

The history of the White House

By Whitehouse.gov and White House Historical Association, adapted by Newsela staff on 12.20.16

Word Count **639**



TOP: The White House, Washington, DC; Lambert/Getty Images. MIDDLE: An architectural drawing of the White House by architect James Hoban, who designed the building, from 1793; Wikimedia Commons. BOTTOM: Lithograph by Robert Cruikshank depicting a view of crowd in front of the White House during President Jackson's first inaugural reception in 1829; Photo: Fotosearch/Getty Images.

The White House is a symbol of the United States of America. Its history began in 1790. President George Washington signed a special law that year. It declared that the country's capital would be on the Potomac River.

Washington and a city planner chose the site for the "President's House." Its address is now 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. A contest was held to find a builder for the "President's House." Architect James Hoban won a gold medal for his practical and attractive design.

Slaves Worked On The White House

Construction began in October 1792. Virginia and Maryland gave up the land to establish the nation's capital. They were both slave states. At first, the government planned to bring over workers from Europe. Not many signed up. Instead, African Americans built the White House, the United States Capitol building, and other early government buildings. Some of them were free. Most were slaves.

Slaves dug up and cut the stone for the president's house. Scottish masons later built the walls. There were also white workers and craftsmen from Maryland and Virginia, and immigrants from Ireland, Scotland and other European countries.

Washington actually never lived in the White House. It was finished in 1800. John Adams was the first president who lived there. Since that time, each president has made his own changes and additions. The White House is, after all, the president's home. It is also the only private home of a head of state that is open to the public, free of charge.

Surviving Two Fires

The White House has a fascinating history. The British tried to burn it down in 1814 during the War of 1812. It survived another fire in 1929, while Herbert Hoover was president. President Harry S. Truman completely changed most of the inside of the White House. Still, the stone walls are original ones from 200 years ago.

Presidents show their own style in how they decorate the house and host the public. Thomas Jefferson held the first open house during his inauguration in 1805. The inauguration is the ceremony when a person becomes president. After his inauguration, people simply followed Jefferson home.

Jefferson also opened the White House for public tours. It has remained open, except during wartime. Also, Jefferson welcomed visitors on New Year's Day and on the Fourth of July.

Controlling The Crowds

In 1829, 20,000 visitors forced President Andrew Jackson to flee to a hotel after his inauguration. On the White House lawn, officials filled washtubs with drinks. They were trying to get the crowd out of the White House, where they had tracked mud all over the floors.

After Abraham Lincoln's presidency, inaugural crowds became too large to go to the White House. President Grover Cleveland, at his inauguration, reviewed the troops from a big platform built in front of the White House. This turned into the official inaugural parade we know today.

President Bill Clinton held an open house on Jan. 21, 1993. He greeted 2,000 citizens in the White House. The guests were selected by lottery.

White House Trivia

The White House has 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms and six levels. There are 412 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, eight staircases and three elevators.

The White House has been known by different names. It has been called the "President's Palace," the "President's House" and the "Executive Mansion." President Theodore Roosevelt named it the White House in 1901.

The White House kitchen can serve dinner to as many as 140 guests.

It takes 570 gallons of paint to paint the outside of the White House.

Presidential Firsts While In Office

President James Polk (1845-49) was the first president to have his photograph taken.

President Theodore Roosevelt (1901-09) was the first president to ride in an automobile.

President Franklin Roosevelt (1933-45) was the first president to fly in an airplane.

Quiz

- 1 Which sentence from the article BEST explains how the White House is unique?
 - (A) Washington and a city planner chose the site for the "President's House."
 - (B) Architect James Hoban won a gold medal for his practical and attractive design.
 - (C) Since that time, each president has made his own changes and additions.
 - (D) It is also the only private home of a head of state that is open to the public, free of charge.

- 2 Based on the information in the article, which of the following statements is TRUE?
 - (A) Washington was the first president to live in the White House.
 - (B) Presidents can show their own style while living in the White House.
 - (C) Every person who helped build the White House was paid for his work.
 - (D) People who want to visit the White House must pay a fee to take a tour.

- 3 Read the section "Surviving Two Fires".
Select the paragraph that uses chronological order in its structure.

- 4 Which answer choice BEST describes the structure of the section "White House Trivia"?
 - (A) a list of facts about the White House
 - (B) a comparison of the White House with other palaces and mansions
 - (C) descriptions of the White House property
 - (D) a timeline of changes that have been made to the White House

Writing Prompt:

Select a heading from the article and explain why the heading is or is not a good choice for the section.

Student Name: _____

Score: _____

Multiplication Word Problems

Work Space

Albert buys 6 LCD TVs. The cost of each TV is \$259. What is the cost of 6 LCD TVs?

Answer = _____

A bolt manufacturing company packs 750 bolts in a carton. How many bolts are there in 8 cartons?

Answer = _____

Kevin plans a field trip to New Jersey. He rents a room in a hotel at a cost of \$219 per day. If he stays in the hotel for 1 week, how much does he need to pay?

Answer = _____

Jackson works as carpenter for a chair manufacturing company. He earns \$450 per week. How much does he earn in 4 weeks?

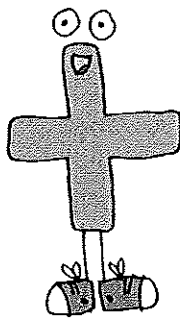
Answer = _____

Operation CLUE WORDS

Remember, read each question carefully.
THINK about what the question is asking.

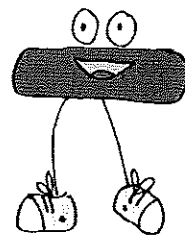
Addition

- . add
- . altogether
- . and
- . both
- . in all
- . sum
- . total
- . increase

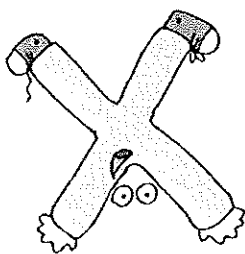


Subtraction

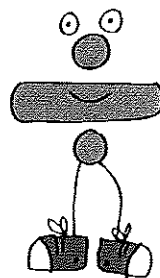
- . difference
- . fewer
- . gave away
- . take away
- . how many more
- . how much longer/
shorter/smaller
- . left
- . less
- . change
- . decrease



Multiplication



- . each
- . same
- . twice
- . product
- . in all (each)
- . double



Division

- . share equally
- . each
- . quotient
- . every



Clue Word Problems

Underline the clue word in each word problem. Write the equation.
Solve the problem.

1. Mark has 17 gum balls. He gives 6 gumballs to Amber. How many gumballs does Mark have left?

2. Lauren scored 6 points during the soccer game. Diana scored twice as many points. How many points did Diana score?

3. Kyle has 12 baseball cards. Jason has 9 baseball cards. How many do they have altogether?

4. Mandy ordered 3 pizzas. Each pizza has 8 pieces. How many pieces did she order in all?

5. Sara and her two friends bake a pan of 12 brownies. If the girls share the brownies equally, how many will each girl have?

6. Erica ate 12 grapes. Riley ate 3 more grapes than Erica. How many grapes did both girls eat?

7. Alice the cat is 12 inches long. Turner the dog is 19 inches long. How much longer is Turner?

8. There are 15 flowers to fill 3 vases. How many flowers can be placed in each vase?



Clue Word Problems

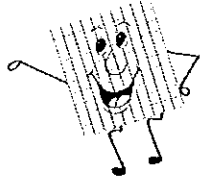
Write a word problem for each operation.
Solve the Word Problem.

1. Addition

2. Subtraction

3. Multiplication

4. Division



Place Value

Number Form, Expanded Form, Word Form

Complete the table below.

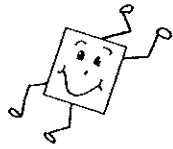
Standard Form	Word Form	Expanded Form
12,238		
		3,000+ 600+40+5
456,698		
	six hundred eleven thousand, one hundred fourteen	
		10,000+60+9
89,577		
	Nine hundred fifteen thousand, four hundred nine	

Determine whether the numbers below are written in standard form, word form, or expanded form.

- A) 24,321 _____
- B) Three hundred sixty-seven thousand, one hundred twenty-nine _____
- C) 198,102 _____
- D) $300,000 + 50 + 8$ _____
- E) Eight thousand, seventy-five _____

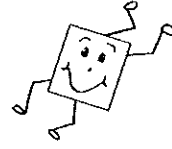
Match the numbers on the left to a number on the right.

- A) 56,736
- B) 419,089
- C) 554,102
- D) 30,986
- E) 812,489
- F) Four hundred nineteen thousand, eighty-nine
- G) $800,000 + 10,000 + 2,000 + 400 + 80 + 9$
- H) $500,000 + 50,000 + 4,000 + 100 + 2$
- I) $50,000 + 6,000 + 700 + 30 + 6$
- J) Thirty thousand, nine hundred eighty-six



Place Value

Numbers in Base Ten



Complete the table below.

Number	# of Hundred Thousands	# of Ten Thousands	# of One Thousands	# of Hundreds	# of Tens	# of Ones
89,866						
345,286						
721,984						
	6	5	4	2	0	1
79,870						
	9	9	0	7	0	3
	0	4	3	6	5	4
739,032						
385,012						

Write the digit that is in the place value written.

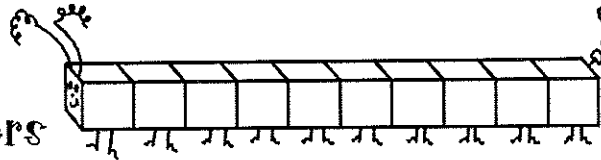
45,086	Tens	
328,906	Hundred Thousands	
3,670	Ones	
187,272	Ten Thousands	
765,312	One Thousands	
120,926	Hundred Thousands	

Determine the value of the underlined digit.

67, <u>9</u> 09	
<u>2</u> 35,567	
32 <u>0</u> ,096	
87, <u>3</u> 81	
<u>7</u> 1,761	
<u>1</u> 9,987	

Place Value

Comparing and Ordering Numbers



Complete the table below by entering a number that fills in the blank or $<$, $>$, $=$.

Number #1	Compare	Number #2
Seventy thousand, three hundred twenty-four		67,543
$700,000 + 800 + 20 + 8$		709,999
	=	Thirty-three thousand, six hundred
902,780		$90,000 + 2,000 + 70 + 8$
856,970	>	
$60,000 + 300 + 20 + 7$		Three hundred thousand, seventy-nine
Five hundred thirty-two thousand, one hundred ten		$500,000 + 30 + 2$
	<	Six hundred twelve thousand, ten

Place the numbers in order from least to greatest.

45,897	89,755	90,324	45,780	523,012	132,631	42,641	716,543
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Place the numbers in order from greatest to least.

67,789	21,721	62,201	47,646	312,092	323,305	423,999	310,091
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Write the number that is 10,000 more.

57,098	162,019
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Write the number that is 10,000 less.

136,045	689,432
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Place Value

Rounding Numbers

Complete the table below.

Original Number	Rounded to the nearest one thousand	Rounded to the nearest ten thousand	Rounded to the nearest hundred thousand
76,902			
132,654			
684,658			
129,543			
547,321			
323,423			
112,811			
102,011			
515,060			
924,013			

Henry was in charge of counting the bank coins. They had 23,569 pennies, 752,988 dimes, 23,081 nickels, and 178,863 quarters. Round each number of coins as stated in the chart below.

Coin	Ten Thousand	Thousand
Pennies		
Dimes		
Nickels		
Quarters		

Sophia's dad was a pilot. In the first week of June, he flew 56,402 miles. Second week, he flew 60,203 miles. Third week, he flew 23,456 miles. Fourth week, he flew 76,542 miles. Round each number as stated in the chart below.

Day	Hundred	Ten
Week #1		
Week #2		
Week #3		
Week #4		