



## THOMAS JEFFERSON AND AARON BURR: PEOPLE, PLACES AND POLITICS

### Segment I - Early Life and Careers



Write a caption for this image:

Referencing the timeline you created for Thomas Jefferson, where did he attend college?

Visit the college's website to determine what changes have occurred since Jefferson's years at the college. Are the subjects of Latin, Greek and philosophy still taught?

Who are some other noted individuals who have attended this college?

Referencing the timeline you created for Aaron Burr, where did he attend college?

Visit the college's website to determine what changes have occurred since Burr's years at the college and if the subjects of Latin, Greek, and philosophy are taught today.

Who are some other noted individuals who have attended this college?



Write a caption for this image:





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American biographer James Parton wrote that Thomas Jefferson "could calculate an eclipse, survey an estate, tie an artery, plan an edifice, try a cause, break a horse, dance a minuet, and play the violin." What occupations match up with the items:

Jefferson could:	Occupation
calculate an eclipse	
survey an estate	
tie an artery	
plan an edifice	
try a cause	
break a horse	
dance a minuet	
play the violin	

Using the biography of Aaron Burr, write a similar statement about Burr.

Aaron Burr could:

Make a chart similar to Jefferson's.

Burr could:	Occupation





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Both Jefferson and Burr educated their daughters at home. Both felt that their daughters should learn more than just housewifery – being taught to sew, cook, care for the home, entertain guests, play a musical instrument and carry on a polite conversation. Girls during this time period weren't expected to spend time reading.



Martha ("Patsy") Jefferson at age 17 by Joseph Boze.  
 Courtesy of the Diplomatic Reception Rooms, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.  
 Photography by Will Brown.

Jefferson's daughters Mary or Maria (called Polly) and Martha (called Patsy) were home-schooled. Jefferson set a pretty strict schedule for his daughters. He instructed Patsy, age 11, to spend her day in study as follows:

- "From 8 to 10, practice music.
- From 10 to 1, dance one day and draw another.
- From 1 to 2, draw on the day you dance, and write a letter next day.
- From 3 to 4, read French.
- From 4 to 5, exercise yourself in music.
- From 5 till bed-time, read English, write, etc."

Create a chart, outlining your typical school day and your typical Saturday schedule. Compare that to Patsy's schedule. Are there any similarities? How does your schedule differ from Patsy's?

In this letter dated December 11, 1783, what subject is Patsy studying? How does Jefferson address Patsy's "foolish predictions that the world is to be at an end soon."?

Click on image of letter to read transcription.

In the letter Jefferson asks Patsy to let him know what tunes she is playing. Research music in Jefferson's era to determine what tunes Patsy might have been playing and on what instruments.



*Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest*  
*Shaping the World – Conversations on Democracy*  
*Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr - People, Places and Politics*

**Segment I – Early Life and Careers**  
Musical Instrument Identification Exercise



Harpsichord



Violin



Glass harmonica (glass armonica)



Flute



Harp



Forte-piano

Guitar



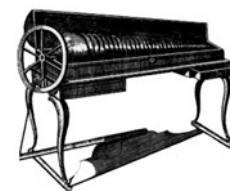
Cittern (English guitar)



Pocket Violin



Hautboy (oboe)



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Claude Balbastre

In 1784 Patsy accompanied Jefferson to Paris, France. Jefferson had been appointed Minister Plenipotentiary to France to negotiate treaties of commerce and good will. To continue Patsy's education with an emphasis in music, Jefferson enrolled her in a convent school called the Abbaye Royale de Panthémont. She studied with Claude Balbastre on the harpsichord and became quite an accomplished harpsichordist. Research Claude Balbastre and present your findings to the class. Have students make presentations on other composers of the Jefferson-era.



Marche des  
Marseillois

Burr supervised his daughter Theodosia's (shown at right) studies in Greek, Latin, French, philosophy, music, dancing, arithmetic, and English composition. Legend has it that she practiced her English by writing letters to her father, who returned them promptly, detailing her errors and mistakes.



Most children during this era were taught to perform jobs that they would need to do when they became adults. Boys, once they turned 12 or 13, would assist with raising crops such as planting, harvesting and threshing. Boys often were apprenticed to learn a craft with a skilled craftsman such as a cooper, blacksmith, silversmith or tailor.

*Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest  
 Shaping the World – Conversations on Democracy  
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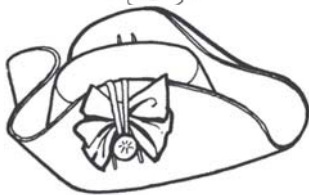
**Segment I – Early Life and Careers**  
 Trade Identification Exercise



Cooper



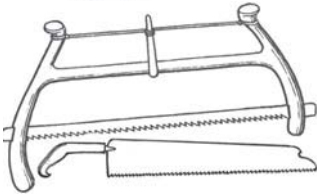
Tailor



Whitesmith



Cobbler



Potter



Joiner or Joyner

Sawyer

Pieces of leather

Blacksmith



Wheelwright

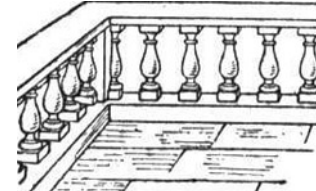


Tanner

Hatter



Peruke Maker



Divide the students into two groups, with one group researching **Education in New England** during the Colonial-Jefferson era, and the other group researching **Education in the South** during the Colonial-Jefferson era. Create a chart on the board in order to compare and contrast the students' findings as they share their research with the class.

Examine the illustration below and determine what activities are taking place in this colonial kitchen.



Examine these kitchens from the Jefferson-era (click images for larger view). What differences do you see? What similarities? Can you make any generalizations about the individuals who owned the house, their way of life, and where they lived?



Kitchen of John Hancock



Kitchen of George and Martha Washington



Kitchen of John and Abigail Adams



Kitchen of Washington's Headquarters in New Jersey



Kitchen of Paul Revere



Kitchen at Jefferson's Poplar Forest

What modern conveniences do you have in your kitchen today? Are any of the items in the illustrated sheet obsolete? Which ones? Are some things done the same way today as they were in Jefferson's day? Explain your answer.

