

Thomas Jefferson's Early Life

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Thomas Jefferson, author of the American Declaration of Independence and the third U.S. president, was born on April 13, 1743, at the Shadwell plantation located just outside of Charlottesville, Virginia -- near the western edge of Great Britain's American Empire.

Jefferson was born into one of the most _____ Adjective families of Virginia's planter elite. His mother, Jane Randolph Jefferson, was a member of the _____ Adjective Randolph clan, a family that claimed _____ Noun _____ Plural from English and Scottish royalty. His father, Peter Jefferson, was a successful farmer as well as a skilled surveyor and cartographer who produced the first _____ Adjective map of the Province of Virginia. The young Jefferson was the third born of _____ Number siblings.

As a boy, Thomas Jefferson's favorite pastimes were playing with the _____ Noun Plural _____, practicing the violin and _____ Verb Present ends in ING _____. He began his formal education at the age of nine, studying Latin and _____ Noun Plural _____ at a local private school run by the Reverend William Douglas. In 1757, at the age of 14, he took up study of _____ Adjective _____ Noun Plural _____ as well as literature and mathematics with the Reverend James Maury.

In 1760, having learned all he could from Maury, Jefferson left home to attend the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg . Although it was the second oldest college in America (after only Harvard), William and Mary was

not at that time an especially _____ Adjective academic institution. Jefferson was dismayed to discover that his
classmates expended their energies _____ Verb Present ends in ING on _____ Noun Plural, playing cards and
_____ Verb Present ends in ING _____ Noun Plural rather than studying. Nevertheless, the serious and precocious
Jefferson fell in with a circle of _____ Adjective scholars that included Professor William Small, Lieutenant
Governor Francis Fauquier and lawyer George Wythe, and it was from them that he received his first
_____ Noun .