

White House China

What is China?

China refers to formal dinnerware that is usually used for special occasions.

Throughout United States history, various presidents had china designed to use for their special dinners at the White House.

If you were president or first lady, what would your White House china look like?



Make your own White House China

- 1.) Think of a symbol or letter that represents you or your family that you can use on your White House china. Draw the symbol here.
- 2.) What colors would you choose to represent you and your family on your White House china? Why did you choose those colors?
- 3.) Use the craft materials, markers, or crayons to design your own White House china.

Examples of White House China



Abraham Lincoln China

This was the first china chosen by a First Lady. First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln helped to design this china, as she felt it symbolized the strength of Lincoln's administration to those who visited the White House. The Lincoln china has an eagle above a shield with the national motto in the clouds. The Coat of Arms of the United States is centered on the china.



Lyndon B. Johnson China

First Lady Bird Johnson was passionate about the beautification of the White House. Helping to design the Johnson china was one of the first things she did as First Lady. The Johnson china displays an eagle and is decorated with more than forty different wildflowers found all over the United States on different plates. A fun fact is that the flowers were hand painted on every plate.



George W. Bush China

First Lady Laura Bush chose a green pattern with flowers. The design was inspired by china belonging to fourth President James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison.

White House China during the Kennedy Administration

- President Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy did not order china for the White House. They usually used the Truman china with the Eisenhower service plates for State dinners.
- Whenever possible, Mrs. Kennedy used the old china—that is, Lincoln's purple china, china designed by Mrs. Harrison, and pieces of the Haynes service—to represent the traditions of the past. Her preference for the Harrison china was shown in her selection of pieces from that service to decorate the breakfront that she had placed in the family dining room during the years that she and President Kennedy occupied the mansion.
- Mrs. Kennedy did order Franciscan Masterpiece china for use aboard Air Force One, but the china does not appear to have been put into use until the Johnson Administration.

["Party Politics" Entertaining at the White House](#) (PDF). National First Ladies Library. Retrieved 2008-12-07.

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