Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743 in Virginia. His parents were Peter and Jane. His father was a planter and surveyor. At the age of nine, Thomas attended a local school where he studied Latin, French and Greek. Five years later, his father died. When his father died, Thomas inherited around 5,000 acres of land.

At 16 years old, Thomas attended The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. He studied there for two years, graduating with high honors. Upon graduation from The College of William and Mary, Thomas studied law and became a lawyer. In 1772, Thomas married a woman named Martha Wayles Skelton and they had six children together but sadly, only two survived to adulthood. But only ten years after being married, Martha died.

In 1774, the British Parliament passed the Coercive Acts which Thomas fought against. The Coercive Acts were a series of laws created by the British to oppose on the American colonies. Thomas adamantly opposed, believing that the American colonies had the right to govern themselves.

In 1775, Thomas served as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. Not long after, the American Revolutionary War broke out. Thomas was an influential figure in creating the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that the American colonies were now free from Great Britain. Today, Americans celebrate July 4 as Independence Day, the day the Declaration was approved by Congress in 1776.

Thomas served in the Virginia House of Delegates. He also served as governor of Virginia from 1779-1781. From 1785 to 1789, Thomas served as a minister to France. When he returned back to the United States, he served as the first Secretary of State under George Washington.

In 1800, Thomas became the third President of the United States. He served two terms from 1801 to 1809. During his Presidential term, Thomas helped the United States purchase the Louisiana Territory. After his term was up, he continued to be involved in public affairs. He was a founder of the University of Virginia.

He spent the rest of his life at Monticello. On July 4, 1826, Thomas died. The home in which Thomas helped design and build, the Monticello Plantation, can be toured.

Thomas Jefferson Questions

1. In what state was Thomas born? _____

2. What century was he born in? _____

3. How old was Thomas when his father died? _____

4. How much land did Thomas inherit after his father died? _____

5. What college did he attend? _____

6. After graduating from college, what did Thomas go on to study? _____

7. What was Thomas's wife's name? _____

8. How many children did he have? _____

9. What document in American history did Thomas help write? _____

10. In what year was the Declaration of Independence approved by Congress? _____

11. What day do Americans celebrate Independence Day? _____

12. Which state did Thomas serve as governor? _____

13. Which did Thomas serve as minister to? _____

14. Thomas was Secretary of State for which President? _____

15. In 1800, Thomas became the _____ President of the United States.

16. What is the name of his home? _____

Thomas Jefferson Answers

1. In what state was Thomas born? **Virginia**

2. What century was he born in? **18th**

3. How old was Thomas when his father died? **14**

4. How much land did Thomas inherit after his father died? **5,000 acres**

5. What college did he attend? **The College of William and Mary**

6. After graduating from college, what did Thomas go on to study? **law**

7. What was Thomas's wife's name? **Martha**

8. How many children did he have? **6**

9. What document in American history did Thomas help write? **Declaration of Independence**

10. In what year was the Declaration of Independence approved by Congress? **1776**

11. What day do Americans celebrate Independence Day? **July 4**

12. Which state did Thomas serve as governor? **Virginia**

13. Which did Thomas serve as minister to? **France**

14. Thomas was Secretary of State for which President? **George Washington**

15. In 1800, Thomas became the **third** President of the United States.

16. What is the name of his home in which you can still tour today? **Monticello Plantation**