

**Read the selection. Then answer the questions that follow.**

## **The White House**

### **Home of the President**

The White House has survived fire, war, and more than two hundred years of use. John Adams was the first President to live there. In 1800, he and his wife moved in before the building was even finished. Work went on all around them.

### **Destroyed by Fire**

During the War of 1812, the White House was burned by British troops. Some people thought it should be replaced with a new building, but President James Madison wanted the White House to remain unchanged. He wanted Americans to know their government was still strong. Since the outside walls were mostly still standing, the White House was rebuilt on the inside. Few changes were made to the outside.

### **The West Wing**

In 1901, Theodore Roosevelt moved in with his wife and six children. At that time, the second floor held offices and living quarters for the First Family. The large Roosevelt family needed more room, so a new wing was built to hold offices. On the second floor of the old White House, the Roosevelt family slept, played with their many pets, and did homework.

### **Much Needed Repairs**

By the time Harry Truman was elected President in 1945, the nearly 150-year-old White House desperately needed repairs. In fact, the President felt that the entire inside should be torn out and rebuilt. President Truman and his family lived in a building across the street, while bulldozers dug out a new basement for the White House. Air conditioning and heating equipment were added, as well as fire protection. Four years later, a new White House stood inside those old, old walls.

**Turn the page.**

Answer the questions below.

**1** The inside of the White House has been rebuilt twice. What was the reason the first time?

- A** A fire had destroyed the inside.
- B** President Adams needed more office space.
- C** The Roosevelt family needed more living space.
- D** The building contained poor quality materials.

**2** Why did the author include paragraph headings in this selection?

- F** to show the reader when important events happened
- G** to let the reader know what each section is about
- H** to convince the reader that the author knows about the White House
- J** to encourage the reader to read more slowly

**3** What is the most likely reason the author wrote this selection?

- A** to entertain readers with a sad story
- B** to express love for the United States
- C** to encourage readers to study history
- D** to present facts about the White House

**4** In more than two hundred years much has happened at the White House. Why did the author choose to include only these four events?

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**5** Why do you think the author organized information in chronological order?

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