



Thomas Jefferson was born April 13, 1743 in Albemarle County, Virginia. When he was 14, he inherited his father's estate and slaves. Soon after, Jefferson attended the College of William and Mary where he studied mathematics, metaphysics, and philosophy. In 1767, Jefferson was admitted to the Virginia Bar and practiced law. Jefferson remained influential at the College of William and Mary throughout his life, and helped institute the nation's first student honor code.

In 1769, when was just 26, Jefferson was elected to the Virginia House of Representatives. In 1772, Jefferson began building his home, Monticello. That same year, he married Martha Wayles Skelton. The couple would eventually have six children.

As a member of the Second Continental Congress, Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence with help from Benjamin Franklin and others. In 1779, he was elected as governor of Virginia. Although he resigned in 1781, during his term as governor, Jefferson wrote the famous statute on religious freedom. Jefferson's writings also formed the basis of the Ordinances of 1784, 1785, and 1787. From 1785-1789, Jefferson served as minister to France. In 1789, George Washington appointed him Secretary of State.

Due to political differences concerning the role of the government with other cabinet members (Alexander Hamilton in particular), Jefferson resigned as Secretary of State in 1793. After serving in Washington's cabinet, Jefferson and James Madison founded the Democratic-Republican Party, which opposed a strong central government. Jefferson soon ran for president, but was defeated in 1796 by John Adams. Nevertheless, he was appointed vice president. Although Jefferson and Aaron Burr received equal electoral votes for presidency, Jefferson was elected president by the House of Representatives in 1800, following the disastrous Adams presidency. During Jefferson's term, he initiated both the Louisiana Purchase and the subsequent Lewis and Clark expedition. Furthermore, American naval forces defeated the dreaded Barbary Pirates in the Mediterranean Sea, enabling American interests to trade in the region without having to pay expensive tributes. Jefferson served two presidential terms. He later established the University of Virginia, the first university to be centered around a library rather than a church. He died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Coincidentally, John Adams, whom Jefferson had corresponded via letter with for ten years prior to his death, died the same day.

Thomas Jefferson is remembered as one of the most brilliant men to ever inhabit the White House, whose views on individual freedom, religion, and education still influence today. In fact, the establishment of the University of Virginia reflected Jefferson's views about the role of religion in education - it was the first university in America to be built around a library rather than a church. Jefferson believed in the strict separation of church and state (national affairs, including education should not be influenced by a dominant religion). Jefferson was also an accomplished surveyor, author, architect, and agriculturalist.

Today, monuments, buildings, cities, counties, corporations, and monuments bear Jefferson's name. He is honored on the United States two dollar bill and nickel.

1.) Which of the following is NOT true about Thomas Jefferson and the College of William and Mary?

- A. He helped establish an honor code there.
- B. He studied metaphysics there.
- C. He had slaves before he attended the college.
- D. He studied law there.

2.) When did Thomas Jefferson marry Martha Wayles Skelton?

- A. 1767
- B. 1772
- C. After he was elected to the Virginia House of Representatives.
- D. The passage does not say.

3.) What did Thomas Jefferson write while governor of Virginia?

- A. The Declaration of Independence.
- B. The Ordinance of 1784
- C. Statute on Religious Freedom
- D. Virginia Constitution

4.) Who defeated Thomas Jefferson in the Presidential Election of 1796?

- A. John Adams
- B. Aaron Burr
- C. George Washington
- D. Alexander Hamilton

5.) Thomas Jefferson was never....

- A. Secretary of State
- B. Governor
- C. Vice-president
- D. Senator

6.) Which of the following happened before Thomas Jefferson was president?

- A. The defeat of the Barbary Pirates
- B. The construction of Monticello
- C. John Adams died
- D. The Lewis and Clark Expedition

7.) What was ironic about the death of Thomas Jefferson?

- A. He died in the same state he was born.
- B. He died on the 50th anniversary of a document he wrote.
- C. He died unexpectedly
- D. He died in a church

8.) How were Jefferson's views on education and religion reflected at the University of Virginia?

- A. The university was built around a church.
- B. All students were expected to attend church.
- C. The university was built around a library.
- D. There was no separation between church and state.

9.) Which of the following is NOT a way in which Thomas Jefferson is honored?

- A. On the nickel
- B. On the five dollar bill
- C. Counties are named after him
- D. Cities are named after him

10.) Thomas Jefferson was never a...

- A. Surveyor
- B. Architect
- C. Soldier
- D. Secretary of State