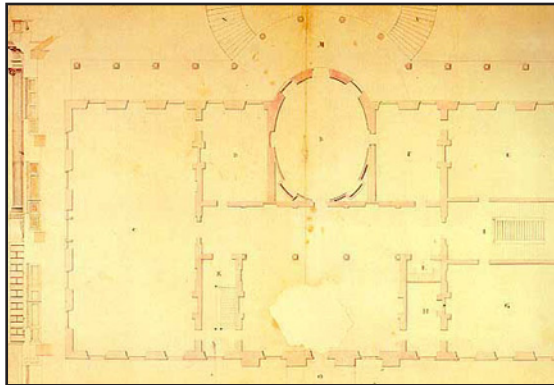


THE WHITE HOUSE
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

CLASSROOM | K-3 Activities : “The Colors and Shapes of the White House”

The White House and Your House

When George Washington was president, a plan was made for the White House. The plan shows the size and shape of the rooms on the first floor as if you were high above the house looking down on it (and if you could see through the roof!). This plan was drawn in 1792 by James Hoban. Hoban was the architect of the White House. The other picture shows the White House plan today. It is almost the same as it was over 200 years ago.



Massachusetts Historical Society

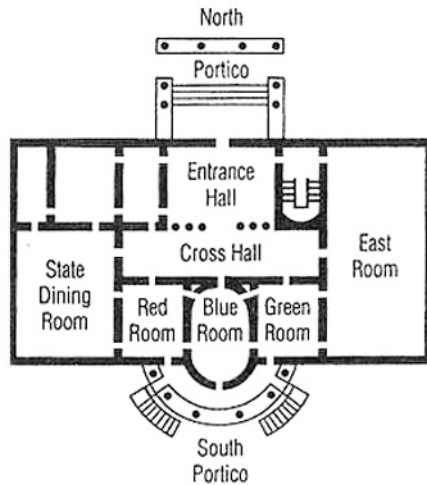


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Pretend it is 200 years from now and a student wants to know what your house looked like. Make a plan of your home. You will need a pencil, paper, some cardboard and a ruler or measuring tape.



- 1. Start at your front door and walk through all the rooms on the first floor of your home. Make a list of how many rooms look like squares, rectangles or other shapes.*
- 2. When you know how many shapes you have, cut the shapes from sheets of paper or old gift boxes. The big rooms in your home should have big shapes cut from the paper. The small rooms in your home should be small shapes cut from the paper.*
- 3. Now make a plan of your home. Take the shapes and place them next to each other in the same way that the rooms are next to each other in your home. Glue or tape the shapes on a piece of cardboard or construction paper. If you need help with scissors or glue, ask an adult.*
- 4. How do you walk from room to room? Draw the doors from room to room.*
- 5. Now write the name of each room on your plan.*

Compare the White House plan and your plan. How are they alike? How are they different? Compare the sizes by measuring the room where you have your dinner. With a ruler or measuring tape, measure the length and width of the room. The State Dining Room at the White House is 49 feet long and 36 feet wide.

There is another dining room in the White House. When the president wants to have dinner with his family, they eat on the second floor in the President's Dining Room. This is a smaller room.



The Hunt for Shapes

You know the shapes of the rooms at the White House. Now search for shapes inside the rooms. If you want, you can print the pictures and circle the shapes. Which shapes did you find? Count the numbers of each shape that you find and make a list. Did you find more than your classmates?



Red Room



Green Room

