



THOMAS JEFFERSON & DOLLEY MADISON

Segment II - Duty to Country and to Family



Have students create a timeline entitled **From Colonies to Country** and list the founding of each colony and other significant events leading up to the Congress's adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.



In 1825 Thomas Jefferson wrote: "Neither aiming at originality of principle or sentiment, nor yet copied from any particular and previous writing, it was intended to be an expression of the American mind, and to give to that expression the proper tone and spirit called for by the occasion." What documents and authors influenced Jefferson in the creation of the American Declaration of Independence?

Jefferson wrote to Samuel Adams Wells in 1819, "The Declaration of Independence... [is the] declaratory charter of our rights, and of the rights of man." In your own words, write an essay defining what the Declaration of Independence means to you living in American today.

Has the American Declaration of Independence influenced other countries in their struggle for freedom and liberty? If so, give examples.

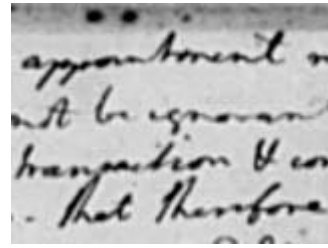


Jefferson arrived in Philadelphia in June 1776 as a member of the Virginia delegation to the Second Continental Congress. When appointed to the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence, he moved from

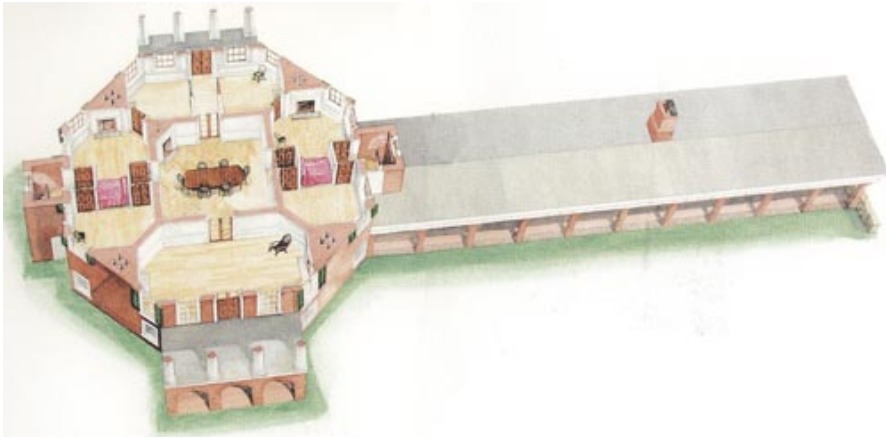


Between June 12 and June 27, 1776, Jefferson drafted the Declaration. This fragment is all that remains of his work during that time.

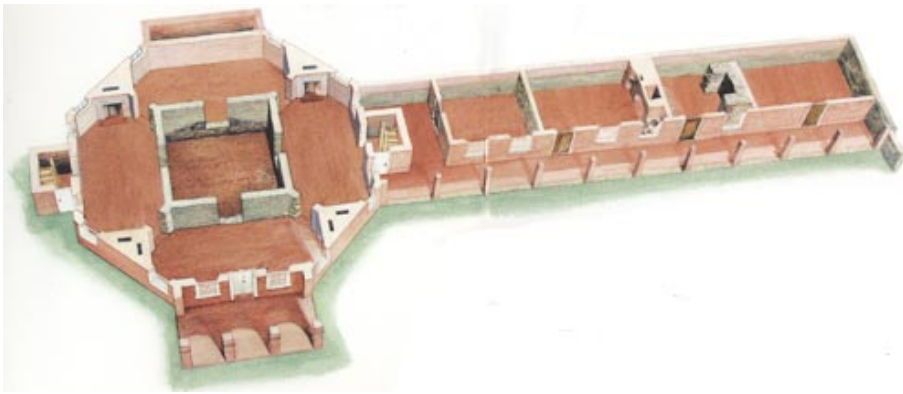
the heart of the city (above) to the outskirts of the city (right) in order to write the declaration in a quieter environment. He rented rooms from Jacob Graff, a bricklayer. Have students research the Graff House also known as the Declaration House. Does that house still exist? Explain your findings. Based on the research have students create a model of the Declaration House and Jefferson's rented rooms.



Years later Jefferson would design a home at Poplar Forest for the same reason of finding peace, especially in order “to attend to my absent friends.” Using this artist’s renderings of Jefferson’s Poplar Forest house, label the rooms, indicating your thoughts as to what Jefferson used each room for. How does Jefferson’s retreat home differ from your home?



Upper Level



Lower Level

Use the chart below to provide information on the Declaration House and Poplar Forest.

	Declaration House	Poplar Forest
Location		
Date originally built		
Architect		
Built by		
Original Owner		
Style		
Owner’s Occupation(s)		
Owner’s Birthplace		
Historical Significance		
Fate/History		

The Declaration House is referred to as a “reconstruction” while Poplar Forest is referred to as a “preservation, restoration and reconstruction.” Explain what these terms mean. Have students put the terms and definitions on the board and making a chart, find examples of preservation, restoration and reconstruction in their communities to put in the columns.



It was not legal in Virginia until 1782 to free slaves, yet Dolley Madison's father, John Payne freed one of his slaves shortly after the adoption of the American Declaration of Independence. In 1783 he freed the rest of his slaves and moved the family to Philadelphia where he started a starch manufacturing business. Have students research the corn starch manufacturing business of the 1800s and determine if such a business is in operation today. What is corn starch and what is it used for?



When Thomas Jefferson was born in 1743, slavery had existed in Virginia for nearly 75 years. Have students research slavery in America to create a timeline of American Slavery.

Jefferson grew up on a plantation with enslaved workers, and as an adult, owned nearly 200 slaves. Use the following Jefferson quotes on slavery to determine how he felt about slavery: ([PDF version](#))

"No body wishes more than I do to see such proofs as you exhibit, that nature has given our black brethren, talents equal to those of other colours of men, & that the appearance of a want of them is owing merely to the degraded condition of their existence." Jefferson to Benjamin Banneker, August 1791.

"Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that his justice cannot sleep for ever..." Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1782

"There is nothing I would not sacrifice to a practicable plan of abolishing every vestige of this moral and political depravity." Jefferson to Thomas Cooper, September 1814



"For if a slave can have a country in this world, it must be any other in preference to that in which he is born to live and labour for another." Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1782

"Nothing is more certainly written in the book of fate than that these people are to be free. Nor is it less certain that the two races, equally free, cannot live in the same government. Nature, habit, opinion has drawn indelible lines of distinction between them." Jefferson's *The Autobiography*, 1821

"We have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other." Jefferson to John Holmes, April 1820

"The whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the most boisterous passions, the most unremitting despotism on the one part, and degrading submissions on the other. Our children see this, and learn to imitate it. . ." Jefferson, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, 1782

"What a stupendous, what an incomprehensible machine is man! Who can endure... imprisonment or death itself in vindication of his own liberty...and inflict on his fellow men a bondage, one hour of which is fraught with more misery than ages of that which he rose in rebellion to oppose." Jefferson to Jean Nicolas De Meunier, June 1786

Make a time line using the quotes. What does this tell you about Jefferson's thoughts on slavery?

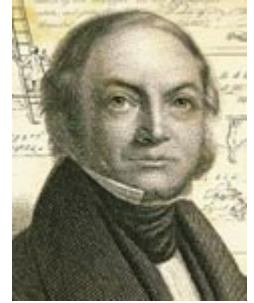
Did Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence, free any of his slaves?



Others in the new nation strongly opposed slavery. Review Quaker poet John Greenleaf Whittier's "Our Countrymen in Chains" poem that was published on a broadside in 1837.

Note: [click here](#) for good copy for reading poem.

Dr. Charles Follen (right), German poet who came to American in 1824, was quoted on the broadside as was Rev. S. J. May. Have students write their own Ode to Slavery creating an illustrated Broadside.



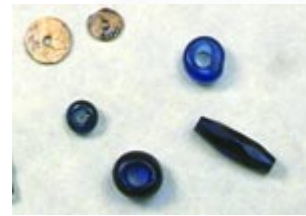
Use the following images of artifacts discovered by the archaeologists at the Poplar Forest Slave Quarter sites to make a list of statements about slave life at Jefferson's retreat home.



ceramic pieces



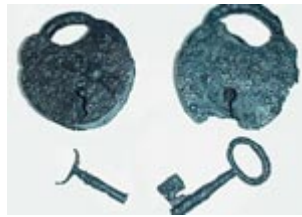
animal bones



beads



scissors



locks and keys



buttons



peach pits



clay marbles



horseshoes

Current Event: "Victory Comes to America" [Barack Obama's victory speech](#)

Why is this Current Event historical?

Using President-Elect Obama's speech, make a list of what you think are his key points and the messages he is sending to the American people.



It is estimated that the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia during the summer and fall of 1793 resulted in over 2,000 deaths. Dr. Benjamin Rush, leading Philadelphia physician, advised those who could to leave the city. John Todd removed his wife Dolley Payne Todd and their two children to housing outside of the city. John Todd, his youngest son William Temple Todd, and his parents would succumb to the epidemic.

Using the following information put together the sequence of yellow fever's progression in Philadelphia to determine how the fever started.

- Water levels of streams and wells become dangerously low
- Thousands of refugees escaping political turmoil in the Caribbean Islands are off loaded on Philadelphia's docks
- Residents notice extraordinary number of flies and mosquitoes swarming around the dock area
- Unusually dry and hot weather conditions



Using the 1793 eyewitness accounts of Dr. Jean Deveze and Dr. Benjamin Rush, create a chart of the symptoms of Yellow Fever and a chart of the treatment.

Dr. Jean Deveze account:

The month of August had nearly elapsed before I had an opportunity of inspecting into the nature of this complaint, when I attended a girl about six or eight and twenty years of age, servant to Mr. Bohlen, merchant in North Water-street. She was very robust and of a sanguine habit; the family physician, a respectable and well-informed practitioner, judging the case unfavourable, and supposing she would probably share the fate that had attended many of his patients, called in and engaged me, in case she sunk under it, to open the body, and endeavour to find out the case of so fatal a malady.

I went with him to Mr. Bohlen's. We found the patient in extreme agitation, face red, eyes sparkling, skin dry and hot, tongue and lips also dry and red, the amygdale glands swelled, the uvula, palate, and inside of the throat inflamed; she swallowed with great difficulty and spoke with pain; respiration was strong, head and throat painful, pulse hard and frequent.



From these indication I proposed bleeding - the physician consented, and I immediately performed the operation, and prescribed lemonade and a gargle made with water and oxymel, or one of honey and spirit of vitriol. It was also agreed the patient should make use of the bath. On our return the next day she was infinitely better; the pulse had unfolded, and she spoke with more ease. As the fever continued, the heat was considerable, and the blood taken the preceding day indicated great inflammation. I proposed a second bleeding, which was performed by the consent of the physician. She was desired to continue the gargle and lemonade, to take creamed of barley or

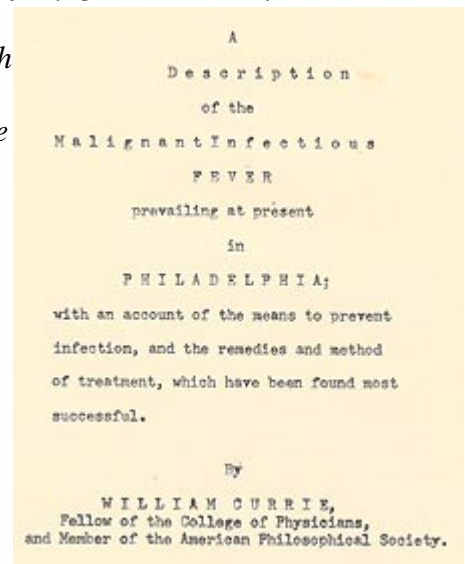
rice, a light mucilaginous diet, such as sago, tapioca, and the like. The next day we found she had quitted her bed, was in good spirits, without fever, and had no farther occasion for medical assistance. We advised her to take a

common cathartic. I saw her no more, but heard her health was perfectly re-established, and she has not since felt the slightest indisposition.



Dr. Benjamin Rush's Directions For curing and Preventing the Yellow Fever:

As soon as you are affected (whether by night or day) with a pain in the head or back, sickness at stomach, chills or fever--more especially if those symptoms be accompanied by a redness or faint yellowness of the eyes, and dull or shooting pains about the region of the liver, take one of the powders in a little sugar and water, every six hours, until they produce four or five large evacuations of the bowels--drink plentifully gruel, or barley water, or chicken water-or any other mild drink that is agreeable, assist the operation of the physic. It will be proper to lie in bed while the medicine is operating, by which means a plentiful sweat will more easily be brought on. After the bowels are thoroughly cleaned, if the pulse be full of tense, 8 or 10 ounces of blood should be taken from the arm, and more, if the tension or fulness of the pulse should continue. Balm tea, toast and water, lemonade, tamarind water, weak camomile tea, or barley water, should be drank during this state of the disorder--and the bowel should be kept continually open, either by another powder, or by small doses of cream of tartar, or cooling salts, or by common opening clyster; but if the pulse should become weak and low after the bowels are cleaned, infusions of camomile and snakeroot in water or in substance, may be administered in the intermission of the fever. Blisters may likewise be applied to the sides, neck, or head in this state of the disorder, and the lower limbs may be wrapped up in flannels wetted in hoe vinegar or water. The food shall consist of gruel, sago, panada, tapioca, tea, coffee, weak chocolate, wine whey, chicken broth, and the white meats, according to the weak or active state of the system. The fruits of the season may be eaten with advantage at all times.*



Fresh air should be admitted into the room in all cases and cool air when the pulse is full and tense.--The floor should be sprinkled now and then with vinegar--and the discharges from the body removed as speedily as possible. The best preventatives of the disorder are a temperate diet, consisting chiefly of vegetables, great moderation in the exercises of the body and mind, warm cloathing cleanliness, and a gently open state of the bowels.

B. R.

Sept. 10 1793.

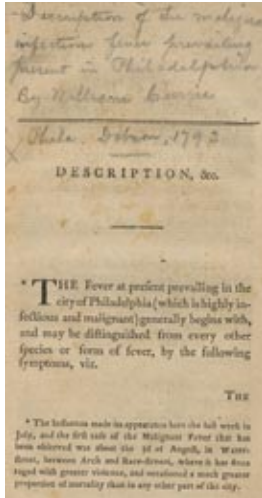
* Each powder consisting of ten grains of Calomel, and fifteen grains of Jalap, for an adult.

Using the 1793 eyewitness account of Samuel Breck, a Philadelphia merchant, have students be newspaper and television reporters, informing the Philadelphian community about the yellow fever epidemic.

Account:

"I had scarcely become settled in Philadelphia when in July, 1793, the yellow fever broke out, and, spreading rapidly in August, obliged all the citizens who could remove to seek safety in the country. My father took his family to Bristol on the Delaware, and in the last of August I followed him... I was compelled to return to the city on the 8th of September, and spend the 9th there. Everything looked gloomy, and forty-five deaths were reported

for the 9th. And yet it was nothing then to what it became three or four weeks later, when from the first to the twelfth of October one thousand 'persons died. On the twelfth a smart frost came and checked its ravages.



The horrors of this memorable affliction were extensive and heart rending. Nor were they softened by professional skill. The disorder was in a great measure a stranger to our climate, and was awkwardly treated. Its rapid march, being from ten victims a day in August to one hundred a day in October, terrified the physicians, and led them into contradictory modes of treatment. They, as well as the guardians of the city, were taken by surprise. No hospitals or hospital stores were in readiness to alleviate the sufferings of the poor. For a long time nothing could be done other than to furnish coffins for the dead and men to bury them. At length a large house in the neighborhood was appropriately fitted up for the reception of patients, and a few pre-eminent philanthropists volunteered to superintend it. At the head of them was Stephen Girard, who has since become the richest man in America.

In private families the parents, the children, the domestics lingered and died, frequently without assistance. The wealthy soon fled; the fearless or indifferent remained from choice, the poor from necessity. The inhabitants were reduced thus to one-half their number, yet the malignant action of the disease increased, so that those who were in health one day were buried the next. The burning fever occasioned paroxysms of rage which drove the patient naked from his bed to the street, and in some instances to the river, where he was drowned. Insanity was often the last stage of its horrors....”

Breck recounts the experience of his father's neighbor:

“Counting upon the comparative security of his remote residence from the heart of the town, (he) ventured to brave the disorder, and fortunately escaped its attack. He told me that in the height of the sickness, when death was sweeping away its hundreds a week, a man applied to him for leave to sleep one night on the stable floor. The gentleman, like everyone else, inspired with fear and caution, hesitated. The stranger pressed his request, assuring him that he had avoided the infected parts of the city, that his health was very good, and promised to go away at sunrise the next day. Under these circumstances he admitted him into his stable for that night. At peep of day the gentleman went to see if the man was gone. On opening the door he found him lying on the floor delirious and in a burning fever. Fearful of alarming his family, he kept it a secret from them, and went to the committee of health to ask to have the man removed.

That committee was in session day and night at the City Hall in Chestnut Street. The spectacle around was new, for he had not ventured for some weeks so low down in town. The attendants on the dead stood on the pavement in considerable numbers soliciting jobs, and until employed they were occupied in feeding their horses out of the coffins which they had provided in anticipation of the daily wants. These speculators were useful, and, albeit with little show of feeling, contributed greatly to lessen, by competition, the charges of interment.

The gentleman passed on through these callous spectators until he reached the room in which the committee was assembled, and from whom he obtained the services of a quack doctor, none other being in attendance. They went together to the stable, where the doctor examined the man, and then told the gentleman that at ten o'clock he would send the cart with a suitable coffin, into which he requested to have the dying stranger placed. The poor man was then alive and begging for a drink of water. His fit of delirium had subsided, his reason had returned, yet the experience of the soi-disant doctor enabled him to foretell that his death would take place in a few hours; it did so, and in time for his corpse to be conveyed away by the cart at the hour appointed. This sudden exit was of common occurrence. The whole number of deaths in 1793 by yellow fever was more than four thousand.”

"Yellow Fever Attacks Philadelphia, 1793," EyeWitness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com (2005).

Have students research Yellow Fever. How did the fever get its name? How was the fever transmitted in Philadelphia in 1793? How was it treated? Is Yellow Fever still a problem today? Have students report their

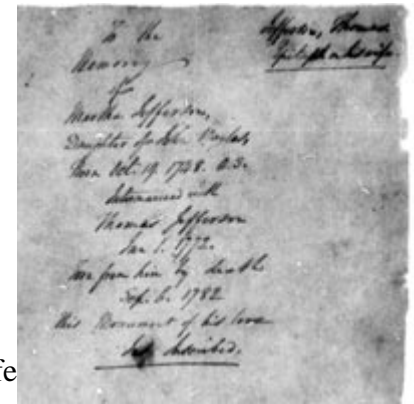
findings in class. Using a world map have students indicate on the map any countries dealing with Yellow Fever today.



Examine this cartoon (click image for larger version), dated 1873 and drawn during the Yellow Fever epidemic in Florida. Create a cartoon for the epidemic in Philadelphia of 1793.

Thomas Jefferson's wife died in 1782 shortly after the birth of Lucy Elizabeth. Have students research the various cause of deaths in the late 1700s and early 1800s.

Suggested topics: Diseases/Heath conditions (smallpox, malaria, scarlet fever, measles, pneumonia, mumps, whooping cough, infections associated with cuts, amputations, typhoid fever), Indian attacks, Starvation, Childbirth complications, War casualties, Public whippings (punishments), Weather conditions, etc



Jefferson's epitaph for his wife

.Match these colonial terms with the disease or medical condition:

[\(PDF version\)](#)

Ablepsy	Meningitis
Apoplexy	Bacterial infection
Black plague	Typhus, diarrhea
Blood poisoning	Lice infestation
Brain fever	Yellow Fever
Bronze John	Blindness
Bule	Rabies
Camp fever	Death due to childbirth
Canine madness	Paralysis due to stroke
Chin Cough	Lack of Vitamin C
Consumption	Boil, tumor or swelling
Cram colic	Gout
Falling sickness	Pneumonia
Lung fever	Appendicitis
Lying in	Bubonic plague
Mania	Time of delivery of infant
Phthiriasis	Writer's cramp
Podagra	Insanity
Puerperal exhaustion	Whooping cough
Scrivener's palsy	Epilepsy
Scurvy	Tuberculosis
Thrush	Childhood disease characterized by spots on mouth, lips and throat

Of the above diseases/conditions, which ones still exist today. Which ones have been eradicated/eliminated and how? How were these diseases treated in colonial days and how are they treated today? Create a chart to place your answers in.



Aaron Burr (left) introduces Dolley Payne Todd (center) to James Madison (right).

Have students research Aaron Burr and James Madison and create profiles of each. Profiles should contain the following information:

Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	
Education	
Occupation	
Political Party	
Political Offices Held	
Spouse	
Children	
Religion	
Date of Death	
Cause of Death	
Burial Place	
Major 3 Accomplishments	