

A GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Thomas Jefferson
MONTICELLO

Exploring Monticello

Welcome to Monticello!
My name is Cornelia,
and this is the
plantation of my
grandpapa
Thomas
Jefferson.

This book belongs to:



Monticello Plantation

Match the artifacts

The objects that archaeologists find tell us about life at Monticello 200 years ago. Match each artifact fragment with its name and use.

1

Bone Toothbrush

Hog's hair bristles were attached to this bone handle to make a toothbrush.

NUMBER TWO

2

Iron Child's Toy

A child might have played with this horse figurine near one of the slave dwellings.

NUMBER THREE

3

Bone & Iron Fork

Some enslaved families ate with utensils like this bone-handled iron fork.

NUMBER ONE

Plantations were large farms where slaves grew crops like wheat and tobacco for the owner to sell.

DID YOU KNOW?

- * Monticello means little mountain.
- * Thomas Jefferson was a self-taught architect and designed Monticello.
- * Monticello took over 40 years to build.
- * Most U.S. nickels have Thomas Jefferson on the front and Monticello on the back.

Look closely

Thomas Jefferson used time wisely. He designed a large clock with indoor and outdoor



OUTSIDE



INSIDE

faces for his house and the plantation. Slowly descending cannonball weights power the clock. The top weight marks the day of the week. What day do the weights mark in this drawing?

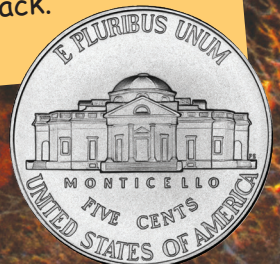
TUESDAY



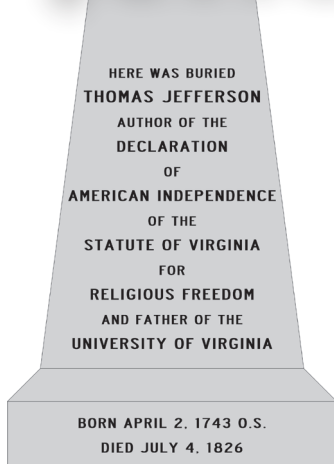
CANNONBALL WEIGHTS

Two hundred years ago, Monticello was a 5,000-acre plantation where Thomas Jefferson, his family, and hundreds of enslaved workers lived.

Next time you see a nickel, check and see what image is on the other side.



Thomas Jefferson



The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal."

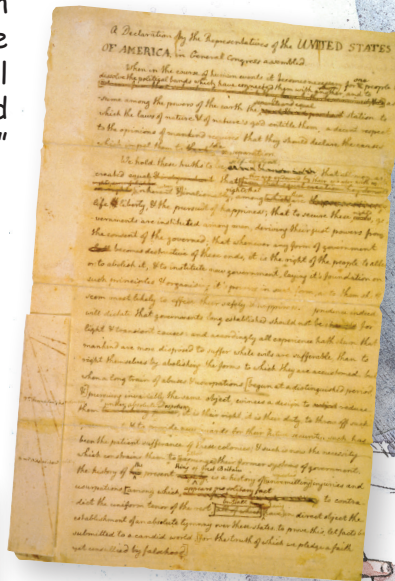
Jefferson was an early advocate for religious freedom.

Thomas Jefferson founded the University of Virginia and dedicated it to the "freedom of the human mind."



Jefferson was one of our Founding Fathers. He wrote the Declaration of Independence and helped create the United States of America.

Jefferson was 6 feet, 2-1/2 inches tall and had red hair.



Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743. He died at Monticello on July 4, 1826 - the 50th anniversary of America's independence.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thomas Jefferson was:

- * Governor of Virginia
- * U.S. Minister to France
- * 1st Secretary of State
- * 2nd Vice President
- * 3rd President



While he was president, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France - and sent the Lewis & Clark Expedition to explore the West.



Can you find Thomas Jefferson's handwriting on this page?

Architecture and Design

Monticello's design is called "neoclassical" because it is a new version of the classical styles of ancient Greece and Rome ("neo" means new).

Thomas Jefferson designed Monticello, the Virginia State Capitol, and the University of Virginia. He learned about architecture from books and from buildings he saw in Europe.



DID YOU KNOW?

- * The house has 33 rooms on four floors.
- * More than 69 free and enslaved workers and craftsmen built Monticello.
- * Jefferson designed ornamental gardens with flowers, shrubs, and trees from around the world.

How many of these shapes can you find on the house: circle, triangle, half circle, rectangle?

MARY JEFFERSON RANDOLPH AND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN RANDOLPH, JEFFERSON'S GRANDCHILDREN

Slavery at Monticello

Enslaved girls ages 10 to 16 used a spinning jenny to spin wool into thread.

Most buildings where slaves lived and worked were made of wood and no longer exist. Today, some reconstructed structures show life and work along Mulberry Row, the primary street on the plantation.

AGNES GILLETTE,
ENSLAVED SPINNER



WILLIS GRANGER,
ENSLAVED CHILD



Most people who lived at Monticello were enslaved. Slavery meant that one person could legally own another person. Slaves lacked basic rights and were forced to work. While Jefferson spoke against slavery, he owned over 600 enslaved people in his lifetime.

PHIL HUBBARD,
ENSLAVED NAILER

Enslaved boys ages 10 to 16 made nails in the nailery.

Within the 80-person Hemings family were woodworkers, blacksmiths, chefs, painters, butlers, seamstresses, weavers, and gardeners.

JOHN HEMMINGS,
ENSLAVED JOINER

DID YOU KNOW?

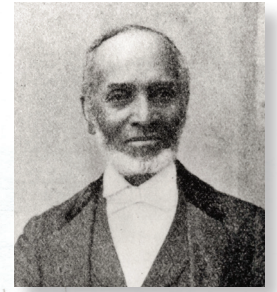
- * Most slaves worked from sunrise to sunset six days a week.
- * Years after Jefferson's death, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution made slavery illegal in the U.S.

To learn more about the enslaved people who lived and worked here, visit Monticello.org or download our Slavery at Monticello app.

Families of Monticello

Enslaved and free families lived side-by-side, but their lives were very different. Family ties helped slaves survive a violent and unfair system. Descendants of enslaved families have pursued Jefferson's ideal - "that all men are created equal."

Edith Fossett's son Peter Fossett, later in his life



FRANCES HERN,
ENSLAVED CHEF

ELLEN RANDOLPH,
JEFFERSON'S
GRANDDAUGHTER

EDITH FOSSETT,
ENSLAVED CHEF

Edith Fossett, an enslaved chef, lived with her family next to the kitchen.

ISRAEL
GILLETTE,
ENSLAVED
KITCHEN
ASSISTANT

MARY RANDOLPH,
JEFFERSON'S
GRANDDAUGHTER

DID YOU KNOW?

- * Oral history is a way of learning about the past by asking people to tell their personal stories.
- * The Getting Word Oral History Project interviews the descendants of Monticello's enslaved community.
- * Peter Fossett's oral history was recorded in 1898 after gaining freedom.

Monticello's kitchen had the most modern equipment of its time such as stew stoves.



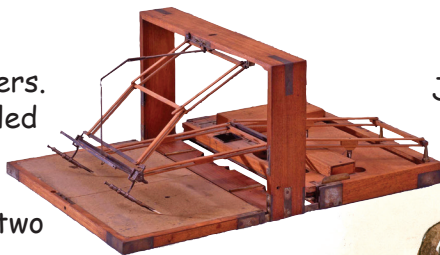
Descendants of
Monticello families,
June 2018.

**Interested in gathering oral histories from your friends and family?
Ask an adult to tell you about their life and memorable experiences.**

Gadgets and Gizmos

A curious scientist, Jefferson observed and recorded information about everything from plants to weather! He enjoyed experiments and purchased gadgets. Most importantly, Jefferson believed that everyone should share useful knowledge.

Jefferson wrote thousands of letters. This machine - called a "polygraph" - made a copy as he wrote with two connected pens.



This compass rose is attached to Jefferson's weather vane. He recorded the weather every day.



This device - called an orrery - is a model of the solar system.

Jefferson recorded daily observations on these ivory notecards, which could be wiped clean and reused.



Jefferson said he could "not live without books." This spinning stand holds papers, letters, and books.



WHEEL CIPHER



DID YOU KNOW?

- * Thomas Jefferson designed a "wheel cipher" to create secret messages in code.
- * Jefferson wore these green spectacles.



Look at the compass rose above. What direction is the wind blowing?

Music and Art

FUN FACT

When Thomas Jefferson was a young man, he practiced the violin for three hours a day.

Thomas Jefferson called music "the favorite passion of my soul." Music was important to both the free and the enslaved families at Monticello.

Jefferson played the violin, as did his sons, Beverly, Madison, and Eston Hemings. Here, two of his granddaughters practice the pianoforte and English guitar.



Jefferson collected artwork that showed his interest in people and the world.

This camera obscura was used to make artwork.



CORNELIA RANDOLPH,
JEFFERSON'S
GRANDDAUGHTER

Monticello archaeologists have found small instruments called jaw harps near places slaves lived.



VIRGINIA RANDOLPH,
JEFFERSON'S
GRANDDAUGHTER



To learn more about Beverly, Madison, and Eston Hemings, visit monticello.org/sallyhemings

Jefferson and his friend James Madison played chess together.

DID YOU KNOW THAT THOMAS JEFFERSON:

- * Had no middle name?
- * Had pet mockingbirds?
- * Had a 1,000-foot long vegetable garden with more than 350 varieties of plants?
- * Collected fossils and bones to learn about animals, as well as art and artifacts from other cultures?
- * Established the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York?
- * Helped make ice cream, macaroni and cheese, and French fries popular in America?
- * Owned the Natural Bridge in Virginia? He thought it was one of the natural wonders of the world.
- * Received a mammoth cheese — weighing 1,235 pounds — from the people of Cheshire, Massachusetts, while he was president?

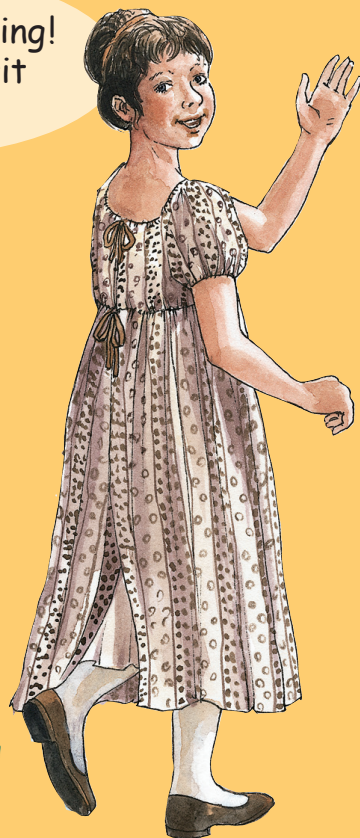
For more information, please visit monticello.org and classroom.monticello.org

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Thanks for coming!
I hope you visit
again soon.



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