Imagine if your mom or dad was the president of the United States. What would that be like? **FILL IN THE-blanks TO MAKE UP A FUN FIRST KID STORY!**

**TRY THIS AT HOME!**

**FIRST KIDS/FIRST PETS**

_Fill in the blanks to make up a fun first kid story!_  

Filling in the blanks:

**Dear ____________________________,**  
(name of best friend)  

I still can’t believe ____________________________ is the new  
(mom or dad)  

president of the United States! Can you? This is going  
to be very ____________________________  
(adjective)  

Yesterday we moved into the White House. Boy, it sure is  
different from my home back in ____________________________  
(name of your town)  

First of all, I think I’ve counted .......... rooms and ..........  
(number) (number)  
bathrooms! There’s also a ____________________________ room  
(a favorite activity)  

and a ____________________________ room.  
(another favorite activity)  

It looks like we’re going to be having a lot of parties around  
here. I think we should have a sleepover in the ____________________________  
(color)  

room. We can eat all the ____________________________ we want  
(food)  

and then watch ____________________________ in the private  
(movie)  

White House movie theater.  

Write back soon, and tell me what’s happening back in  
______________________________  
(name of your town)  

Your friend,  
(your name)  

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Theodore Roosevelt’s brood of six kids were a rowdy bunch who knew how to have fun in the White House. They were known for having major pillow fights, tickling matches, and races all around the house. Sometimes their father, the president, joined in! Sounds like fun!

**The White House Has:**

- 6 levels
- 135 rooms
- 35 bathrooms
- its own flower shop
- a library
- a basketball court and a tennis court
- a swimming pool
- a jogging track
- a bowling alley
- a rose garden, a vegetable garden, and a flower and herb garden
- a beehive with about 70,000 bees
- a dining room with space for 140 guests
- a concert hall called the East Room;
- a private movie theater

For more activities like these, check out **Awesome Adventures at the Smithsonian: The Official Kids Guide to the Smithsonian Institution** at SmithsonianEducation.org/OfficialKidsGuide
First Pets of the White House

Since the very beginning, there have been pets living at the White House—all kinds of pets!

Theodore Roosevelt’s son, Quentin, had a pet macaw named Eli Yale. The Roosevelts also had cats, dogs, snakes, raccoons, and a pony. They practically had a zoo living on the grounds of the White House!

Jimmy Carter’s daughter, Amy, had a Siamese cat that she called Misty Malarky Ying Yang. She also was given an elephant that now lives at the National Zoo in Washington, DC.

Calvin Coolidge’s wife, Grace, regularly walked her pet raccoon on a leash!

The Obama family dog, Bo, is a fluffy Portuguese water dog.

Check all of the animals below that you think have lived at the White House over the years:

- cat
- dog
- bird
- hamster
- rat
- snake
- cow
- horse
- pony
- donkey
- bobcat
- lion cub
- antelope
- wallaby
- pygmy
- hippo
- bear
- ram
- goose
- macaw
- guinea pig
- badger
- elephant
- turkey
- bald eagle
- coyote
- parrot
- zebra
- barn owl
- lizard
- rooster
- raccoon
- billy goat
- pig

CHECK IT OUT!
Find out which presidential families had which pets at the Presidential Pet Museum!