

Historical Investigation

PROJECT TITLE: Dolley Madison: Our Nation's "First Lady"	
AUTHOR: Sharon Mohrmann	SUBJECT & GRADE LEVEL: History- 2 nd Grade

CLASSROOM PRACTICE

1. Teaching Thesis: Guiding Questions:

In the world of Founding Fathers, men have stood out as those that are recognized and taught in every elementary classroom. What about the women who served beside them in the early formation of our nation? With an outstanding list of accomplishments, Dolley Madison was a remarkable woman who left her footprints in history and deserves a spot amongst these famous Founding Fathers. She created the role and responsibilities of an American First Lady during her sixteen years on the job and established a model that is still followed today. The influence of French design, brought to Washington by Mrs. Madison, revealed lower bust lines, bare arms, turbans and feathers and created a style that has left a mark in the fashion world. She is remembered for her extraordinary accomplishments, such as the brave acts during the 1814 British invasion on Washington, her peacemaking ability to bring opposing political parties together during her Wednesday meetings, and her welcoming nature to all at the President's House. Dolley Madison remains one of the nation's most influential political figures.

Guiding Questions:

- What is a leader?
- Why do people follow leaders?
- What makes a person brave?
- Who are some people that you think are brave?
- What acts made them brave?
- How did Dolley Madison show acts of bravery during the War of 1812?
- What accomplishments made by Dolley Madison lead her to be granted the title of America's "First Lady?"
- What is an accomplishment?
- What makes someone important?
- Who can be a "First Lady"?

Why was the name “First Lady” given to Dolley Madison?
Why did people want to be like Dolley Madison?
What made Dolley Madison a trendsetter?

2. Suggested Grade Level and Length of Activities:

2nd Grade

3 lessons: 30 minutes each

3. Significance & Relevance:

- **Selected State & National Standards –**

Virginia State Standard of Learning-2.11 The student will identify George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, Susan B. Anthony, Helen Keller, Jackie Robinson, and Martin Luther King, Jr. as Americans whose contributions improved the lives of other Americans.

- **OAH Historical Inquiry Skills –**

Historical Comprehension: After viewing a Digital Story about Dolley Madison, students will be able to complete a graphic organizer about the events that made her a hero to remember.

Historical Understanding: Students will listen to historical fiction and respond to issues regarding the past. After listening to an account of the War of 1812, students will list the events that show the bravery of Dolley Madison.

Historical Analysis and Interpretation: Students will compare and contrast the qualities of Dolley Madison and George Washington in regards to their qualities as a leader.

Using historical fiction -Dolley Madison Saves George Washington by Don Brown and a primary source document- Dolley’s letter to her sister during the War of 1812, students will determine fact from fiction.

Historical Research Capabilities: After viewing a Digital Storybook about the accomplishment of Dolley Madison, students may research other accomplishments to add additional pages to the story.

4. Lesson Objectives –

Lesson 1: Dolley Madison: America's *First Lady*

The student will be able to list reasons why Dolly Madison would have been given the title "First Lady".

The student will be able to complete a graphic organizer after watching a Digital Storybook on the accomplishments of Dolley Madison.

The student will be able to list reasons why Dolley Madison was a trendsetter.

The student will be able to complete a graphic organizer after watching a Power Point Storybook on the accomplishments of Dolley Madison.

Lesson 2: Dolley is Brave

The students will be able to define brave.

The student will be able to compare a historical document and a historical fiction.

The students will create a list of important items to save in a time of disaster.

Lesson 3: Dolly is a Leader

The student will be able to list the characteristics of a leader.

The student will be able to define a leader.

The student will be able to create a coin that shows the qualities of a leader with symbols.

The students will compare and contrast two American leaders.

5. Annotated list of supplemental resources

Primary Sources

Title: George Washington, Marble Statue

Artist: Houdon, Jean-Antoine

http://www.virginiamemory.com/online_classroom/shaping_the_constitution/doc/washington

Summary: This statue of George Washington stands in the Rotunda of the State Capitol of Virginia. It was built by Jean-Antoine Houdon after the defeat of the British in the Revolutionary War.

Title: The Papers of Dolley Madison Digital Edition,

Author: ed. Holly C. Shulman. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, Rotunda, 2008.

Canonic URL: <http://rotunda.upress.virginia.edu/founders/DYMN-01-03-02-0237> [accessed 15 Mar 2010]

Original source: Correspondence and Related Documents, First Lady Years, 4 March 1809–3 March 1817

Summary: This letter from Dolley Madison to her sister Lucy Washington, tells the account of the August 23, 1814 during the burning of Washington, D.C. and Dolley's heroic act to save important documents, silver and the Gilbert Stuart portrait of George Washington.

Title: Dolley Madison First Spouse \$10 Gold Coin First Lady, 1809–1817

Site: The United States Mint

http://www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/firstSpouse/?action=madison

Summary: This coin is one among the first set in honoring the Nation's First Ladies. This coin depicts Dolley Madison's heroic act to save the portrait of George Washington and many important government papers. Because of her quick thinking, this portrait can still be viewed at the White House.

Secondary Sources

Alder, D., & Adler, M. (2009). A Picture Book of Dolley and James Madison. New York: Holiday House.

Summary: The story tells the life of Dolly and James Madison from their early years as children to their meeting in Philadelphia and then their life together at the White House. Many details are given about Dolley's heroic act during the War of 1812. The book includes a timeline of important dates, author's note and a selected bibliography.

Brown, D. (2007). Dolley Madison Saves George Washington. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Summary: This story tells the heroic tale of Dolley Madison and the burning of Washington during the War of 1812. It also includes the portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart and a biography of the artist. The author adds a short biography of Dolley Madison and additional resources on her life.

Curley, A. (Ed.) (2001). First Ladies. New York: Dorling Kindersley Publishing, Inc.

Summary: This book feature 2-3 pages on the First Ladies from Martha Washington to Laura Bush. Many small entries feature her French porcelain, her distinctive style in clothing, and her honorary seat at the House of Representatives. Zachary Taylor remembers Dolley Madison as our first lady for half a century. Many illustrations and facts are packed into the two pages on this famous First Lady.

Figley, M. (2006). Washington Is Burning. Minneapolis, MN: Millbrook Press, Inc.

Summary: The story of the War of 1812 and the burning of Washington as told from the point of view of Paul Jennings, a slave of James Madison. The story is followed by a short summary of Paul Jennings' life. A bibliography is included with historical references to the event.

Larkin, T. (2001). What Was Cooking in Dolley Madison's White House? New York: PowerKids Press.

Summary: Facts on Dolly's early life as a Quaker and her move to the Washington. Each short section shows Dolley as a trendsetter with food, French fashion and her Wednesday drawing room parties. Recipes include Peppermint Ice Cream, Hard Boiled Eggs, Sardine Tea Toasts and Ginger Snaps.

Patrick, J. (2002). Dolley Madison. Minneapolis, IN: Lerner Publications Company.

Summary: This story takes 15-year-old Quaker Dolley Madison to Philadelphia where she meets her 1st husband, John Todd. Her life then takes her to Washington as hostess for Thomas Jefferson and First Lady to her husband, James Madison. The book contains many details about the time she spent after the death of her husband. It includes a detailed timeline of her life, a recipe for Dolley's Gingerbread, further readings, websites, and an extensive bibliography.

Weatherly, A. (2003). Dolley Madison. Greensboro, NC: Morgan Reynolds Publishing, Inc.

Summary: A biography of Dolley Madison, America's First Lady. The book contains many historical pictures and maps. The last chapter notes many of Dolley's accomplishments throughout her life such as her community projects, her love for children, and her last years in Washington. The book includes a detailed timeline, bibliography and list of websites.

6. Lesson Plans or Instructional Activities –

Lesson 1- Dolley Madison: America's *First Lady*

The students will watch a digital storybook on Dolley Madison. The storybook will introduce the students to many of the accomplishments of Dolley. Students will then complete a graphic organizer showing five things they feel are important to remember about Dolley Madison and what made her an America's First Lady.

Lesson 2- Dolley is Brave

The students will listen to the story- Dolley Madison Saves George Washington. After the story, the students will listen to the famous letter written by Dolley Madison to her sister about the account of the same event. This will be an introduction to a primary source. The students will compare the two documents for similarities and differences. Students will then create a list of items they would save from their own house in a time of disaster.

Lesson 3- Dolley is a Leader

The students will compare and contrast Dolley Madison and George Washington with the use of a Venn Diagram. The students will then look at the qualities they see in the artwork that show leadership qualities in the two Famous Americans, noting symbols that were used by the artist. Students will then create a coin showing a leader and three symbols that display what makes them a leader.

7. Technology -

Lesson 1-Dolley Madison: America's *First Lady*- Digital Presentation of Dolley Madison Storybook

Lesson 2- Dolley is Brave-Projection of Dolley's letter to her sister, Lucy Payne Washington Cutts.

Lesson 3- Dolley is a Leader- Projection of the Dolley Madison's coin and the statue of George Washington.

8. Modifications, Differentiation, and Extensions –

Lesson 1- Dolley Madison: America's *First Lady*

- The Digital Storybook can be used as a reading book for small groups or printed for a read aloud activity. Challenge the students to research Dolley Madison and add two additional pages to the book. Have the students share their finding with the class.

Lesson 2- Dolley is Brave

-For an extension activity, divide the students into three groups. Add an additional book- Washington is Burning by Marty Figley. Have the students read their version and write a summary of what occurred. After each group has completed the activity, have the students compare their findings.

Lesson 3- Dolley is a Leader

- Instead of the statue of George Washington, the Gilbert Stuart Portrait of George Washington may be used.
- Students may write their responses on a Venn Diagram instead of doing it as a classroom activity. A Venn Diagram has been included in the Additional Resources Folder

APPENDIX (FOLDER)

9. Related Materials & Resources

Lesson 1-Dolley Madison: America's *First Lady*

Digital Storybook

Digital Storybook Images

Dolley Madison Graphic Organizer (two different organizers are included)

Lesson 2-Dolley is Brave

Dolley Madison's letter to Lucy Washington Cutts

What Would You Save? Worksheet

Lesson 3- Dolley is a Leader

Document for pictures of Dolley Madison Coin and George Washington Statue

Venn Diagram

Venn Diagram Answer Key

Additional Information on George Washington's Statue

Additional Information on Dolley Madison's Coin

Design Your Coin Challenge

Design Your Coin Challenge- Answer Key

Additional Resources:

Pre and Post Assessments are the similar documents- Dolley Madison ABC

Assessment Answer Key

Vocabulary Cards and Definitions

