



Christmas at the White House

How America's First Families Celebrated



Spot the Similarities and Differences

Use the table to record the things that are the same and different about Christmases at the White House.

Same

Different

	Same	Different
Importance What were some important traditions at the White House?		
Family How did Presidents show they cared about others?		
Decorations How was the White House decorated?		
Celebrations What special celebrations did the Presidents have?		

Christmas Ornament Analysis

Write as many adjectives as you can think of that describe President Eisenhower's ornaments.





Matching

Match by drawing a line from the President to the Christmas fact that goes with his presidency.

A. John Adams

1. Began the gingerbread house tradition.

B. Andrew Jackson

2. Prohibited Christmas trees in the White House until his son hid one in a closet.

C. Calvin Coolidge

3. Hosted a holiday “frolic” with games, dancing, dinner, and a snowball fight.

D. Teddy Roosevelt

4. Held the record for the most Christmas trees in the White House for 35 years.

E. Richard Nixon

5. First to celebrate Christmas in the White House with a party for his four year old granddaughter.

F. Dwight Eisenhower

6. Participated in the first National Christmas tree lighting ceremony.

Reflection

1. What surprised you most about how Christmas is celebrated in the White House?

2. Why do you think some Presidents chose to celebrate Christmas in a big way, while others kept it simple?

3. How do you think future Presidents might celebrate Christmas differently from today?

