

Exploring Monticello



Hello!

Welcome to Monticello!
It is the plantation of my
grandpapa Thomas Jefferson.
My name is Cornelia
Randolph and I
live here with
my family.

A Guide for Young People

Thomas Jefferson

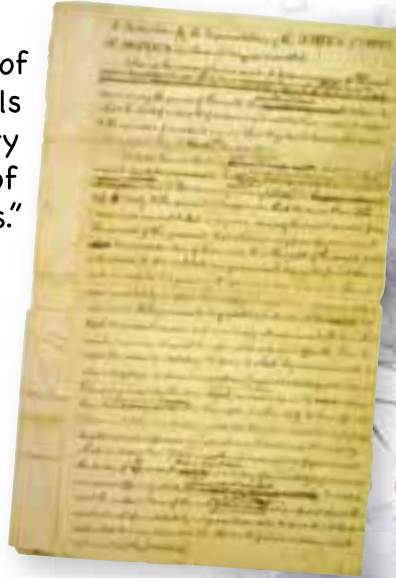
Jefferson was one of our "Founding Fathers." He wrote the Declaration of Independence and helped create the United States of America.



The Declaration of Independence calls for "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

He also wrote a Virginia law promising religious freedom... and founded the University of Virginia.

Jefferson was the third president.



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?

Before becoming President, Jefferson was:

- * a farmer and a lawyer
- * a member of the Virginia legislature
- * a delegate to the Continental Congress
- * Governor of Virginia
- * U.S. minister to France
- * Secretary of State
- * Vice President



While he was president, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France... and sent the Lewis & Clark Expedition to explore the West.

Jefferson was 6 feet, 2-1/2 inches tall and had red hair.

Gadgets and Gizmos

Thomas Jefferson was a scientist. He owned the latest gadgets of his time. Here are some you can see at Monticello.



Jefferson wrote thousands of letters. This machine - called a "polygraph" - made a copy as he wrote.

Jefferson's pocket compass



Jefferson used lots of scientific devices. This one - called an "orrery" - is a model of the solar system.



He loved books and could read in seven languages - English, French, Spanish, Italian, Latin, Greek, and Old English. This special stand holds five books and spins around.

DID YOU KNOW?

- * Thomas Jefferson's only invention was the "moldboard of least resistance" (part of a plow).
- * Thomas Jefferson designed a "cipher wheel" to create secret messages in code.

Jefferson's green spectacles



Thomas Jefferson working in his Cabinet (office).

Family Fun and Games

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



This “camera obscura” was used to make silhouettes.

FUN FACT

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

Jefferson played the violin. Many of his 12 grandchildren played musical instruments, including the English guitar, harpsichord, and pianoforte.

At night, Monticello was lit by candles and lamps that burned whale oil.



Young ladies learned to paint and draw. Here is Cornelia’s watercolor of an owl. The paintbox belonged to Thomas Jefferson.



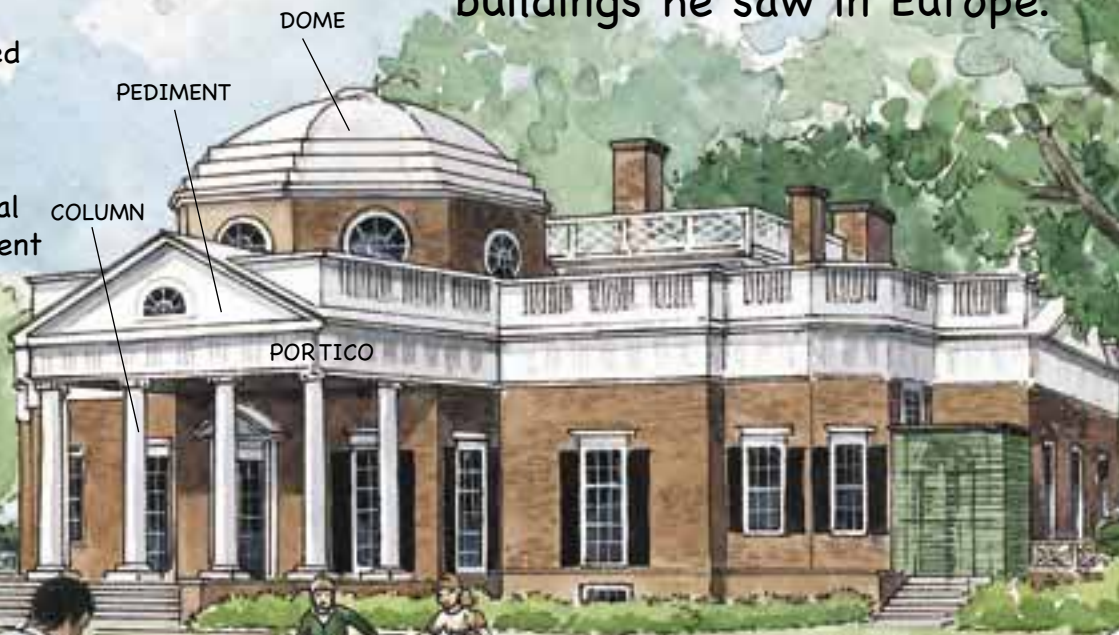
Virginia Randolph playing the English guitar accompanied by her sister Cornelia on the harpsichord.

Jefferson taught his grandchildren how to play chess.

Outside 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?

- * It took more than 40 years to build Monticello.
- * The house has 33 rooms on four floors.
- * Jefferson's granddaughters Anne and Ellen loved helping in the flower garden.

Fish caught in local rivers were kept alive in the fish pond until they were needed for meals.



Under the House

The work rooms under the house are called "dependencies" because Jefferson and his family depended upon what was done in these rooms, especially the Kitchen.

The all-weather passageway connects the dependencies.



Edith Fossett and her family lived next to the Kitchen.

FANNY HERN

ELLEN RANDOLPH,
JEFFERSON'S
GRANDDAUGHTER

EDITH
FOSSETT

200 years ago food was preserved by drying, smoking, salting, or pickling.

DID YOU KNOW?

- * The main meal of the day was served about 3 o'clock in the afternoon.
- * Ice cream was a family favorite at Monticello.

Ice and packed snow were stored in the icehouse.



Enslaved cooks Edith Fossett and Fanny Hern were highly trained chefs. Monticello's Kitchen had the most modern equipment of its time.

Mulberry Row

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

Mulberry Row was the main "street" of the Monticello plantation. Many slaves lived and worked here.

Some slaves who lived on Mulberry Row raised chickens.

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

John Hemmings and other slaves made furniture for Monticello.

DID YOU KNOW?

- * Slaves worked from sunrise to sunset.
- * Most of the houses and workshops on Mulberry Row were made of wood. They are no longer standing, but you can see some of their foundations.

We know about life on Mulberry Row from written records, oral history, and archaeology.



Gardens and Fields

Monticello was a large plantation of 5,000 acres. Jefferson experimented with plants to see what grew and tasted the best. Enslaved workers did the planting, weeding, and harvesting.

Tobacco was grown as a cash crop at Monticello. It was hard on the soil so Jefferson later switched to wheat farming.

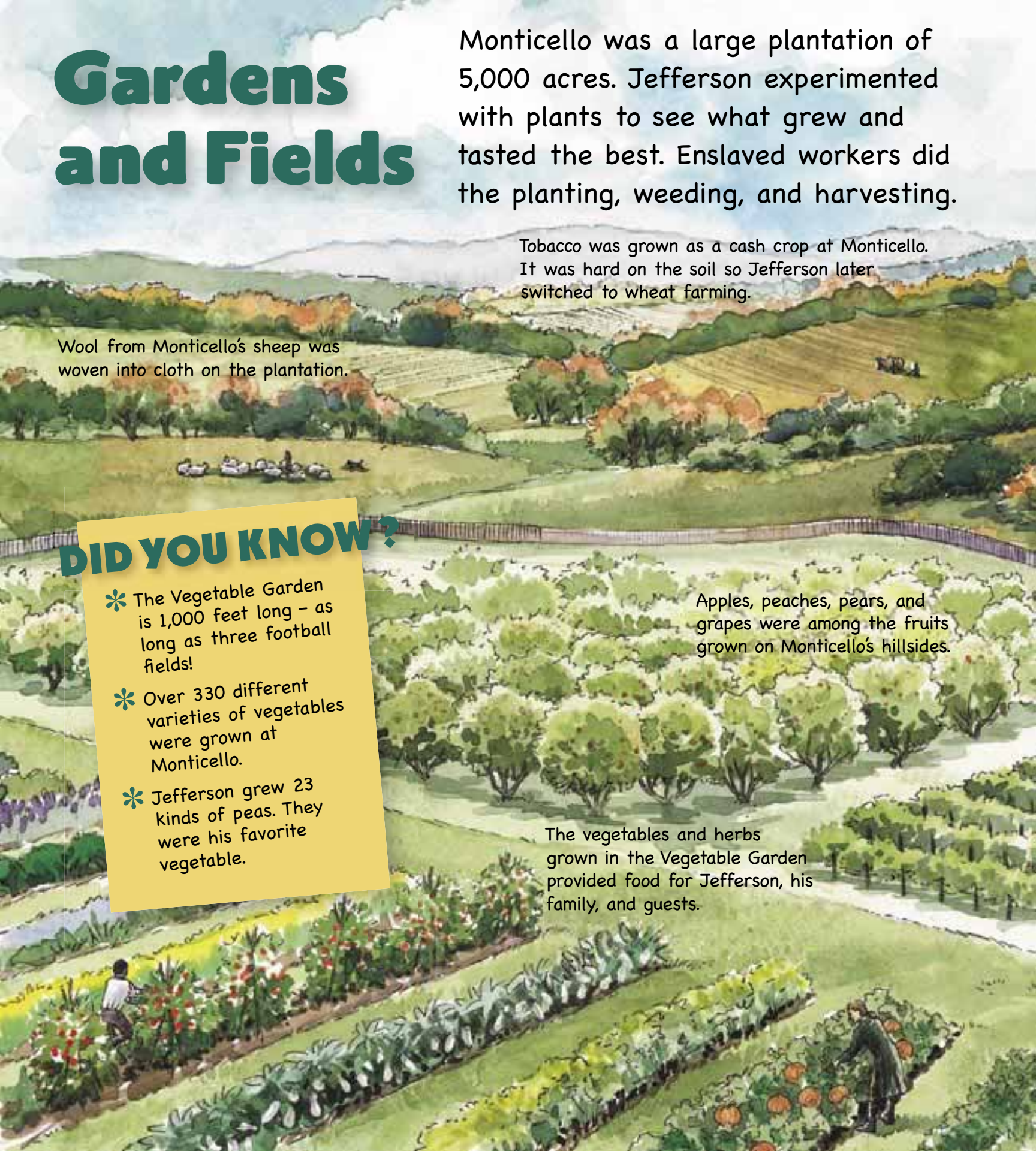
Wool from Monticello's sheep was woven into cloth on the plantation.

DID YOU KNOW?

- * The Vegetable Garden is 1,000 feet long - as long as three football fields!
- * Over 330 different varieties of vegetables were grown at Monticello.
- * Jefferson grew 23 kinds of peas. They were his favorite vegetable.

Apples, peaches, pears, and grapes were among the fruits grown on Monticello's hillsides.

The vegetables and herbs grown in the Vegetable Garden provided food for Jefferson, his family, and guests.



DID YOU KNOW THAT THOMAS JEFFERSON:

- * Had no middle name?
- * Had pet mockingbirds?
- * Liked to hum or sing when he rode a horse or worked in his Cabinet?
- * Is considered to be the father of American archaeology because he excavated an Indian burial ground near Monticello?
- * Established the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York?
- * Established the decimal currency system in the United States?
- * Owned Natural Bridge in Virginia? (He thought it was one of the natural wonders of the world.)
- * Received a mammoth cheese (weighing 1,235 pounds) from the people of Cheshire, Massachusetts, while he was president?

For more information, please visit the Web site monticello.org



Illustrations by Barbara Leonard Gibson. Publication design by Josef Beery.
Declaration of Independence rough draft, courtesy of the Library of Congress.
Monticello is owned and operated by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.,
a private, nonprofit corporation founded in 1923.
This publication was made possible by a gift from Robert H. and Clarice Smith.

Thanks for coming!
I hope you enjoyed
your visit.

