

# Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities: Section 3 – Creating Personal Space for Self-Reflection

## General

### Grade Level

Middle School

### Author Info

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Shaler Area Middle School

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### Type of Lesson

Hands-on

### Duration

Up to 1 month

### Interdisciplinary Connections

This unit correlates with English/Language Arts, Science, Social Studies curricula and Humanities curricula.

## Objectives

### Overview

Students will understand Jefferson's use of landscape to create both beauty and privacy; the architectural features of his homes at Monticello and summer retreat, Poplar Forest, for solitude, and evidence of how he thought about his own thinking—metacognition.

## **Prior Knowledge**

Students will be provided with information from the Monticello website and interrelated resources.

## **State Standards**

PA Core Standards: Reading in History & Social Studies (6-8); Reading Informational Texts: CC.8.5.6-8.A,B,D-G,J; Writing in History & Social Studies (6-8); CC.8.6.6-8.A-I.; Reading in Science & Technology (6-8); CC.3.5.6-8C,F-I; Writing in Science & Technology (6-8); CC.3.6.6-8A-I.

## **Objectives/Learning Outcomes**

Students will examine Jefferson's need for personal space and aesthetic privacy at Monticello and Poplar Forest which enabled him to engage in self-reflection.

## **Technology Connections/outcomes**

This section is coordinated with the following sections: Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities: Introduction to Project-Based Learning and Instructions to the Unit, as well as:

Lesson 1 – A Perpetuating Flower Garden

Lesson 2 – An Experimental Vegetable Garden

Lesson 4 – The Art of Calligraphy

## **Additional Learning Outcomes**

Students will understand and appreciate Jefferson's need for personal space and habit of reflective thinking. Students will create a petit-format book which exemplifies a topic of their personal interest.

## **Essential Questions**

After viewing photos of Jefferson's "personal spaces" at Monticello and Poplar Forest, what can you conclude about his personality? Compare/contrast what personal space means to you. Reflect on events that occur throughout your day specifically your efforts at school. Jefferson was a detailed thinker, always "thinking about thinking"; writing reflective notes. He loathed idleness; share your thoughts about Jefferson's written notes to himself—do you practice reflective thinking on a daily basis?

## Procedures

1. Refer to "Jefferson's Gardens: Jefferson-Creating Personal Space for Self-Reflection" ppt.

Reference "Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities Image Gallery" for further images of Monticello and Poplar Forest.

## Related Assets

### Handouts and Downloads

- [Jefferson: Creating Personal Space for Self-Reflection](#)

## Homework

Students will create a personal petit-format book.

