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Thomas Jefferson

Have you ever looked at a two dollar bill or a nickel and wondered whose face you were looking at? The image is of one of our famous founding fathers, Thomas Jefferson (Katzman). He believed whole-heartedly that the colonies should break away from England and form their own country. Once they did he helped lead our young nation and help make it become what it is today. To understand Thomas Jefferson’s brilliance and his active role in shaping our country it’s important to be familiar with his beginnings.

Thomas Jefferson was born into a wealthy family on April 13, 1743 in Shadwell Virginia. He was raised on his family plantation with his nine siblings (Katzman). When he was 9 years old he moved away to study with his tutor at a boarding school. From there he went to the college of William and Mary in his home state of Virginia, and would go on to become a lawyer. When he finished law school he designed his own home, Monticello, which he would later move to and raise a family of six children with his wife Martha in Virginia (Encyclopedia Britannica). He was a member of the Virginia colony government by the time he was twenty-six years old. Due to his being very outspoken against Britain’s rule over the American colonies he was chosen to write an argument for the independence of the colonies (Hurt).

In the late 1700’s Thomas Jefferson and many other men believed that the colonies had a right to form their own country and no longer be part of England. He wrote the famous document called The Declaration of Independence which was signed by many other colonists who believe the same on July 4, 1776. After the colonists went on to fight England in the American Revolution and they became their own country. The first president of the United States was George Washington and Thomas Jefferson was his Secretary of State. Then the next president was John Adams and Thomas Jefferson was his vice president. While he served as vice president he started his own political party called the republicans known today as the Jeffersonian republicans. Thomas Jefferson was the third president of the United States. During his presidency he almost doubled the size of the United States when he made The Louisiana Purchase from France for 10 million dollars (Hurt).

Thomas Jefferson’s presidency ended in 1809. Two of his six children survived until adulthood. He founded the University of Virginia in 1819. He lived out the rest of his life on his plantation, monocello, with his wife Martha. He died 50 years after signing the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1826 (Hurt).

Now when you see a two dollar bill or a nickel you will know more about the man you are looking at. He is someone who successfully argued for the independence of our nation and is known as the father of the Declaration of Independence. He was the third president of the United States but he served in George Washington’s cabinet and was vice president for John Adams. His greatest accomplishment during his presidency was almost doubling the size of the United States with the Louisiana purchase. Now you know one of our country’s founding fathers (Hurt).

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