

**Thomas Jefferson's Birthday**

Program Name

The Miami Valley Literacy Council

Staff Responsible for Lesson

Katie Kersh

Date(s) Used	04/13/10
Civics Category	III. U.S. History and Government and Citizenship Preparation
Civics Objective	#2: Government and Law (Identify people and events in local, state or federal history)
Time Frame to Complete Lesson	1 hour
EFL(s)	NRS 3-6
Standard(s)/Components of Performance	Listen actively Speak so others can understand
Benchmark(s)	L 3.1, 4.1, 5.1, 4.2, 3.3, 4.3, 5.3, 3.4, 4.4, 3.5, 4.5, 6.5 R 3.1, 3.3, 3.5, 3.6
Materials	Thomas Jefferson Facts and quiz worksheets, (quiz available from <a href="http://www.elcivics.com/thomas-jefferson">http://www.elcivics.com/thomas-jefferson</a> ), information on Federalism and Anti-Federalism from <a href="http://library.thinkquest.org/11572/creation/framing/feds.html">http://library.thinkquest.org/11572/creation/framing/feds.html</a>
Activities	Begin by asking students about their knowledge of the Revolutionary War. Ask students what important document declared the US's independence from England and if they know who wrote it.  Next, introduce Thomas Jefferson and his role in American History. Have students read about the life of Thomas Jefferson through the worksheets and complete the quiz. Using the worksheet from <a href="http://library.thinkquest.org/11572/creation/framing/feds.html">http://library.thinkquest.org/11572/creation/framing/feds.html</a> , discuss the role of Federalism and Anti-Federalism in the development of the American government, particularly focusing on the controversy surrounding a central government at the time of its formation. Ask students to talk about historical political figures in from their home countries.
Assessment/ Evidence	Completed quizzes
Reflection	This lesson is particularly helpful for students who are looking gain citizenship, because it covers several of the questions on the test.

### **Thomas Jefferson Facts**

- Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743.
- He served as the third President of the United States from 1801-1809.
- Before he became president, Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- The Declaration of Independence was adopted on July 4, 1776. It announced our independence from Great Britain.
- Three rights in the Declaration of Independence are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Jefferson believed in Republicanism: that the supreme power of a country belongs to the people. He also believed in separation of church and state.
- Jefferson favored states' rights and a restricted federal government.
- In 1803, while Jefferson was president, the United States bought the Louisiana Territory from France.
- After the purchase of the Louisiana Territory, Jefferson hired Lewis and Clark to explore the new area. Their trip is called the Corps of Discovery.
- A favorite project of Jefferson's was designing and starting the University of Virginia. He designed both the buildings and the curriculum.
- Jefferson was married to Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson, and they had six children. Martha died before Jefferson became President of the United States.
- Although Jefferson wrote against slavery, he owned slaves that he inherited. It is believed that he had children with Sally Hemings, one of his slaves.
- Thomas Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, when he was 83 years old.

- He died on the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.



## **CIVICS FACTS**

1. Thomas Jefferson liked languages and when he was nine years old, he began to study Latin, Greek, and French.
2. Before he became President of the United States, Jefferson was also Vice President of the United States, U.S. Secretary of State, and Governor of Virginia.
3. His home is called Monticello and is located near Charlottesville, Virginia.
4. Jefferson was a widower and he never remarried. Because his wife died before he was elected president, his daughter, Martha Washington Jefferson Randolph, acted as First Lady of the United States.
5. His grave marker does not mention that he was President of the United States: **HERE WAS BURIED THOMAS JEFFERSON AUTHOR OF THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATUTE OF VIRGINIA FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND FATHER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.**

### **Thomas Jefferson Quiz Questions**

1. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
2. When was Thomas Jefferson born?
3. When did Thomas Jefferson die?
4. What university did Thomas Jefferson start?
5. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?