



A White House Christmas



Abraham and Mary Lincoln

It was difficult to celebrate the season when men were being killed during the Civil War. The first Christmas during the Civil War, Mrs. Lincoln showed her Christmas spirit by serving meals and helping care for wounded soldiers in hospitals. She raised a \$1000 herself to give out Christmas dinner and citrus fruits that help prevented scurvy in children. The Lincoln sent books and clothing to soldiers in hospitals and fought hard to save the life of his pet turkey, Jack. His father, President Lincoln, wrote a formal pardon and spared the turkey's life.



Dwight and Mamie Eisenhower

President Eisenhower was an artist and with the help of Hallmark created the first official White House Christmas card in 1952. In 1958 First Lady, Mamie, put up 27 trees in the White House. They were adorned with electric candles, glass balls, and lots of tinsel. In every room, Christmas carols could be heard!



George H and Barbara Bush

In 1990, President and Mrs. Bush invited all of their children and grandchildren to come to the White House where there were almost 50 Christmas trees set up. Mrs. Bush hosted a Christmas party for homeless children in Washington, DC and gave them gifts. She read them Christmas stories. One Christmas, Mrs. Bush had a book-themed tree which held tiny children's books to promote her desire for all children to learn to read.