

'Dreams of the Future' Source Analysis Sheet

Directions: As you visit each formative area of Jefferson's youth, select and analyze one source in each area. Complete the analysis sheet for each source you investigate. Then, share your findings with the rest of your group and complete the final box.

Station 1: Jefferson's Upbringing in Central Virginia

Background: Thomas Jefferson was born at Shadwell plantation on April 13, 1743. Thomas Jefferson's father, Peter Jefferson, purchased the plantation in 1736, which was located in central Virginia just a few miles to the east of Jefferson's eventual home, Monticello. The original Shadwell House was a one-and-a-half story dwelling, which burned in February 1770.

When Jefferson was two or three, he moved with his family to Tuckahoe in Goochland County to the west of Richmond. Jefferson received his earliest education there and grew up with his three sisters and three cousins.

In 1752, the family moved back to Shadwell, but Jefferson was sent to study classics and French with Reverend William Douglas in Tuckahoe. He lived there for five years, except during the summer. Jefferson's father died in 1757, effectively making Jefferson the man of the house at 14. However, Jefferson's mother, Jane Randolph Jefferson, took charge and ran the estate. A year later, in 1758, Jefferson boarded with the Reverend James Maury in Albemarle County near Shadwell, where he learned Greek and Latin. Jefferson also grew close to his best childhood friend, Dabney Carr. In 1760, Jefferson left central Virginia for Williamsburg to attend college at William and Mary.

<http://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/shadwell>

<http://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/tuckahoe>

Source title or description:

Type of source (i.e. letter, artifact, inventory, etc.):

Author or creator:

Date source created:

Reason for creation:

What details does the source tell us in general?

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| Is there anything in particular that jumps out at you about this source? |
| Do you detect any assumptions or biases about the source? |
| Do you feel that there is important information missing? |
| What clues does the source give us about Jefferson's youth? |
| What clues does this source give us about Jefferson's ability to accomplish future goals or to be successful later in life? |
| List other sources your group members consulted and determine what information they provide about Jefferson's youth and his ability to accomplish his goals. |

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Station 2: Jefferson's Time in Williamsburg

Background: As the son of a member of the Virginia gentry class, Thomas Jefferson was expected to receive a good formal education. In the spring of 1760, three years after his father's death, 17-year-old Jefferson left central Virginia to study at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Jefferson learned under William Small, professor of moral and natural philosophy.

According to family tradition, Jefferson studied 15 hours a day. In Williamsburg, Jefferson's teachers exposed him to Enlightenment ideas and European Enlightenment figures, especially Francis Bacon, Isaac Newton and John Locke. After he completed his studies, Jefferson remained in Williamsburg under the suggestion of Professor Small, who introduced him to George Wythe. Wythe instructed Jefferson in the law from 1762 to 1767. William Small, George Wythe, Virginia Governor Francis Fauquier, and Jefferson met many times in Williamsburg at this time at the governor's palace. Here, Jefferson received an "unofficial" political and cultural education.

While learning law, Jefferson attended sessions of the Virginia House of Burgesses. Here in 1765, Jefferson heard Patrick Henry's famous denunciation of the crown over the Stamp Tax. In 1767, Jefferson was admitted to practice law before General Court, and in 1768 he was elected to the House of Burgesses. After the Shadwell fire of 1770, Jefferson moved back to central Virginia and began construction on Monticello. He In 1772, he married Martha Wayles Skelton. A few years later, Jefferson's political career took him at the heart of the independence movement.

<http://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/jeffersons-formal-education>

<http://www.monticello.org/site/research-and-collections/george-wythe>

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