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

A GUIDE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Exploring Monticello

For more information, please visit monticello.org

THOMAS JEFFERSON:

DID YOU KNOW THAT

- Had no middle name
- Collected fossils and bones to learn about animals, as well as art and artifacts from other cultures
- Liked to hum or sing when he rode a horse or worked
- Had pet mockingbirds
- Owned the Natural Bridge in Virginia?
- Helped create the decimal currency system in the United States
- Established the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York
- Received a mammoth cheese—weighing 1,235 pounds—from the people of Cheshire, Massachusetts, while he was president
- Natural wonders of the world?
- Established the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York
- Received a mammoth cheese—weighing 1,235 pounds—from the people of Cheshire, Massachusetts, while he was president
- Natural wonders of the world?

Thanks for coming!
I hope you visit again soon.

This book belongs to:
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.

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

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

Jefferson was an early advocate for religious freedom.

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?
Gadgets and Gizmos

A curious scientist, Jefferson observed and recorded information about everything from plants to weather! He enjoyed experiments and purchased gadgets galore. 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.

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

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

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

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

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?
The Parlor was the “living room” at Monticello. Jefferson, his family, and guests gathered there to read and play music and games.

Jefferson played the violin. Many of his grandchildren played musical instruments, including the English guitar, harpsichord, and pianoforte.

Jefferson taught his grandchildren how to play chess. The granddaughters learned to paint and draw. They used paint boxes like this one.

This camera obscura was used to make artwork.

Thomas Jefferson organized races for his grandchildren outside on the West Lawn. The winner received dried fruit as a prize.

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

Circle the name of the stringed instrument hiding in the word “Monticello.”
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.

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

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?
Slavery at Monticello

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

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

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.

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

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.

Family ties helped slaves survive their hardships.

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

Did You Know?

* 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.
The work rooms under the house are called dependencies because Jefferson and his family depended upon the work done there. These rooms included the smokehouse, washhouse, dairy, and kitchen.

DID YOU KNOW?

Monticello’s 1,000-foot long vegetable garden grew more than 350 varieties of plants.

Jefferson grew 23 kinds of peas. They were one of his favorite vegetables.

Ice cream was a special treat at Monticello.

Unscramble these letters to find a favorite food that Jefferson brought home from Europe: ramacion dna sehcee

ANSWER: MACARONI AND CHEESE