



THOMAS JEFFERSON & DOLLEY MADISON

Segment IV - Retirement for Jefferson – Mrs. Madison as First Lady

Create a timeline to record Thomas Jefferson's 40 years of public service.



Use the following images to compare and contrast Jefferson's two homes, Monticello and Poplar Forest. Click all images to view larger versions.



Poplar Forest - North View



Poplar Forest - South View



Poplar Forest - Overview



Monticello - South West



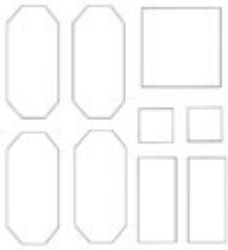
Monticello - West View

Place your information on a chart.

Using a modern day map to trace a route from Monticello to Poplar Forest. Trace the route in red. Label the following on the map:

- Monticello
- Poplar Forest
- County Monticello is located in
- County Poplar Forest is located in
- Label towns and counties in route from Monticello to Poplar Forest
- Label any rivers that Jefferson would have had to cross





Use the following shapes to create Jefferson's Poplar Forest floor plan.

Click image to view larger version.

The tradition of the Inauguration Ball began with James Madison's presidency. The evening of the Inauguration of Madison at the Capitol, Dolley Madison hosted the ball at Long's Hotel in Washington City. Four hundred tickets were sold at \$4 per ticket. Have students research Inauguration Balls given for the Presidents. Use a chart like the following to record the information collected.

President	Inauguration Ball(s) Yes/No	If No, Reason	Ticket Cost	Other Interesting Information
George Washington	No	Tradition not established		Ball hosted a week after inauguration

The custom of delivering an Inaugural address began with George Washington. Washington's second inaugural address was only 135 words. The longest inaugural address was 8,445 words. Research the Presidents and their Inaugural addresses and complete a chart like the one below: (Remember some Presidents served more than one term.)

President	Date of Inaugural Address	Place of Inaugural Address	# of Words

Have students select a President's Inaugural address to deliver to the class.

As a class, have the students re-create Thomas Jefferson's Inaugural Day of March 4, 1801. Have students re-create James Madison's Inaugural Day of March 4, 1809.

In 1901 the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) was formed to oversee Inaugural ceremonies at the United States Capitol. Every four years Congress appoints a new Inaugural committee. Tradition determines that the Committee includes the Senate Majority Leader (at the time of appointment), the chair and ranking member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives. Who would be on the 2009 JCCIC for the Obama Inauguration Ceremonies?



What theme has been decided for the 2009 Inauguration? What was the rationale for this theme? What theme would you have selected and why?

Current Event: ["Inaugural Theme Announced"](#) (PDF)

Create a team of students to be the JCCIC. Have them work together to select a theme for the 2009 Inauguration of Barack Obama. Have students plan the activities for Obama's Inauguration Day (January 20, 2009) and role play the various activities they select.

Match these Presidents with precedents (firsts) that happened during their Presidency:

[\(PDF format\)](#)

George Washington	first Inaugural ball held the evening of the Inauguration
John Adams	first President to assume Presidency upon the death of the President
George Washington	first time an African American was elected President
Thomas Jefferson	first Inauguration covered by telegraph
James Madison	first Inauguration to have been photographed
John Tyler	first inauguration
James K. Polk	adds phrase to oath, "so Help me God," and kisses the Bible after taking oath
James Buchanan	first Inaugural Ceremony recorded by motion picture camera
Abraham Lincoln	first to be inaugurated in Washington City
William McKinley	first time women participated in the Inaugural Parade
Woodrow Wilson	first time a Catholic was elected President
Calvin Coolidge	first to receive the oath of office from the Chief Justice of the United States
Herbert Hoover	first time Inaugural ceremony broadcast live on the Internet
Franklin D. Roosevelt	first time African Americans participated in the Inaugural Parade
Harry S. Truman	first time a woman administered the oath of office to a President
John F. Kennedy	first Inaugural Ceremony televised
Lyndon B. Johnson	first time President affected by the 20th Amendment to the Constitution
William J. Clinton	first time Inaugural Ceremony recorded by talking newsreel
Barack Obama	first Inaugural Ceremony broadcast nationally by radio

Thomas Jefferson's and Dolley's Madison's taste in furnishing the President's House differed. Use this description written by ardent letter writer Margaret Bayard Smith in the 1800s (pertaining to Jefferson's occupancy of the President's House) to create a diorama or illustration.

"When he took up his residence in the President's House, he found it scantily furnished with articles brought from Philadelphia and which had been used by General Washington. These, though worn and faded, he retained from respect to their former possessor. His drawing room was fitted up with the same crimson damask furniture that had been used for the same purpose in Philadelphia. The additional furniture necessary for the more spacious mansion provided by the government, was plain and simple to excess.

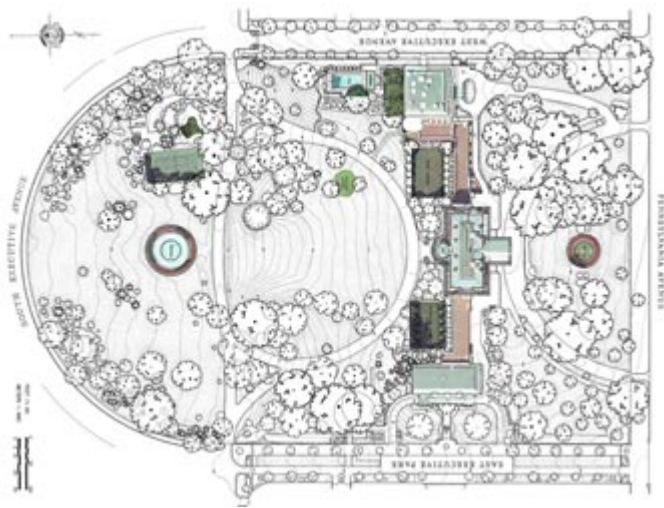
The large East Room was unfinished and therefore unused. The apartment in which he took most interest was his cabinet; this he had arranged according to his own taste and convenience. It was a spacious room. In the centre was a long table, with drawers on each side, in which were deposited not only articles appropriate to the place, but a set of carpenter's tools in one and small garden implements in another from the use of which he derived much amusement. Around the walls were maps, globes, charts, books, etc. In the window recesses were stands for the flowers and plants which it was his delight to attend and among his roses and geraniums was suspended the cage of his favorite mocking-bird, which he cherished with peculiar fondness, not only for its melodious powers, but for its uncommon intelligence and affectionate disposition...in the President's House were introduced some of these favorite contrivances, many of them really useful and convenient. Among these, there was in his dining room an invention for introducing and removing the dinner without the opening and shutting of doors. A set of circular shelves were so contrived in the wall, that on touching a spring they turned into the room loaded with the dishes

placed on them by the servants without the wall, and by the same process the removed dishes were conveyed out of the room. When he had any persons dining with him, with whom he wished to enjoy a free and unrestricted flow of conversation, the number of persons at the table never exceed four, and by each individual was placed a dumb-waiter, containing everything necessary for the progress of the dinner from beginning to end, so as to make the attendance of servants entirely unnecessary..."

Other reports of the period indicate that Jefferson designed an area in the President's House showcasing mounted animals and Indian artifacts sent to him by Meriwether Lewis.

Margaret Bayard Smith also described the grounds of the President's House. Using her passage below and modern day images of the White House grounds (below) compare and contrast the White House grounds of Jefferson's with the White House grounds today.

Do Jefferson's plans for the White House grounds look anything like the Poplar Forest grounds (shown at right)? What are the similarities and the differences?



White House Grounds
(click images to view larger version)

"He was very anxious to improve the ground around the President's House; but as Congress would make no appropriation for this and similar objects, he was obliged to abandon the idea, and content himself with enclosing it with a common stone wall and sewing it down in grass. Afterwards when the Grisly Bears, brought by Capt Lewis from the far west, (where he had been to explore the course of the Missouri,) were confined within this enclosure a witty federalist called it the President's bear-garden. How the federalists delighted to turn all Mr. Jefferson did or said into ridicule!

In planning the improvement of these grounds, it was Mr. Jefferson's design to have planted them exclusively with trees, shrubs and flowers indigenous to our native soil. He had a long list made out in which they were arranged according to their forms and colours and the seasons in which they flourished. To him it would have been a high gratification to have improved and ornamented our infant City. But the only thing he could effect, was planting Pennsylvania Avenue with Lombard Poplars, which he designed only for a temporary shade, until Willow oaks, (a favorite tree of his) could attain a sufficient size. But this plan had to be relinquished as well as many others from the want of funds."

Congress authorized a \$25,000 appropriation for Jefferson to use on the President's house. He used the funds on structural improvements to make the house livable, including east and west pavilions designed by architect Benjamin H. Latrobe (shown at right) to house the stables and house servants. Records also indicate he used some of the funds to purchase items such as crockery ware, window blinds, kitchen furniture, and floor cloths.



Congress authorized an allowance of \$25,000 for Dolley Madison to furnish the President's house. She hired Benjamin Latrobe to assist her.

Use the remarks below made by First Lady Laura Bush on November 19, 2007 to discover more about Dolley Madison's re-decoration of the President's House:

"Mrs. Madison was a valuable political asset. At a time when Presidents were nominated or re-nominated by a party caucus in Congress, Dolley's popularity with legislators probably earned her husband his second term. She commanded so much respect that she even had the power to stop duels -- a popular method for settling political disputes back then -- and we thought the political climate was rough today. (Laughter.) When it came to making allies out of members of Congress, Dolley went above and beyond the call of duty -- even sharing a snuff box with Henry Clay.

Mrs. Madison also set the tone for our new nation with her impeccable taste and style. Previous First Families had decorated their new residence in Washington with personal furnishings brought with them from Massachusetts and Virginia. James Madison tasked Dolley with re-creating the White House as the official home for America -- a duty that would shape the public's image of his presidency, and our nation.

Mrs. Madison enlisted the help of famed architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, and secured from Congress initial funding of \$5,000. According to accounts from the time, Latrobe and Mrs. Madison spent their redecorating budget so fast "it made heads spin."

Latrobe and Mrs. Madison took their redecorating seriously. They strove to blend Republican simplicity with Federalist high style, adding enough sophistication to impress visitors from Europe. As we enjoy the tradition of elegant public entertaining at the White House, we have Latrobe and Mrs. Madison to thank.



That's not to say that they agreed on everything: When Mrs. Madison insisted on rich, red velvet draperies for what is now the Blue Room -- then decorated in muted cream, blue and gray - Latrobe was horrified. "The curtains!" Latrobe lamented, "Oh, the terrible velvet curtains! Their effect will ruin me entirely, so brilliant will they be!" Eventually, Latrobe dropped the complaint after rave reviews from visitors proved Mrs. Madison right.

Those red curtains were one of the things Mrs. Madison made sure to save when the British invaded Washington and torched the executive mansion during the War of 1812."

Have students create a diorama or an illustration based on the above account.

Have students research what expense accounts are allowed today for the President, including salary?

Dolley Madison's re-decoration was hampered by the Embargo. What event was the cause of President Jefferson issuing a proclamation ordering all British ships out of American waters and leading to Congress passing three Embargo Acts beginning on December 18, 1807? Have students research these embargo acts and report to the class their findings. Was the Embargo Acts successful? When was the embargo repealed?



Click image to view larger version

Have there been embargos authorized in your lifetime? Students should present their findings to the class elaborating on the details - causes of, countries involved, products involved, and duration of the embargos.

Current event: [Feds: 2 broke US embargo, sold items bound to Iran](#)

Current event: [Cuba Hails Obama Win](#)

Have students design a cartoon expressing their opinion about something they feel strongly about.

Why was the war of 1812 referred to as "Mr. Madison's war"?

Have students research the war reporting to the class as war correspondents on these topics: causes of war, countries/nations engaged in the war; commanders in the war, strengths and weaknesses of each side; casualties and losses on each side; land and naval campaigns; outcome/result of war.



One of the most dramatic engagements was the invasion and burning of Washington City on August 14, 1814. What was Dolley Madison's role in this event?

Compare and contrast these two versions of the burning of the city:

George Gelig with the invading force wrote in his memoirs:

"Such being the intention of General Ross, he did not march the troops immediately into the city, but halted them upon a plain in its immediate vicinity, whilst a flag of truce was sent in with terms. But whatever his proposal might have been, it was not so much as heard, for scarcely had the party bearing the flag entered the street, than they were fired upon from the windows of one of the houses, and the horse of the General himself, who accompanied them, killed. You will easily believe that conduct so unjustifiable, so direct a breach of the law of nations, roused the indignation of every individual, from the General himself down to the private soldier.



All thoughts of accommodation were instantly laid aside; the troops advanced forthwith into the town, and having first put to the sword all who were found in the house from which the shots were fired, and reduced it to ashes, they proceeded, without 'a moment's delay, to burn and destroy everything in the most distant degree connected with government. In this general devastation were included the Senate House, the President's palace, an extensive dockyard and arsenal, barracks for two or three thousand men, several large storehouses filled with naval and military stores, some hundreds of cannon of different descriptions, and nearly twenty thousand stand of small arms. There were also two or three public rope works which shared the same fate, a fine frigate pierced for sixty guns

and just ready to be launched, several gun brigs and armed schooners, with a variety of gunboats and small craft. The powder magazines were, of course, set on fire, and exploded with a tremendous crash, throwing down many houses in their vicinity, partly by pieces of the wall striking them, and partly by the concussion of the air whilst quantities of shot, shell, and hand grenades, which could not otherwise be rendered useless, were thrown into the river....The sky was brilliantly illuminated....

... the blazing of houses, ships, and stores, the report of exploding magazines, and the crash of falling roofs informed them, as they proceeded, of what was going forward. You can conceive nothing finer than the sight which met them as they drew near to the town. The sky was brilliantly illuminated by the different conflagrations, and a dark red light was thrown upon the road, sufficient to permit each man to view distinctly his comrade's face.

...When the detachment sent out to destroy Mr. Madison's house entered his dining parlor, they found a dinner table spread and covers laid for forty guests. Several kinds of wine, in handsome cut glass decanters, were cooling on the sideboard; plate holders stood by the fireplace, filled with dishes and plates; knives, forks, and spoons were arranged for immediate use; in short, everything was ready for the entertainment of a ceremonious party. Such were the arrangements in the dining room, whilst in the kitchen were others answerable to them in every respect. Spits, loaded with joints of various sorts, turned before the fire; pots, saucepans, and other culinary utensils stood upon the grate; and all the other requisites for an elegant and substantial repast were exactly in a state which indicated that they had been lately and precipitately abandoned.



You will readily imagine that these preparations were beheld by a party of hungry soldiers with no indifferent eye. An elegant dinner, even though considerably overdressed, was a luxury to which few of them, at least for some time back, had been accustomed, and which, after the dangers and fatigues of the day, appeared peculiarly inviting. They sat down to it, therefore, not indeed in the most orderly manner, but with countenances which would not have disgraced a party of aldermen at a civic feast, and, having satisfied their appetites with fewer complaints than would have probably escaped their rival gourmards, and partaken pretty freely of the wines, they finished by setting fire to the house which had so liberally entertained them.

...Of the Senate house, the President's palace, the barracks, the dockyard, etc., nothing could be seen except heaps of smoking ruins."

Margaret Bayard Smith's letter in August 1814 to Mrs. Kirkpatrick:

"Tuesday 30...We pass'd several dead horses. The poor capitol! Nothing but its blacken'd walls remained! ...Some men had got within these houses and fired on the English as they were quietly marching into the city, they killed 4 men and Genl. Rosse's horse. I imagine Genl. R. thought that his life was particularly aim'ed at, for while his troops remained in the city he never made his appearance, althoou' Cochrane and the other officers often rode through the avenue. It was on account of this outrage that these houses were burnt. We afterwards look'd at the other public buildings, but none were so thoroughly destroy'd as the House of Representatives and the President's House. Those beautiful pillars in that Representatives Hall were crack'd and broken, the roof, that noble dome, painted and carved with such beauty and skill, lay in ashes in the cellars beneath the smouldering ruins, were yet smoking. In the P. H. not an inch, but its crack'd and blacken'd walls remain'd. That scene, which when I last visited it, was so splendid, throng'd with the great, the gay, the ambitious placemen, and patriotic Heroes was now nothing but ashes, now trodden under foot by the rabble.....



...Mrs. M. seem'd much depress'd, she could scarcely speak without tears. She told me she had remained in the city till a few hours before the English enter'd. She was so confident of Victory that she was calmly listenint to the roar of cannon, and watching the rockets in the air, when she perceived our troops rushing into the city, with the haste and dismay of a routed force. The friends with her then hurried her away.....carrying off the picture of

General Washington (the large one by Stewart) which with the plate, was all that was saved out of the President's house. Mrs. M. lost all her own property...

... We drank tea with Mrs. Thornton, who described to us the manner in which they conflagrated the President's house and other buildings, -- 50 men, sailors and marines, were marched by an officer, silently thro' the avenue, each carrying a long pole to which was fixed a ball about the circumference of a large plate, --when arrived at the building, each man was station'd at a window, with his pole and machine of wild-fire against it, at the word of command, at the same instant the windows were broken and this wild-fire thrown in, so that an instantaneous conflagration took place and the whole building was wrapt in flames and smoke. The spectators stood in awful silence, the city was light and the heavens reddened with the blaze!...Cockburn often rode down the avenue, on an old white mare



with a long main and tail and followed by its fold to the dismay of the spectators. He, and all his officers and soldiers were perfectly polite to the citizens. He bade them complain of any soldier that committed the least disorder and had several severely punished, for very slight offenses. All provisions were paid for....Cockburn had ordered Col. Wharton's and Capt. Tingey's (?) houses (both public property) and the barracks and arsenal to be burnt, but on a remonstrance from the citizens, and an assurance the fire would destroy private property he desisted, "I want to injure no citizen," said he, "and so your Barracks may stand." I must praise his moderation, indeed his conduct was such as to disarm the prejudices that existed. During the stay of their troops in the city, it was so still you might have heard a pin drop on the pavement."

Examine this cartoon. Use this [worksheet](#) to analyze the cartoon. Be sure to describe what is happening in the cartoon and from whose viewpoint the cartoon is drawn.



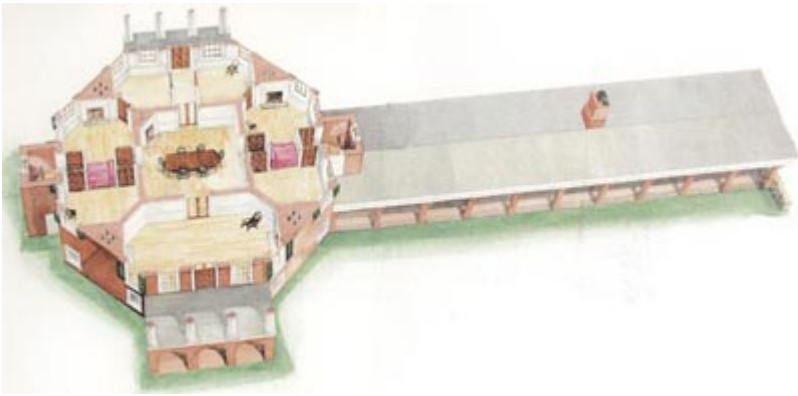
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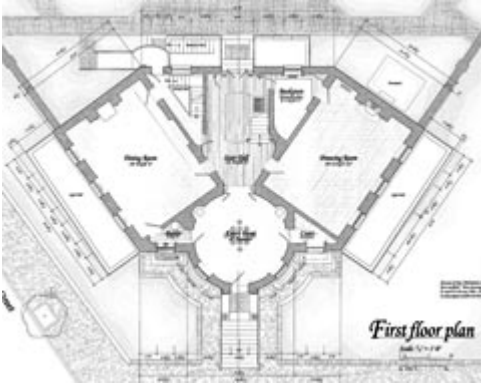
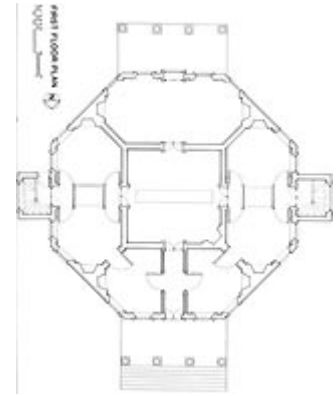
Upon their return to Washington City following the burning of the President's House the Madisons take up residence in The Octagon House built by John Tayloe. Who was Col. John Tayloe III (shown at right)?



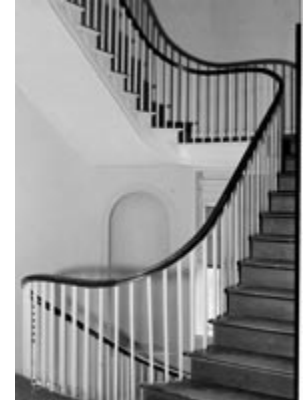
Examine the images of the Octagon House and the images of Jefferson's Poplar Forest to compare and contrast their architecture.



Poplar Forest (click images to view larger versions)



Octagon House (click images to view larger versions)



What important event took place at the Octagon House?



Click image for larger version

Examine the map of Natural Bridge drawn by Thomas Jefferson to determine landmarks he noted in the area. When did Jefferson purchase Natural Bridge? In the only book he published *Notes on the State of Virginia* he described the bridge as “so beautiful an arch, so elevated, so light; and springing as it were up to heaven, the rapture of the spectator is really indescribable.” Use Jefferson’s words and your own to create a poem or song lyric about Natural Bridge.





Jefferson wrote in 1815 to William Caruthers that he would never sell the land: “I view it in some degree as a public trust, and would on no consideration permit the bridge to be injured, defaced or masked from public view.” What was the fate of the bridge after Jefferson’s death?