

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_.