

Thomas Jefferson Reading Comprehension

Thomas Jefferson was born April 13, 1743, in Albemarle County, Virginia. When he was 14, he inherited his father's estate and slaves. Soon after, Jefferson attended the College of William and Mary.

In 1769, when he was just 26, Jefferson was elected to the Virginia House of Representatives. The following year, he married Martha Wayles Skelton. In 1772, Jefferson began building his home, Monticello.

As a member of the Second Continental Congress, Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence in 1776. In 1779, he was elected as governor of Virginia. Although he resigned in 1781, during his term as governor, Jefferson wrote his famous Statute for Religious Freedom. Jefferson's writings also formed the basis of the Ordinances of 1784, 1785, and 1787. From 1785–1789, Jefferson served as minister to France. In 1789, George Washington appointed him secretary of state.

Due to political differences concerning the role of the government with other cabinet members, Jefferson resigned as secretary of state in 1793. Jefferson next ran for president but was defeated in 1796 by John Adams. Nevertheless, he was appointed vice president. Although Jefferson and Aaron Burr received equal electoral votes for presidency, Jefferson was elected president by the House of Representatives in 1800. During Jefferson's presidency, both the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition occurred. Jefferson served two presidential terms. He later established the University of Virginia. He died on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Coincidentally, John Adams died on the same day.

1.) When was Thomas Jefferson born?

- a.) 1734
- b.) 1743
- c.) 1473
- d.) 1762

2.) Which of the following documents was Thomas Jefferson not involved with?

- a.) Declaration of Independence
- b.) Statute on Religious Freedom
- c.) Ordinance of 1784
- d.) Ordinance of 1786

3.) Thomas Jefferson served as minister to what country? _____

4.) Why did Thomas Jefferson resign as secretary of state?

- a.) Political differences between cabinet members.
- b.) He was about to be president.
- c.) He had to write the Declaration of Independence.
- d.) He was fired.

5.) Which of the following did Thomas Jefferson not serve as before he was president?

- a.) vice president
- b.) governor
- c.) senator
- d.) secretary of state

6.) When was Thomas Jefferson defeated in the presidential election?

- a.) Before he wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- b.) Before he was minister to France.
- c.) After he was minister to France.
- d.) 1792

7.) The _____ Purchase occurred during Jefferson's presidency.

8.) What happened last?

- a.) Jefferson was elected president.
- b.) Jefferson founded the University of Virginia.
- c.) The Lewis and Clark Expedition
- d.) John Adams died.

9.) When did Jefferson write the Statute for Religious Freedom?

- a.) While he was governor
- b.) When he was 26
- c.) While he was vice president
- d.) Before he wrote the Declaration of Independence

10.) What does "inherited" mean?

- a.) Given away in a will
- b.) Received from a will
- c.) Taken over
- d.) Destroyed