

*2026 Summer Break packet: incoming 5th-6th
grade Social Studies*



Name: _____

Date: _____

Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson was an American statesman, diplomat, lawyer, architect, and Founding Father who served as the third president of the United States from 1801 to 1809. He was born on April 13, 1743, in what is now Albemarle County, Virginia. He studied at the College of William and Mary, where he became fluent in Latin, Greek, and French, and he graduated in 1762. He then studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1767.

Jefferson served as a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1769 to 1775, where he helped draft the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. He was elected to the Continental Congress in 1775 and served as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress from 1775 to 1776. In 1776, he wrote the Declaration of Independence, which is considered one of the most important documents in American history.

Jefferson served as governor of Virginia from 1779 to 1781 and as a minister to France from 1785 to 1789. He was the first secretary of state under President George Washington from 1790 to 1793 and was vice president under John Adams from 1797 to 1801. In 1800, he was elected president and served two terms.

During his presidency, Jefferson oversaw the Louisiana Purchase, which doubled the size of the United States, and he also sent the Lewis and Clark Expedition to explore the newly acquired territory. He also helped establish the University of Virginia and was instrumental in the establishment of the United States Military Academy at West Point. After leaving office, Jefferson retired to his home, Monticello, where he died on July 4, 1826, the same day as John Adams. He is remembered as a champion of individual liberty and as a key figure in the early history of the United States.

1. When and where was Thomas Jefferson born?
2. What was his education like?
3. What did he study at the College of William and Mary?

4. What significant role did he play in the American Revolution?
5. What was his role in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence?
6. What positions did he hold during the early years of the United States?
7. What was his presidency known for?
8. What was the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and why was it significant?
9. What did he do after leaving the presidency?
10. What is his legacy?
11. When and where did he die?
12. What are some key events or achievements in his life that are remembered today?