Welcome to Monticello!
My name is Cornelia,
and this is the
plantation of my
grandpapa
Thomas
Jefferson.

This book belongs to:
Two hundred years ago, Monticello was a 5,000-acre plantation where Thomas Jefferson, his family, and hundreds of enslaved workers lived.

Next time you see a nickel, check and see what image is on the other side.
Jefferson was one of our Founding Fathers. He wrote the Declaration of Independence and helped create the United States of America.

The Declaration of Independence states that "all men are created equal."

Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743. He died at Monticello on July 4, 1826 – the 50th anniversary of America’s independence.

Jefferson was 6 feet, 2-1/2 inches tall and had red hair.

Thomas Jefferson founded the University of Virginia and dedicated it to the "freedom of the human mind."

Thomas Jefferson was:
* Governor of Virginia
* U.S. Minister to France
* 1st Secretary of State
* 2nd Vice President
* 3rd President

While he was president, the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory from France - and sent the Lewis & Clark Expedition to explore the West.

DID YOU KNOW?

Thomas Jefferson was:

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* U.S. Minister to France
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* 3rd President

Can you find Thomas Jefferson’s handwriting on this page?
Monticello’s design is called “neoclassical” because it is a new version of the classical styles of ancient Greece and Rome (“neo” means new).

Thomas Jefferson designed Monticello, the Virginia State Capitol, and the University of Virginia. He learned about architecture from books and from buildings he saw in Europe.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

* The house has 33 rooms on four floors.
* More than 69 free and enslaved workers and craftsmen built Monticello.
* Jefferson designed ornamental gardens with flowers, shrubs, and trees from around the world.

How many of these shapes can you find on the house: circle, triangle, half circle, rectangle?
DID YOU KNOW?

Most slaves worked from sunrise to sunset six days a week. Years after Jefferson’s death, the 13th Amendment to the Constitution made slavery illegal in the U.S.

Enslaved girls ages 10 to 16 used a spinning jenny to spin wool into thread. Enslaved boys ages 10 to 16 made nails in the nailery. Within the 80-person Hemings family were woodworkers, blacksmiths, chefs, painters, butlers, seamstresses, weavers, and gardeners.

Most people who lived at Monticello were enslaved. Slavery meant that one person could legally own another person. Slaves lacked basic rights and were forced to work. While Jefferson spoke against slavery, he owned over 600 enslaved people in his lifetime.

Within the 80-person Hemings family were woodworkers, blacksmiths, chefs, painters, butlers, seamstresses, weavers, and gardeners.

To learn more about the enslaved people who lived and worked here, visit Monticello.org or download our Slavery at Monticello app.
Families of Monticello

Enslaved and free families lived side-by-side, but their lives were very different. Family ties helped slaves survive a violent and unfair system. Descendants of enslaved families have pursued Jefferson’s ideal - “that all men are created equal.”

DID YOU KNOW?

- Oral history is a way of learning about the past by asking people to tell their personal stories.
- The Getting Word Oral History Project interviews the descendants of Monticello’s enslaved community.
- Peter Fossett’s oral history was recorded in 1898 after gaining freedom.

Interested in gathering oral histories from your friends and family? Ask an adult to tell you about their life and memorable experiences.
Gadgets and Gizmos

A curious scientist, Jefferson observed and recorded information about everything from plants to weather! He enjoyed experiments and purchased gadgets. Most importantly, Jefferson believed that everyone should share useful knowledge.

Jefferson wrote thousands of letters. This machine – called a “polygraph” – made a copy as he wrote with two connected pens.

Jefferson recorded daily observations on these ivory notecards, which could be wiped clean and reused.

Jefferson said he could “not live without books.” This spinning stand holds papers, letters, and books.

This device – called an orrery – is a model of the solar system.

This compass rose is attached to Jefferson’s weather vane. He recorded the weather every day.

DID YOU KNOW?

* Thomas Jefferson designed a “wheel cipher” to create secret messages in code.
* Jefferson wore these green spectacles.

Look at the compass rose above. What direction is the wind blowing?
Thomas Jefferson called music “the favorite passion of my soul.” Music was important to both the free and the enslaved families at Monticello.

Jefferson played the violin, as did his sons, Beverly, Madison, and Eston Hemings. Here, two of his granddaughters practice the pianoforte and English guitar.

Monticello archaeologists have found small instruments called jaw harps near places slaves lived.

To learn more about Beverly, Madison, and Eston Hemings, visit monticello.org/sallyhemings
DID YOU KNOW THAT THOMAS JEFFERSON:

* Had no middle name?
* Had pet mockingbirds?
* Had a 1,000-foot long vegetable garden with more than 350 varieties of plants?
* Collected fossils and bones to learn about animals, as well as art and artifacts from other cultures?
* Established the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York?
* Helped make ice cream, macaroni and cheese, and French fries popular in America?
* Owned the Natural Bridge in Virginia? He thought it was one of the natural wonders of the world.
* Received a mammoth cheese—weighing 1,235 pounds—from the people of Cheshire, Massachusetts, while he was president?

For more information, please visit monticello.org and classroom.monticello.org

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