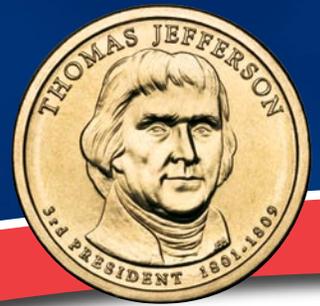


THOMAS JEFFERSON



Presidential Profile

- **Thomas Jefferson, Third President of the United States:** President Jefferson served from 1801-1809 and was the first President to be inaugurated in Washington, D.C. He was born in Shadwell, Virginia on April 13, 1743. On July 4, 1826, President Jefferson died at his estate, Monticello, in Virginia, the same day former President John Adams died. This date was also the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- **Declaration of Independence, 1776:** Jefferson was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. One of the most enduring symbols of liberty, the Declaration expresses the principles of freedom, summarizing John Locke's political philosophy of individual liberty. Combined with the airing of grievances against King George III of England, Jefferson's Declaration demonstrated to the world why the American colonies should be "Free and Independent States" from King George III's "absolute Tyranny over these States."
- **Road to the Presidency:** Before he was President, Thomas Jefferson served as the first Secretary of State, America's principal diplomat, under President George Washington (1790-1793). He ran for President in 1796, but lost to John Adams (1797-1800) and became Vice President. He ran again in 1800 and won in an election that was decided by the House of Representatives.
- **Jefferson's Elections:** Jefferson lost the 1796 election to Federalist candidate John Adams by three electoral votes. In 1800, candidates Jefferson and Aaron Burr each received 73 Electoral College votes. A tie in the Electoral College meant that the House of Representatives would decide which of the two men became President and Vice President. After 35 inconclusive ballots, Alexander Hamilton swayed enough of his colleagues in the Federalist Party to elect Jefferson as President.
- **Louisiana Purchase:** In 1803, Jefferson sent future President James Monroe to France to negotiate the purchase of land in North America still owned by the French. The result was the Louisiana Purchase, a \$15 million land deal that more than doubled the size of the United States and expanded the country's territory west of the Mississippi River.

- **Lewis and Clark Expedition:** Jefferson commissioned two explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to survey the newly acquired western territory and reach the Pacific Ocean for the purpose of finding routes for commerce. Led by Sacagawea, an American Indian woman who is also featured on a United States one-dollar coin, the trip lasted from 1804 to 1806 and covered more than 8,000 miles en route to and from the mouth of the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean. The trip had a lasting impact on the future of the United States: It mapped uncharted land, added significantly to the study of plants and animals on the continent, and inspired many Americans to settle in the West.

Monumental Moments

- Jefferson is one of four Presidents whose face is carved into the Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota.
- As of 2007, there are 101 cities and towns and 28 counties in the United States that are named Jefferson.
- After the Capitol building and many of the books contained in its library were burned during the War of 1812, Jefferson sold his 6,487 volume collection to the Library of Congress to help rebuild the library. His collection included works on architecture, the arts, science, literature, and books in six different languages.

Coin Connection

- The Thomas Jefferson \$1 Coin will be available beginning in August, 2007.
- President Jefferson is featured on the nickel.
- Jefferson supported the decimal system, upon which United States currency is based. He also proposed the dollar as the standard unit of money.



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