

**The White House Reading Comprehension**

Name \_\_\_\_\_



In America's short but tenuous history, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, had always been the capital. In 1790, however, as a result of a secret deal between Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and Alexander Hamilton, the new nation's capital would be moved from the northeast to a more southern location. George Washington would decide the exact location of the capital. He chose a small, swampy area on the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia near his home at Mount Vernon. This region would soon become known as the District of Columbia.

While in the District of Columbia, Washington and Pierre L'Enfant, a city planner, helped find a location that would house the president of the United States. After a suitable location was found, a competition was held to build the house. Irish architect James Hoban won the contract to design and build the house. He designed the house after a model in the Book of Architecture called the Gibbs House. The house was completed in 1800. John Adams, not George Washington, became the first president to live in it. It was located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Despite the many changes that the house has been through in the past 200 years, its location has remained the same. In 1814, as part of the War of 1812, the British occupied Washington and burned the house to the ground. Two years later James Hoban successfully restored it to its original form and added a south portico. The house was known as the Executive Mansion or President's Palace for much of the 1800's. In 1901, Teddy Roosevelt renamed it "The White House". The White House's next renovation occurred in 1902 when the executive office wing and gallery were added. In 1929, it was severely damaged in a fire for the second time and renovated. Today, the White House remains one of the top tourist destinations in Washington. It even has its own bowling alley and movie theater.

**1. What is NOT explained in the first paragraph?**

- A. Where was America's capital before it was moved to Washington?
- B. Why was the capital moved to a more southern location?
- C. Who determined exactly where the capital would be placed?
- D. When was the deal made to move the capital?

**2. Who was Pierre L' Enfant?**

- A. The architect who built the White House
- B. A city planner who found the best location for the White House
- C. The first person to live in the White House
- D. The person who restored the White House after it was rebuilt

**3. What is implied in the following sentence?**

John Adams, not George Washington, became the first president to live in it. It was located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

- A. Most people probably believe that George Washington lived in the White House
- B. Few people would believe John Adams lived in the White House
- C. The White House was likely not always located on Pennsylvania Avenue
- D. Most people know that George Washington never lived in the White House

**4. What happened first?**

- A. The second fire that damaged the White House occurred
- B. The Executive Mansion was renamed
- C. The executive office was added
- D. 1900

**5. What is the main difference between the first and second paragraph?**

- A. The second paragraph is descriptive and the first is chronological
- B. The first paragraph is sequential and the second paragraph is chronological
- C. The first paragraph is descriptive and the second paragraph is chronological
- D. The first paragraph is descriptive and the second paragraph is sequential

**6. In the history of the White House, which of the following has remained CONSTANT?**

- A. Its location
- B. Its architecture
- C. Its name
- D. Its appearance

**7. What does “renovation” means as used in the following sentence?**

The White House's next **renovation** occurred in 1902 when the executive office wing and gallery were added.

- A. improvement
- B. expense
- C. detail
- D. transformation