Racing President

THOMAS JEFFERSON

Activity Book

THE WHITE HOUSE &
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION
In 2016 and 2017, the White House Historical Association and the Washington Nationals partnered for an educational contest—White House at Bat: A Presidential History Challenge. This program asked local high school students to create a storyboard examining the Constitutional powers and decision-making of one of the Racing Presidents. The winning students saw their storyboards come to life as short videos which were shared with fans during a game at Nationals Park and then showcased online.

2016 Winning Project for Thomas Jefferson
The Louisiana Purchase: Jefferson Closes the Deal

This video details Jefferson’s strategy and decision-making process in purchasing the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803.

By Anusha Jailwala, Vyoma Jani, Ritika Miryala, and Sahiti Nadimpalli from Northwest High School in Germantown, MD.

2017 Winning Project for Thomas Jefferson
Thomas Jefferson’s National Road

This video details Jefferson’s 1806 act to construct a road from Cumberland, Maryland to the then-western state of Ohio as a way to unite the young, expanding United States. This road was the first nationally funded road in the United States.

By Reni Hadeishi from T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria, VA.
Thomas Jefferson moved into the White House in 1801. He was the second presidential resident after John Adams.

When Jefferson arrived, the White House Grounds still looked like a construction site. He decided to fence in the Grounds and added a few vegetable and flower gardens.

In 1805, Jefferson started the tradition of an Inauguration Day parade from the Capitol Building to the White House along Pennsylvania Ave.

From 1843 to 1873, the North Lawn of the White House featured a statue of Thomas Jefferson. Since 1900, the statue has been on display inside the U.S. Capitol rotunda.

Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743 in Virginia, when it was a colony owned by Great Britain. He attended the College of William and Mary and studied law. In 1772, he married Martha Wayles Skelton, and together they moved to his Virginia home and plantation, Monticello. Sadly, Martha would pass away in 1782.

Tom was a gifted writer and active in the Virginia government, but felt Britain’s rule over the American colonies was unfair. In 1776, Tom wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence, the document announcing the colonies’ break from Britain. During the proceeding Revolutionary War, he served as the second governor of the independent state of Virginia.

After the war, Tom remained active in the new United States government. He served as the U.S. Minister to France and then as President George Washington’s first Secretary of State.

In 1796, Tom ran for president but lost to John Adams. So, for the next four years, he served as Adam’s vice president. Finally, in 1800, Thomas Jefferson was elected president and moved to the White House. During his presidency, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France, doubling the size of the country. In 1804, Tom was reelected for a second term as president.

He left the White House in 1809 and returned to Monticello. Tom went on to create the University of Virginia and pursued many other personal hobbies like architecture and gardening. He passed away on July 4, 1826.
1. Thomas Jefferson fulfilled many roles in government. Which of the following was NOT a role held by him?
   a. Secretary of State
   b. Military commander
   c. Vice President
   d. Minister to France

2. In what year(s) did Jefferson run for president of the United States?
   a. 1796
   b. 1800
   c. 1804
   d. All of the above

3. One of Tom’s major accomplishments as president was the Louisiana Purchase. From which nation did the United States purchase this land?
   a. Spain
   b. Great Britain
   c. France
   d. Portugal

Fill in the Blank
Tom drafted the ____________, a very important document, in 1776.
After Tom retired from government service, he founded the ____________, an institution for higher learning.

Matching
Draw a line from the words on the left to the matching words on the right.

GREAT
JOHN
VICE
LOUISIANA
INAUGURATION

DAY
PURCHASE
BRITAIN
ADAMS
PRESIDENT
Trace over the signature and then try to recreate it on the blank grid below.

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal...”
- The Declaration of Independence (1776)

“No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden... But though an old man, I am but a young gardener.”
- Letter to Charles W. Peale (1811)

“I cannot live without books: but fewer will suffice where amusement, and not use, is the only future object.”
- Letter to John Adams (1815)

“But whether I retire to bed early or late, I rise with the sun.”
- Letter to Dr. Vine Utley (1819)

“When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, an hundred.”
- Letter to Thomas Jefferson Smith (1825)
SEEK & FIND IN TOM’S OFFICE

This painting depicts President Thomas Jefferson’s White House office—located in what is now the State Dining Room. This office was filled with items reflecting Jefferson’s work and hobbies—maps, plants, architectural drawings, and other tools.

Look closely, can you find the following items in the painting?

Jefferson’s pet mockingbird
Two globes
A dodo bird

A black chair
An owl
Waterfalls

Did you notice the man standing next to Jefferson’s desk? That is Meriwether Lewis, the president’s secretary. Check out the next page to learn more about Lewis.

LEWIS & CLARK MAZE

As president, Thomas Jefferson signed the Louisiana Purchase. Acquired from France in 1803, this territory nearly doubled the size of the United States with lands extending beyond the Mississippi River.

Just before the purchase, Jefferson tasked his secretary, Meriwether Lewis, to lead an expedition that would map out the new territory. In July 1803, the acquisition was announced, and Lewis left the White House to explore these western lands. He and his partner, William Clark, started their journey in St. Louis and ended at Fort Clatsop in the present-day state of Oregon.

Solve the maze to help Lewis and Clark with their expedition!

In addition to mapping the new lands, Lewis and Clark sent back to Jefferson live animals, antlers, and other items from their journey. Jefferson displayed these trophies in the White House Entrance Hall and invited guests to see them.
STEP ONE

STEP TWO

NOW YOU TRY!
Add the body underneath the head if you like.

STEP THREE

STEP FOUR

ARTIST: JOHN HUTTON
Thomas Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration of Independence. In 1776, this historic document announced the American colonies' intention to separate from Britain.

One of the most famous lines from the document is: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Now it’s your turn to create a new declaration. Don’t peek at the quote with blanks. First, choose words that fit with a certain part of speech indicated for each number.

1. Adjective ________________________
2. Plural Noun ________________________
3. Noun ________________________
4. Adjective ________________________
5. Plural noun ________________________
6. Plural noun ________________________
7. Verb ending with -ed ________________________
8. Noun ________________________
9. Adjective ________________________
10. Plural noun ________________________
11. Plural noun ________________________
12. Your First Name ________________________

Now, take your words that correspond with a number and fill in the blanks for the quote on the next page to create your own unique declaration.

_________________________ Declaration of ________________

12 (your first name) 8 (noun)

We hold these _________ to be _________, that all _________ are
6 (plural noun) 4 (adjective) 11 (plural noun)

Created _________, that they are _________ by their _________
9 (adjective) 7 (verb ending with-ed) 3 (noun)

With certain _________ Rights, that among these are _________,
1 (adjective) 10 (plural noun)

___________, and the pursuit of _________.
2 (plural noun) 5 (plural noun)
Answers for Multiple Choice: 1B, 2D, 3C

Answers for Fill in the Blank: 1. Declaration of Independence 2. University of Virginia

Answers for Matching: Great Britain, John Adams, Vice President, Louisiana Purchase, and Inauguration Day

Jefferson’s pet mockingbird/Two globes/Dodo bird/Black chair/Owl/Waterfalls

LEWIS & CLARK MAZE

ARTIST: HOWARD KURTZ