

Program 5

DINNER AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Topic: The White House and the Presidency

Level of students: Grades 4-8

Grouping of students: Individual

Skills/knowledge addressed: The White House

The Presidency

Research skills

Decision-making

Social Studies TEKS:

4.22AD: The student is expected to differentiate between, locate and use primary and secondary sources; identify different points of view about an issue or topic;

5.25AD: The student is expected to differentiate between, locate and use primary and secondary sources; identify different points of view about an issue or topic;

6.21AD: The student is expected to differentiate between, locate and use primary and secondary sources; identify different points of view about an issue or topic;

7.21AD: The student is expected to differentiate between, locate and use primary and secondary sources; identify different points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants;

8.30AD: The student is expected to differentiate between, locate and use primary and secondary sources; identify different points of view from the historical context surrounding an event and the frame of reference that influenced the participants;

Description: Students will plan a dinner at the White House. Before arriving at the museum, students will conduct research in their classroom to identify a national issue of concern to them. Students should search through newspapers for several days to select an issue and become familiar with it. Teachers may opt to have students clip and save articles on their topic. Teachers may wish to have students collect the articles in a folder or notebook and bring them to the museum.

Students will be given three tasks to complete to plan their dinner at the White House. They may work on the three tasks in any order they please. For this activity, students will: (1) design new china for the White House to be used for this dinner, (2) create a dinner menu, and (3) select guests (and give

reasons/qualifications) by filling out a guest list. The dinner is being held to discuss the issue selected by the student(s). Students should select several dinner guests that are related to, or concerned about, their issue. They may also wish to select other celebrities and important people. Of course, they can't forget to invite themselves!

Post-Discovery Room Activity: Students will take their dinner plans back to school. Teachers may follow up by having the students write an essay on why their chosen issue is important to them. Another option is for the students to prepare remarks (short speech) that they would give on their subject at the White House dinner. Essays and remarks may be turned in (along with china patterns, menus, and guest lists) or they may be read out loud to the class.

Related Activity: The White House receives about 6,000 guests everyday on tours, plus guests who are invited for special occasions. With so many people sitting on its furniture, touching its walls, and walking on its floors, the White House furnishings suffer a lot of wear and tear. To demonstrate how this much wear adds up, hang a sheet of clean white paper near the door of your classroom. Make a rule that everyone coming or going from the room has to touch the paper. Save an identical clean sheet of paper for later comparison. After 2 weeks compare the clean sheet with the one hanging at the door. What kind of damage has the page suffered? Try to repair the sheet. How closely could you restore the damaged sheet's condition to that of the clean sheet? What does this experiment suggest about preservation problems at the White House? If you (students) were the White House curator, what would you do to protect the furnishings? Would your protection plan work with all the entertaining that goes on at the White House?

The White House

The President wishes to thank all of you for attending tonight's dinner. It is the hard work and dedication of citizens like you that will solve the problems of our nation. Americans are America's greatest assets.

THE WHITE HOUSE

Dinner Menu

Appetizer:

Soup:

Salad:

Entrée:

Dessert:

DINNER
AT THE
WHITE HOUSE

WHITE HOUSE DINNER

Guest List

<u>Guest</u>	<u>Affiliation/Organization</u>
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	
11.	
12.	

