
 AMERICA

WASHINGTON  
 APRIL  
 SECRET  
 CHARACTER

CLUE  
 MYSTERY  
 D.C.  
 PRESIDENT

GUARD  
 WHITE HOUSE  
 CAPITOL  
 CHRISTINA



# The White House Christmas Mystery Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword



Fill in the blanks to find the missing attractions in our nation's capital!

1. Tall granite obelisk:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ I \_\_\_  
M \_\_\_ U \_\_\_

2. Place where Senators and Representatives gather to make laws:

\_\_\_ A \_\_\_ O \_\_\_ L

3. Presidential memorial overlooking the Reflecting Pool:

\_\_\_ N \_\_\_ N  
M \_\_\_ O \_\_\_



4. Wall with more than 58,000 names:

\_\_\_ T \_\_\_ V \_\_\_ E \_\_\_ S  
\_\_\_ M \_\_\_ I \_\_\_



5. World-class museum complex:

\_\_\_ T \_\_\_ S \_\_\_ I \_\_\_

6. Famous patriotic quotes are inscribed on this memorial:

\_\_\_ E \_\_\_ R \_\_\_  
M \_\_\_ O \_\_\_



# ***The White House Christmas Mystery Matching Characters***



*Match these mystery characters with their descriptions!*

- |              |                              |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Papa      | A. guarding grandfather      |
| 2. Christina | B. tends to get lost         |
| 3. April     | C. mystery writer            |
| 4. Edgar     | D. brave girl                |
| 5. D.C.      | E. cautious sister           |
| 6. Mimi      | F. protective of her brother |
| 7. Grant     | G. opinionated               |



# The White House Christmas Mystery Quiz



Use the clues to recall many of the beautiful rooms in the White House!

1. President Abraham Lincoln used it as an office:

---

2. George Washington's portrait hangs here:

---

3. Where presidents do their homework:

---

4. Connects the East Room with the State Dining Room:

---

5. Filled with silver from past presidential families:

---

6. Place to chow down on fancy food:

---

7. Might find dolphin feet in here:

---

8. Oval room with a great view of the Washington Monument:

---

9. Where presidents and their first ladies hold formal receptions:

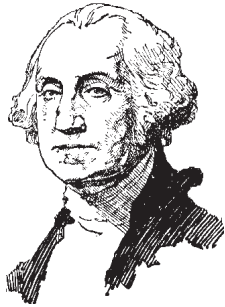
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10. Foreign dignitaries often stay here while visiting:

---

11. Big decisions are made here by lots of important people:

---



## ***The White House Christmas Mystery True or False***



*Mark each statement true or false.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Edgar, the grandpa of April and D.C., works at the Smithsonian.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. There is a florist shop in the White House basement.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Grant often gets lost.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The kids found an alligator in the White House pool.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. In 1814, Irish soldiers set fire to the White House.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Washington, D.C. is the capital city of Maryland.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The Oval Office and Cabinet Room are located in the East Wing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The kid sleuths were looking for terrorists in the White House.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Members of the U.S. Cabinet are called Secretaries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Washington, D.C. was created with land from both Delaware and Maryland.



## ***Answer Key...***

# ***to The White House Christmas Mystery Activities***



### *Math Activities*

1. \$1,100 total cost; 2. 80 guests, 40 candles; 3. \$2,300 total budget; 4. 345 minutes; 5. 301 people and animals at the party; 6. 77 inches; 7. 169 total rooms; 8. 312 decorations; 9. 2 pieces of clothing

### *The White House Christmas Mystery Pair Up*

SECRET SERVICE, FIRST LADY, WHITE HOUSE, CAPITOL HILL, SMITHSONIAN MUSEUMS, WASHINGTON MONUMENT, OVAL OFFICE, MR. PRESIDENT, UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, D.C.

### *The White House Christmas Mystery Clue Scramble*

ALLIGATOR, MESSAGE, DOOR, FLASH, PAPER, TALKING TREE, EAGLE, ZOO

### *The White House Christmas Mystery Fill-in-the-Blank Crossword*

1. Washington Monument; 2. Capitol Hill; 3. Lincoln Memorial; 4. Vietnam Veterans Memorial; 5. Smithsonian; 6. Jefferson Memorial

### *The White House Christmas Mystery Matching Characters*

1. G; 2. F; 3. D; 4. A; 5. E; 6. C; 7. B

### *The White House Christmas Mystery Quiz*

1. Lincoln Bedroom, 2. East Room, 3. Oval Office, 4. Cross Hall, 5. Green Room, 6. State Dining Room, 7. Red Room, 8. Blue Room, 9. Yellow Oval Room, 10. Queen's Bedroom, 11. Cabinet Room

### *The White House Christmas Mystery True or False?*

F, T, T, T, F, F, F, T, T, T

