Anywhere Activity

Decorate Your Own Oval Office

The White House is not only the president’s home and an office, but also a museum! In the White House collection, there are hundreds of portraits, paintings, and historic objects that reflect the best of American art and decorative arts. There are many people who work at the White House to help take care of this important collection.

The president’s office is a room in the West Wing known as the Oval Office. Every president gets to decorate the room with items from the White House collection. Learn more about the history of Oval Office in The President’s Office Resource Packet.

Imagine you have just been elected as President of the United States. You have moved into the White House and need to decorate the Oval Office.

Directions

- On the next page you will find a blank Oval Office. Following that are pages of historic objects and artwork from the White House Collection.
- You can print all these pages to cut and paste. Or you can use Snipping Tool or Grab functions on your computer to insert the objects digitally into the Oval Office.
- You can also draw your own objects or use our free Digital Library for inspiration.
- Then finish decorating with markers, crayons, or your computer’s paint tools.

Final page of Anywhere Activity contains example Oval Office

Share your finished designs with us at @WhiteHouseHstry or onlineresources@whha.org
Official portrait of George Washington, painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1797

Official portrait of John F. Kennedy, painted by Aaron Shikler in 1970

Official portrait of Ronald Reagan, painted by Everett Raymond Kinstler in 1991

Official portrait of Theodore Roosevelt, painted by John Singer Sargent in 1903

Official portrait of William H. Taft, painted by Anders Leonard Zorn in 1911

Official portrait of Abraham Lincoln, painted by George Peter Alexander Healy in 1869

Official portrait of First Lady Dolley Madison, painted by Gilbert Stuart in 1804

Official portrait of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, painted by Douglas Chandor in 1949

Official portrait of First Lady Grace Coolidge, painted by Howard Chandler Christy in 1924

Official portrait of First Lady Hillary Clinton, painted by Simmie Knox, 2003

Official portrait of First Lady Nancy Reagan, painted by Aaron Shikler in 1987

Official portrait of First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, painted by Aaron Shikler in 1970

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Statuette of Andrew Jackson, 1855

*Timmy* (pet of President Coolidge), Laura Gardin Fraser, 1929

*The Bronco Buster*, Frederic Remington, 1895

Hiawatha’s Boat (Centerpiece), made by Gorham Manufacturing Company, 1871

*Descending Night*, Adolph Weinman, ca. 1915-1923

Lighthouse Clock with a portrait of the Marquis de Lafayette, ca. 1825

Gilded Bronze Mantel Clock, Deniere et Matelin, ca. 1817

Porcelain Bust of Thomas Jefferson, 1908

Porcelain Bust of Benjamin Franklin, 1905

*The Buffalo Hunt*, Theodore Baur, 1882-1886

Bronze Bust of Abraham Lincoln, made by Augustus Saint-Gaudens, late 19th Century

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Rococo Revival Center Divan, 1859

Grecian Sofa, ca. 1810-1825.

Sofa and armchairs, made by Pierre-Antoine Bellange, ca. 1817

Sofa, made by Pottier Stymus Manufacturing Company, 1869

Scrolled-back Settee Sofa, ca. 1810

Mahogany Sofa, unknown date

© White House Historical Association
George Washington Armchair, ca. 1793-1797

Mahogany armchair, ca. 1817-1825

Mahogany and Tulip Poplar Armchair, ca. 1810-1820

Gilded Armchair, made by Pierre-Antoine Bellange, ca. 1817

Swivel Chair, ca. 1866

American Empire Side Chair, unknown date

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Mahogany Work Table, 1814

Tambour Desk, ca. 1795-1810

Replica of desk on which James Monroe signed the Monroe Doctrine in 1823

Mahogany Center Table, ca. 1817

Resolute Desk, 1880

The Flag of the President, 1945

Gilded Pier Table, ca. 1818

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MY FUTURE OVAL OFFICE
(EXAMPLE)