

Lesson Plan: The White House Unit Introduction

Objective: Students will identify their prior knowledge of the White House, and begin watching C-SPAN's documentary, *The White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home*, using graphic organizers to help organize information presented in the documentary.

Time Frame:

For traditional 45-minute classes:

- 1 class period

For 90-minute block classes:

- ½ class period

Materials:

1. A television with VCR or DVD access
2. A copy of C-SPAN's documentary, *The White House: Inside America's Most Famous Home* [NOTE: If teachers are unable to record this program, it can be streamed on C-SPAN's Video Library website, <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/>]
3. The following graphic organizers:
 - [Public Stage versus Private Home](#)
 - [Significant Events](#)
 - [Connections Between Presidents](#)
 - [White House Security](#)
 - [Cultural Trends and Societal Events](#)
 - [First Ladies Impact](#)

Procedure:

1. Ask students to define the word *iconic* and list iconic buildings in the United States.
2. Have students mention the first thing that comes to mind when they hear the words *White House*. Make a list of everything students know about The White House.
3. Explain the purpose of The White House unit.
4. Distribute and explain the graphic organizers students are to use while watching the documentary. Each student is responsible to record notes in each of the graphic organizers while watching the documentary.
5. Begin watching C-SPAN's documentary.

Closure:

1. Discuss first impressions of C-SPAN's documentary. Refer to the list created under Procedure step #2 and see if students can now add to the list.
2. Preview next day's lesson.