

MISSING!



Cue
sheet

CASE OVERVIEW

Maps and Clippings

Detective Briefs

Chasing George Washington

A White House Adventure

Written by Karen Zacarias Music by Deborah Wicks LaPuma
Directed by John Vreeke

Calling all detectives! We need to find President Washington and three students who have disappeared from the White House. In this detective file, you'll find what you need to know to follow their tracks and get ready to see the world premiere musical "Chasing George Washington".

Co-Commissioned by the
Kennedy Center and
the White House
Historical Association


The Kennedy Center



WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Case Overview

It was just an ordinary day at the White House—the home where U.S. presidents work and also live with their families. Then, we found this:

Detectives, here's what we know.

Led by a teacher, a group of students from all over the United States began a tour of the White House

after passing through security.

All seemed fine until three students separated from

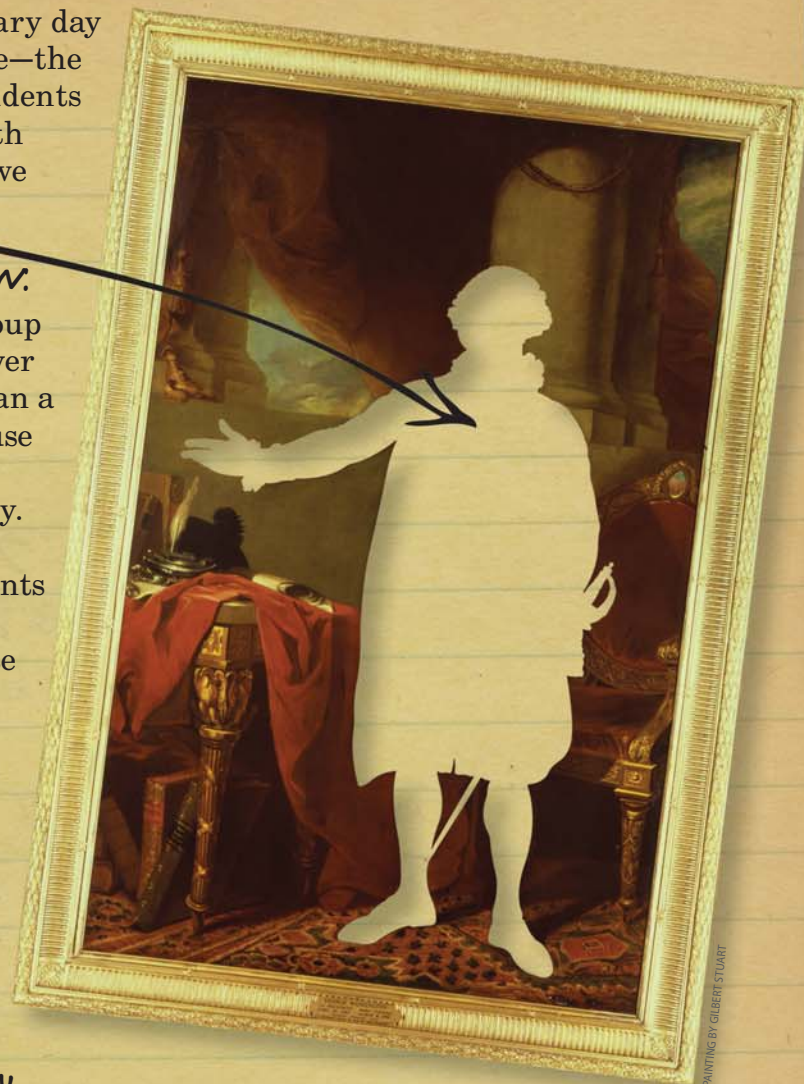
the group in the White House East Room.

Not only did they disappear, but so did

President George Washington, who vanished from his portrait that hangs there.

There's one more thing you should know.

Chasing George Washington is a musical—a story acted out on stage with actors, words, songs, scenery, costumes, and lighting. When a story is told on stage, anything can happen, including people from the past talking to people living in the present—also called anachronism. So be open to all sorts of possibilities as you pursue the missing president.



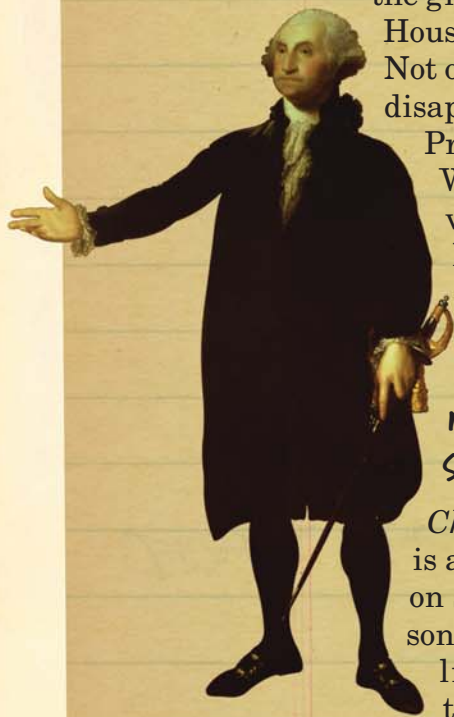
PAINTING BY GILBERT STUART

The artist who painted the portrait of George Washington chose carefully what items and background to include. Those features symbolize ideas and characteristics of the president and the new nation. Explore the meaning behind the portrait at the Smithsonian National Portrait Gallery Web site, www.georgewashington.si.edu/portrait/.

From Detective's Dictionary

anachronism—where persons or things are out of place in time

THE FACTS!



The Missing Persons

President George Washington

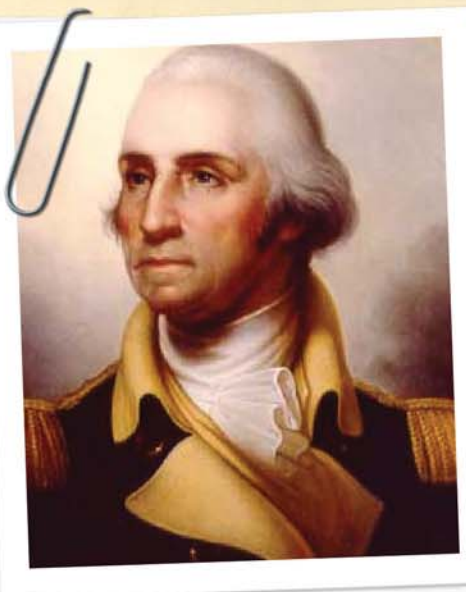
From: Westmoreland County, Virginia

Age: 276 years

Notes: President of the United States from 1789 to 1797; tall, white-powdered hair

Responds to:

- General
- Rebel
- Commander-in-Chief
- Mr. President
- Husband
- Founding Father



WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION/WHITE HOUSE COLLECTION

Founding Fathers and Metaphors

The term "founding fathers" refers to the fathers of America—the men who established the United States with the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Foremost among them is George Washington, the first president. When Washington calls the missing students "his children," he really means they are children of America—a metaphor.

From Detective's Dictionary

metaphor—a figure of speech comparing unlike things without using "like" or "as"

Three Middle School Students:

1)

Dee (Diana)

From: Atlanta, Georgia
Notes: Has no brothers or sisters and likes to color coordinate her clothes and her cell phone



2)

José

From: Los Angeles, California
Notes: Comes from a big family, likes dance moves



3)

Annie

(Annikala Karenina Parazevietchs)
From: Kansas City, Missouri
Notes: Moved to the United States from another country (an immigrant), writes facts and ideas in her spiral notebook



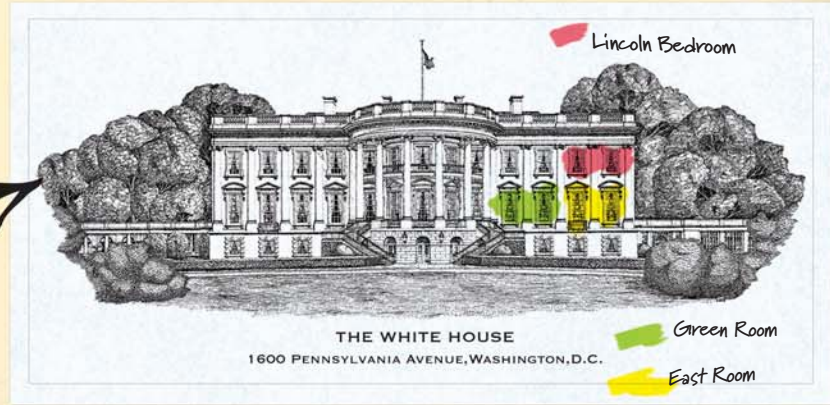
Possible Leads

The following people are suspected of having contact with the missing persons and should be questioned:

- Ms. Letter, the students' teacher
- The White House security guard
- The Ford Family--President Gerald R. Ford (term in office: 1974-1977) and daughter Susan
- The Kennedy Family--President John F. Kennedy (1961-1963), wife Jacqueline, and children Caroline and John
- President Martin Van Buren (1837-1841)
- The Lincoln Family--President Abraham Lincoln (1861-1865), wife Mary Todd Lincoln, and sons Thomas ("Tad") and Willie
- The Madisons--President James Madison (1809-1817) and wife Dolley

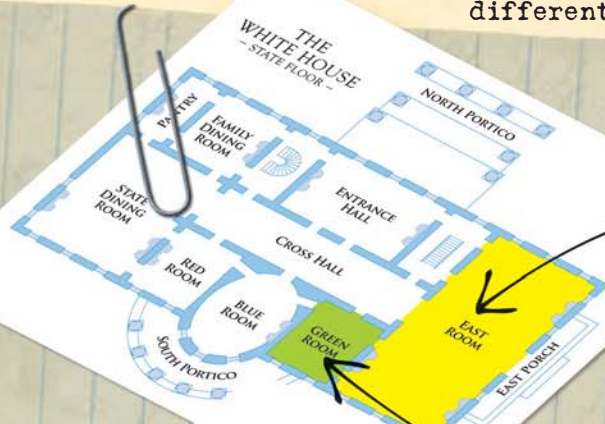
Maps and Clippings →

All the action takes place at the White House--just a few miles from the performance at the Kennedy Center! So, detectives, get your bearings:



The White House has 132 rooms. Luckily for us, the missing persons were last seen in only three different locations:

Scene of the Missing Persons



First spotted in:

The East Room—That's the largest room in the White House. It's been the site of many large gatherings, including receptions, press conferences, and musical performances.

And then seen fleeing to:

The Green Room—The color green has been used to decorate this room ever since Thomas Jefferson lived in the White House from 1801 to 1809. When she was first lady from 1961 to 1963, Jacqueline Kennedy refurbished the room so it would have a more historic appearance.

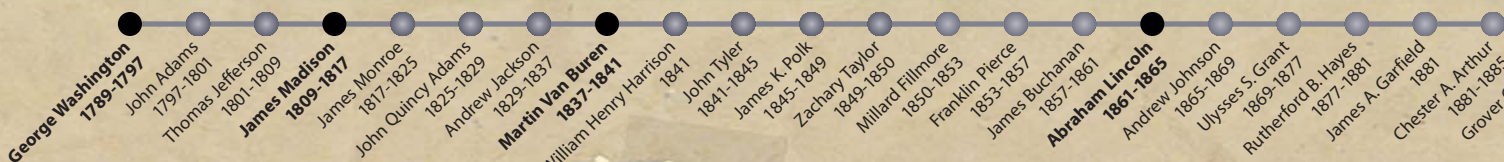
And suspected to be hiding in:

The Lincoln Bedroom—The room on the second floor that used to be Abraham Lincoln's office.

Check the three rooms for clues!

Tracking Device

Use this timeline to track the years each president served (the ones you'll meet are bolded).



As you investigate the missing persons and the historical characters they meet, and hear things they talk about, you'll need some background. Learn more by reading these clippings that describe some events in White House and American history.

The White House Is Burning!

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 1814—British troops stormed into Washington, D.C., burning the White House and other buildings. The War of 1812, now in its third year, started after the British repeatedly seized sailors from American ships.

In the face of the British invasion, First Lady Dolley Madison remained at the White House and



PHOTO BY TOM FREEMAN FOR THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Lincoln Declares Slaves Free

WASHINGTON, D.C., January 1, 1863—President Abraham Lincoln issued an “Emancipation Proclamation” today freeing the slaves in the rebel states. The southern states, in rebellion against the Federal government, continue to fight the north over several issues, including slavery. The bloody American Civil War continues well into its second year.

Specifically, the “Emancipation Proclamation” declares “that all held as slaves”

Constitution Amended to Give Women Voting Right

WASHINGTON, D.C., August 18, 1920—The Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution was ratified today, officially giving all adult women the right to vote. If our nation’s founders were alive today, they would be surprised to see that the right to vote, once reserved for white male landowners only, was extended to include black men in 1868, and now women.

Work for suffrage in America dates back to 1839 when Lucretia Mott denied a seat with her husband at a slavery conference in Le

Green Room Renovated

WASHINGTON, D.C., February, 1962—First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy just completed overseeing the renovation of the Green Room. She has focused on preserving objects in the White House and collecting additional art and furnishings.

Millions of viewers watched as Mrs. Kennedy led a televised tour of the renovation.



PHOTO BY FRANK KVALSVIK FOR THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Ford Celebrates at the White House

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 1, 1975—President Ford’s daughter Susan held her school’s senior prom last night in the White House East Room. She is among dozens of children who have lived in the White House.

The prom was a lavish celebration attended by the entire

- Cleveland 1885-1889
- Benjamin Harrison 1889-1893
- Grover Cleveland 1893-1897
- William McKinley 1897-1901
- Theodore Roosevelt 1901-1909
- William Howard Taft 1909-1913
- Woodrow Wilson 1913-1921
- Warren G. Harding 1921-1923
- Calvin Coolidge 1923-1929
- Herbert Hoover 1929-1933
- Franklin D. Roosevelt 1933-1945
- Harry S. Truman 1945-1953
- Dwight D. Eisenhower 1953-1961
- John F. Kennedy 1961-1963
- Lyndon B. Johnson 1963-1969
- Richard M. Nixon 1969-1974
- Gerald R. Ford 1974-1977
- Jimmy Carter 1977-1981
- Ronald Reagan 1981-1989
- George Bush 1989-1993
- William J. Clinton 1993-2001
- George W. Bush 2001-

Maps and Clippings

Detective Briefs

Eavesdropping

Who Said That?

These quotes were overheard by witnesses. Match the character from the musical with the quote:

- Jacqueline Kennedy
- Mary Todd Lincoln
- George Washington
- Annikala Karenina Parazevietchs

After the performance, check your detective work (the answers are at the bottom of the page).

- 1) "I am inviting these befuddled children on a very special tour of the house, so they relish its perfection and learn to feel comfortable here."
- 2) "My parents left our country because they wanted me to have the opportunity. They wanted this to be MY country."
- 3) "It's hard to foresee all the stories a house will hold."
- 4) "Slavery has been a way of life for so long, Abraham. What amount of sacrifice will it take to change that?"

A Message in Song

Our witnesses also overheard singing (because it's a musical!). We suspect the words (lyrics) to this particular song, "Restoration Song," provide clues about what the students might be discovering on their adventure. In the lyrics below, look for ideas—like who the White House belongs to—and the purpose of preserving the past.

And then look again. See how many words you can identify that relate to furnishings and building.

"There's a story in preservation
And its story should be heard
And I worry if we don't listen
Then our past won't be preserved
For to drape a better future
And to furnish worthy change
We must truly understand first
Who we're carved from
Who we're built by"

--
"A home needs upkeep
It needs mothering
It needs family
To keep it strong
This house is not just shelter
It's our home, where we belong"

More Clues: The Song List

- "The White House Field Trip"
- "Lost Rebel Yell"
- "The White House Slide"
- "Restoration Song"
- "It's the Emancipation Proclamation"
- "Finale"

Theater Investigations

To follow the on-stage chase, brief yourself about the world of theater.

The Script—The individual ultimately behind the mystery of the story is the playwright, the person who writes the words spoken and sung onstage. But in writing *Chasing George Washington*, playwright Karen Zacarias had accomplices! Students from the Young Playwrights' Theater gave her suggestions about what the student characters should be like and what should happen.

The Actors—Watch closely! The actors are not always who they first appear to be. Each actor plays more than one role. They change roles through tools of disguise, like costumes and changing the way they speak.

The Costumes

Observe the costumes for clues to where we are in history. Notice that Jacqueline Kennedy, who was in the White House in the 1960s, wears clothes that she made popular at that time, like a pillbox hat. Dolley Madison, who lived in the White House from 1809 to 1817, wears a long dress with a full skirt that was typical of her time.

The Lights—A darkened stage with a spotlight on a single character lets you know what the character is thinking. These moments give you valuable information.

The Props—These objects that the actors use during the performance help you learn more about the missing persons—notice the notebook, a coin, and a pendant. What do they mean to the people who carry them? Also look for items like a cell phone, dollar bill, and bus pass.



Annie's notebook



José's coin



Dee's pendant

CLOSING THE CASE

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WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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The Kennedy Center ARTSEGE

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PHOTO BY WILLIAM PHILLIPS FOR THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Undercover Assignments

- ✓ Be like the students in the musical, who explore some important ideas about the White House. After the performance, write or discuss how they might answer these questions:

What is the White House?

Who does the White House belong to?

Should Americans remember the past? Why?

- ✓ Be a playwright. Here's the scenario: The children of a newly elected president worry about moving to the White House. Asleep, they dream they are in the White House. You take it from here: Research and decide which modern and historical characters to include and what happens. Write a short outline of your play and what you want audiences to learn. Write a few lines of dialogue and practice it with friends.
- ✓ Be your own historian. What does your own house—the way it is organized, the furniture and decorations it contains, even the way it smells—say about you, your family, and anyone who might have lived there before?
- ✓ Think like first lady Dolley Madison. She had time to save one important artifact from the White House as the British Army approached. Imagine you could save only one object from your home that is important for remembering your family's history. What would you save? Write your ideas and share them with friends or classmates.

Your Assignment On Performance Day

The actors in *Chasing George Washington* need help from you, the detectives in the audience. They will be telling the story and helping you close the case. This calls for your best observation work—please watch and listen closely!