FCE Citizenship Project Report 2009
Facts About "The White House: A Home with History"

- President George Washington and Pierre L'Enfant, the City Planner for Washington,D.C., chose 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue as the site for the President's residence.

- A contest was held to find a builder, Irish born architect James Hoban submitted the winning design and received a gold medal for his work.

- The cornerstone was laid in October, 1792.

- It costs $232,372 to build the White House.

- John Adams was the first president to live in the house and it wasn't finished when he took residence in November 1800.

- The White House has 132 rooms, 32 bathrooms, 4122 doors, 147 windows, 28 fireplaces, 7 staircases and 3 elevators. Running water was piped into the White House in 1833, and in 1891 electricity was installed.

- The first rose garden was planted in 1913 by Woodrow Wilson's first wife, Ellen.

- The White House has had many names. It has been known as the "President's Place", the "President's House" and the "Executive Mansion."

- In 1901, President Theodore Roosevelt officially named the president's home the "White House."

- The President's family lives in the center part of the White House. The Oval Office, Cabinet Room, Press Room and staff offices are located in the West Wing. The First Lady's offices and the other staff offices are in the East Wing.

- The White House kitchen has five full-time chefs who can serve dinner to 140 guests and horsdo'euvres to more than 1, 000.

- Recreational facilities for the President and his family include a tennis court, jogging track, swimming pool, movie theater, billiards room and bowling alley.

- When a new president is inaugurated, the White House is refurbished practically overnight. It takes 570 gallons of paint to cover the outside of the White House. By the end of the inaugural parade, the White House family quarters are ready for the new president and his family. The first family can decorate their private quarters any way they like. They can bring their own furniture, books and artwork.