

Presidents' Day Lesson – Teacher's notes

<p>Fun Things to do at the White House</p>	<p>Intermediate and above.</p>
<p>Learners will develop reading skills and review/expand their knowledge of leisure sports related vocabulary.</p>	<p>Learners will also develop their speaking fluency through summarizing an article verbally and contributing ideas</p>
<p>Note to the teacher: This text focuses on the lighter side of the White House and the presidency. This lesson works with multi-lingual, multi-cultural groups, and mono-lingual group of students from the same country. It starts off with a prediction of what they know about what is inside the White House. They will more likely discuss the serious side of what it represents but you can segue to different ways people at the White House could relax and even entertain guests.</p> <p>The reading itself informs Ss of different activities that can be found around the White House, who was in office when they were installed, and who made use of them the most. They then share with members of the class.</p> <p>The final activity has them “drawing” and guessing where all the fun locations are around the White House and as an extension activity they can recommend the next “fun” activity/sport that can be installed on the grounds.</p> <p>Enjoy and Happy Presidents' Day!</p> <p>Text adapted from: http://redgreenandblue.org/2009/01/12/7-ways-for-obama-to-kick-back-at-the-white-house/</p> <p>White House Ground maps from: http://whitehouse.gov1.info/visit/tour/white-house-grounds-map.jpg</p>	

Fun Things to do at the White House

- 1) Pre-reading:
 - Ss discuss these questions, which are on their worksheet
 - Have you been to the White House? Discuss what you know about the White House with your partner.
- 2) Prediction task:
 - In pairs or small groups Ss discuss what are some of the leisure activities (fun things) the President and his guests can do there.
 - During feedback, write their predictions on the board for the first reading
- 3) Reading 1: Have Ss read quickly and check their predictions.
- 4) Reading 2: Ss fill in a grid with information from the text.
 - Group A: reads “Fun things to do at the White House: Reading Worksheet A” & fill out Grid A.
 - Group B: reads “Fun Things to do at the White House: Reading Worksheet B” & fill out Grid B.

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They then compare their answers with someone from the **same** group.

- 5) Speaking and summarizing.
Ss now work with someone from the **other** group. Ss share in their own words and note down about the "fun things" you can find at the White House.
- 6) Speaking:
With a partner Ss "draw" a map of the White House Grounds and place all the locations mentioned in the article.
- 7) Extension Activity: Ss decide on another "Fun thing/activity" that can be added on the grounds of the White House and

7 Fun Things to Do at the White House (A)

By Timothy B. Hurst

<http://redgreenandblue.org/2009/01/12/7-ways-for-obama-to-kick-back-at-the-white-house/>



Abraham Lincoln was a self-described billiards addict. John Adams swam almost daily in the nearby Potomac River. Gerald Ford made use of the White House facilities as if they were at his own private country club. Whether entertaining high-powered guests or for personal enjoyment, American presidents and their families have a long tradition of recreating on the grounds of the White House. When it is near impossible to find privacy in the outside world, these seven White House facilities can offer some relief from the high-pressure job.

Basketball

It is no secret that Barack Obama is a huge basketball enthusiast. From his high school days in Hawaii when he earned the nickname "Barry the Bomber", right up until the day he gave his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention, Mr. Obama has played basketball as a way to keep fit, focused and healthy. Installed by George H.W. Bush in 1991, the court sits near the swimming pool and just off the Oval Office.

Bowling

As opposed to his skills on the basketball court, Mr. Obama's skills in the bowling alley are not as good. In the Spring of 2008 whilst campaigning in Altoona, PA, he bowled a score of 37. The first White House bowling alley was actually built as a gift for President Harry Truman in 1947 in the location of what is now the Situation Room. Though not much of a bowler himself, the Truman bowling alley was well used by guests and staff until it was relocated across the street to the Executive Building. In 1969, President Richard M. Nixon brought bowling back to the White House with a single lane in a basement area below a driveway that exists today.

Swimming

Not far from the basketball court and the West Wing is the White House swimming pool, installed in 1975 by Californian and avid swimmer Gerald Ford. Outfitted with a cabana, a solar hot water system for the pool and a spa that was later added by President Bill Clinton, the pool area is the perfect place to entertain guests. The original White House swimming pool was built by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933. Roosevelt, who suffered from polio, used the indoor West Wing swimming pool as therapy to strengthen his upper body.

Tennis

Tennis courts have been in place at the White House since 1902 when there was a court just off the South side of the West Wing, adjacent to the Oval Office. This court ultimately made way for the West Wing Terrace. Ford built a new tennis court in 1975 and on occasion the President would invite Washington most influential people to talk politics over a couple of sets of tennis.

7 Fun Things to Do at the White House (B)

By Timothy B. Hurst

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Horsehoes

Nothing says America like horseshoes. Maybe Barack Obama could redeem some middle America approval if he improved his horseshoe toss. The horseshoe pit is next to the basketball court which was installed when George H.W. Bush was in office. Mr. Bush apparently preferred to use an underhand grip, whereas, his son Marvin preferred the overhand.

Golf

A putting green was first installed on the South Lawn by President Dwight Eisenhower in 1954. While most presidents since have been golfers of various abilities, playing golf on the White House lawn hasn't always projected the best image of a person Americans expect to be working for them tirelessly.

In 1996 President Bill Clinton moved the putting green to its current location with the assistance of a professional course architect.

Billiards

After a long day of sporting around on the White House grounds with Heads of State and foreign dignitaries, where better to retire to and discuss the details of international law than over a game of billiards or snooker? The billiards table currently sits in the White House game room on the third floor in what used to be a bedroom. Presidents as far back as John Adams had pool tables installed in various spots throughout the White House. Abraham Lincoln was a self-confessed "billiards addict", who described the game as a "health inspiring, scientific game, lending recreation to the otherwise fatigued mind."