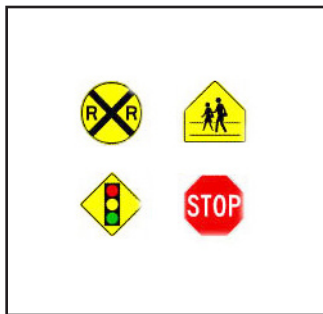


THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

CLASSROOM | K-3 Activities : “The White House - Symbol of Leadership”

Think About It : Symbols

We see symbols every day. We know that the White House is a symbol for American leadership. What other symbols have you seen? Look in magazines or newspapers and cut out symbols that you see. Paste them onto construction paper or cardboard and make a poster of symbols. You can also draw your own symbols from those that you see in other places. Here are some hints: there are symbols for things that are made from recycled paper. If something has poison in it and should not be touched, it will have a symbol that tells you to stay away. Traffic signs have symbols, too. Have you noticed that symbols usually do not have words? Symbols are made up of pictures or images so that people of all ages and countries can understand them. A logo is a kind of symbol. You see logos on shoes, soda, cars and other things. Talk to your teacher or parents about the difference between a logo and a symbol.



Everyday Symbols



Why is the White House White?

Everyone wants to know why the White House is white. The answer has to do with the stone walls. When the White House was built 200 years ago, the builders made the walls from blocks of sandstone. Sandstone is not a very hard stone. Rain, snow and ice can leak into the stone and make it crack and crumble. The men who cut the big blocks of stone were called masons. The masons painted the walls with whitewash. Whitewash is like a thin white paint. When the walls were covered with the whitewash, rain and snow could not get into the stone. By painting the walls, the masons helped make the walls last a long time.

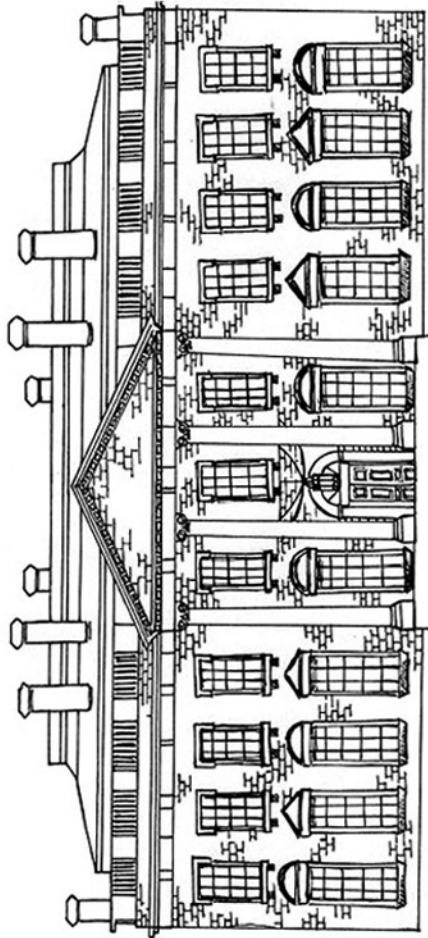
Twenty years ago, all the paint on the White House was taken off. So many coats of paint had been brushed on the White House in 200 years that you could not see the decorations. After the stone was cleaned and repaired, it was painted white again. If you had a chance to repaint the White House, would you paint it white? Or would you paint it red? Yellow? Pink?

Use color markers or crayons and paint the White House any color you like! (NEXT PG)



*North front with 42 layers of white paint removed.
Richard Cheek, The White House*





YOU COLOR THE WHITE HOUSE!

Build a Bigger White House

As more people needed to work in the White House, it grew over the years. See how it has grown in these drawings. If you had to make room for more space, how would you do it? Draw the White House for the 21st century. Remember that the main section in the middle should stay the same. Show your drawing to your classmates and tell them about your bigger White House.

