

# Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities / Introduction to Project-Based Learning for this Unit

## General

### Grade Level

Middle School

### Author Info

Darla Gerlach

[gerlachd@sasd.k12.pa.us](mailto:gerlachd@sasd.k12.pa.us)

Shaler Area Middle School

1810 Mt. Royal Boulevard

Glenshaw, PA 15101

### 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

This unit will provide information on project-based learning and teaching strategies that will be used in the sections: Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities: A Perpetuating Flower Garden/An Experimental Vegetable Garden/Creating Personal Space for Self-Reflection and The Art of Calligraphy.

## Prior Knowledge

Students will be provided with information from the Monticello website and interrelated resources to complete the projects associated with this unit.

## 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

Project-based learning allows students to independently set and accomplish their goals for this unit.

## Technology Connections/outcomes

Project-based learning is derived from a teaching/learning model that empowers students to be more creative and more receptive to becoming independent thinkers and problem solvers in the classroom and outside of school.

This section is coordinated with the Introduction to the Unit

And the following lessons under Jefferson's Garden: A Landscape of Opportunity:

1. A Perpetuating Flower Garden
2. An Experimental Vegetable Garden
3. Jefferson: Creating Personal Space for Self-Reflection
4. The Art of Calligraphy

## Additional Learning Outcomes

Students will become creative learners in that they acquire skills to tap into various types of resources that provide valuable information to help them in the process of completing their projects.

## Procedures

1. See "Handouts and Downloads" – Jefferson's Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities:  
Introduction to Project-Based Learning

## Related Assets

### Handouts and Downloads

- [Jeffersons Gardens: A Landscape of Opportunities – Introduction to Project-Based Learning for the Unit](#)

## Assessment

See various projects in this unit.

