



Jefferson Memorial Washington, D.C.

Introduction and Instructions

Thomas Jefferson may be best known as our third president, but he also accomplished many other feats. Some of these are listed on his tombstone at Monticello, his beloved Virginia estate. Being President of the United States, however, is not one of them. What do you know about Jefferson's life and accomplishments, as well as his other memorial in our nation's capital? In addition to any prior knowledge you may have, use your research skills and the resources provided here to answer the questions below.



Thomas Jefferson accomplished many things in his lifetime. Learn about some of them here.
WATCH: <https://www.monticello.org/thomas-jefferson/brief-biography-of-jefferson>

1. Name three of Thomas Jefferson's accomplishments from the timeline.

- a. Answer: Governor of Virginia
- b. Answer: Vice President of the United States
- c. Answer: President of the United States

2. When did Thomas Jefferson die? Why is this date significant?

Answer: He died on July 4, 1826, which was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence and just a few hours before John Adams died.



Learn more about the history and significance of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.
READ: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Jefferson-Memorial>

3. When was the Jefferson Memorial dedicated and how long did it take to build?

Answer: The memorial was dedicated in 1943, the 200th anniversary of Jefferson's birthday. It took four years to build the memorial.

4. What two major buildings inspired the design of the Jefferson Memorial?

Answer: The Pantheon in Rome and the Rotunda at the University of Virginia.

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WHAT DO YOU THINK? *This is your chance to share your opinions, make connections, and apply what you've learned!*

1. Analyze the accomplishments of Thomas Jefferson and make a case for why he deserves to have a memorial.

Answers will vary.

2. Imagine you could have a conversation with Thomas Jefferson. What three questions would you ask him? How do you think he would respond?

Answers will vary.

3. The memorial to Thomas Jefferson includes various quotes that he is known for. On the southeast wall, the quote states:

"I am not an advocate for frequent changes in laws and constitutions. But laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind. As that becomes more developed, more enlightened, as new discoveries are made, new truths discovered and manners and opinions change with the change of circumstances, institutions must advance also to keep pace with the times..."

What do you think he meant by this quote?

Answers will vary.

4. Thomas Jefferson wrote the famous opening lines of the Constitution, "We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal..." Yet, he also owned and profited off the numerous slaves who worked at his Monticello estate in Virginia. How do you reconcile his stated beliefs in the rights of "Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness" with his ownership of slaves?

Answers will vary.