

Lesson Plan: History's Stage

Objective: Students will examine the role of the White House as a public stage where history unfolds, and compare its role as a public space and a private home.

Time Frame:

For traditional 45-minute classes:

- 1 class period

For 90-minute block classes:

- ½ class period

Materials:

1. Computer with internet access
2. LCD projector and screen
3. Students' completed [Significant Events graphic organizer](#)
4. Students' completed [Public versus Private Space graphic organizer](#)

Procedure:

1. Play and discuss the following clip featured on C-SPAN's White House website:
 - ["Power and the White House."](#)
2. Based on the information showcased in C-SPAN's documentary, make a list of how the White House is used as a public stage. Have students discuss the information they noted in their [Significant Events](#) and [Public versus Private Space](#) graphic organizers.
3. Categorize the list (ie: celebrations, addressing national tragedy, etc).
4. Play and discuss the following clips featured on C-SPAN's White House Week website:
 - ["JFK and Nuclear Arms"](#)
 - ["Gerald Ford with Queen Elizabeth"](#)
 - ["Jimmy Carter The Camp David Accords"](#)
 - ["George H. W. Bush Signs ADA"](#)
 - ["Bill Clinton with Arafat and Rabin"](#)
 - ["Preparing for Queen Elizabeth"](#)
 - ["Winston Churchill's Visits"](#)
 - ["George Bush on September 11th"](#)
 - ["Ronald Reagan and the Challenger Accident"](#)
5. Place each of the aforementioned clips in the categorized list.

Closure:

1. Have students compare and contrast (orally or written) the White House as a public space and a private home and how both roles have changed over time.
2. Preview next day's lesson.