Botany is the study of plants and Jefferson enjoyed it. He experimented with what would and what would not grow in Virginia. If something did not grow well, he would have it moved or try it in another place the next year. The garden was constantly changing and he wrote down very detailed records.

This is a map of how his garden was planted in 1812. (Details are on the back.)
Details from the map of his garden

Questions to answer as a group about the sources:
1. What do you see in this map?
2. What does this map tell you about Jefferson's interest in botany?
3. What do you see in the garden book?
4. What does the book tell you about Jefferson's interest in botany?
5. Why do you think Jefferson kept detailed information about what he grew and where he grew it?
A page from Jefferson's Garden Book from 1812

He wrote down each plant type, where he grew it, when it first came up, when it was transplanted, when it "came to table", when it was gone, and other miscellaneous things about it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of plant</th>
<th>Where</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Transplanted</th>
<th>Come to table</th>
<th>Gone</th>
<th>Miscellanies</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frampe peas</td>
<td>Ford I. V.</td>
<td>Feb 45</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Cucumber, green</td>
<td>Jones I, XIII</td>
<td>Feb 22</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Tomatoes</td>
<td>XIII, VII-VIII</td>
<td>June 9, 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lettuce, white</td>
<td>XIII</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radishes, scarlet</td>
<td>XIII</td>
<td>Mar 2</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spinage</td>
<td>1730</td>
<td>June 8</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Brawn, peas</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>May 24</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Apr 2</td>
<td>June 9, 13</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Squash, pale</td>
<td>1730</td>
<td>Apr 2</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Cabbage, many heads</td>
<td>18 V.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Savoy</td>
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<td>Apr 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrot, yellow</td>
<td>1890</td>
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<td>Leeks</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Scallop</td>
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<tr>
<td>P. C. Cucumbers early</td>
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Original manuscript from The Coolidge Collection of Thomas Jefferson Manuscripts at the Massachusetts Historical Society.
Jefferson loved books in a time when getting books was expensive and difficult. Throughout his life he owned between 9,000 and 10,000 books. He was always building, growing, and organizing his library. He liked to organize the books by subject instead of by author's last name because he thought this made more sense and made it easier to find them. He could read 7 different languages and had books in those languages. For example, he taught himself to read Spanish by using Miguel de Cervantes' *Don Quixote*.

This page shows how Jefferson organized his library after he retired from being President.

Questions to answer as a group about the source:

1. What do you see in this source?
2. What does it tell you about the kinds of things Jefferson was interested in?
3. Why do you think he spent so much time organizing his books?
4. Do you think he had a good system of organization?
5. What does this tell you about Jefferson's personality?
Here is the same page typed out

- **Civil**
  - Antient
  - Modern

- **Antient** Hist. 1
  - Modern Hist. 10
  - Nat. Hist. 22
  - Gener. 24
  - Anatomy 24
  - Path. 24
  - Medicine 24
  - Tech. 28
  - Agriculture 32
  - Botany 36
  - Mineralogy 38
  - Chemistry 36
  - Physics 38
  - Geography 40
  - Zoology 22
  - Geog. 40
  - Astronomy 48

- **Natural**
  - Vegetables
  - Minerals
  - Physics
  - The Earth

- **Mathematics**
  - The Science of Quantity
  - The Science of Space

- **Ethical**
  - Morality
  - Moral Supplements
  - Social Organization

- **Beaux Arts. sc.**
  - Architecture
  - Garden, Paint.
  - Sculpture
  - Music
  - Narrative
  - Dialogue
  - Poetry
  - Moral

- **Belles Lettres.**
  - Levities. sc. Pastoral, Amatory
  - Lyric etc.
  - Oratory
  - Criticism

- **The Faculties Promiscuously**
  - Design 96
  - Epic 98
  - Romance 100
  - Dramatic 100
  - Didactic 102
  - Rhetoric 108
  - Oratory 108
  - Criticism 110
  - Philol. 112
  - Bibliography
  - Polygraphical 122
Music was not only a big part of life for Jefferson but also his daughters and grandchildren. Jefferson played the violin and his wife played the pianoforte. Jefferson made sure that his daughters and grandchildren all learned to play an instrument as well. Grandchildren also told stories of hearing Jefferson humming Scottish songs and hearing his pet mockingbird sing from its cage in his room.

This is Jefferson's sheet music for the song "Money Musk". Also listen to Pete Vigour play the song.

Questions to answer as a group about the music:

1. What do you see in the sheet music that tells you about Jefferson's musical talent?
2. What does the song sound like?
3. Is this what you imagined Jefferson would play?
4. What does this tell you about Jefferson's personality?
5. Why do you think Jefferson liked music so much?
Thomas Jefferson's Talents & Interests: Architecture

Jefferson's first love was architecture, which is designing buildings. He never studied it in school, but taught himself using books. He really liked Palladio architecture, which is the style of buildings made in Rome (even though he never went to Rome in his life.) That style is very symmetrical, with one side looking exactly like the other side. He also liked things he saw in Europe, like alcove beds (a bed built right into the wall). He put all these things into his house at Monticello, which he designed, had built, tore down, and rebuilt. It took him about 40 years to finally finish the house.

This is a floor plan of the first floor of Monticello.

There are 4 floors of Monticello. The basement has a kitchen, wine cellar, beer cellar, ice house, work rooms, and the room where Jefferson's enslaved butler, Burwell Colbert, lived. The first floor has Jefferson's bedroom, library and study, dining rooms, and places he could be with his guests. The second floor has bedrooms for his family members. The third floor has the dome room and a few other sleeping rooms as well.
Jefferson’s bedroom

North Octagonal Room

Staircase to second floor

(Jefferson believed grand staircases wasted space, so he made his narrow and spiral)

Basement passage connecting workrooms like the kitchen, cellar, and icehouse
Questions to answer as a group about the floor plan and pictures:

1. What do you see in the pictures?
2. How is Monticello symmetrical?
3. What appears to be Jefferson's favorite shape for rooms?
4. What parts of Monticello appear special or unique to you?
5. What does this house tell you about Jefferson's personality?
Thomas Jefferson's Talents & Interests: Technology

Source Citations: All images are from the Monticello Classroom. http://classroom.monticello.org

Jefferson loved technology and was always finding new ways to use something or make something better. For example, he added chains under the floor connecting his entrance hall and parlor so that if you closed one of the glass doors the other would close too. Below are some of pictures of Jefferson’s innovations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Polygraphy</th>
<th>Wheel Cypher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson would write with one pen and it would make a copy with the other.</td>
<td>In order to send secret messages in code while he was Secretary of State, Jefferson made a wheel cypher. Each disk has letters on it. You write your message, then scramble it with the cypher, and the person who gets it can unscramble it using his cypher set to the same code.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revolving Service Door</th>
<th>Revolving Bookstand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Because he did not like slaves to come in and out of a room and interrupt a meal, Jefferson created this door that would spin between the dining room and hallway so plates could be moved in and out quietly.</td>
<td>In order to be able to have five books open and easy to read at the same time, Jefferson made this book stand that could spin around.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spherical Sundial</th>
<th>Moldboard Plow</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A sundial measures time by casting a shadow on a clock face. Jefferson was the first to have a spherical one in America. He had seen them in Europe.</td>
<td>Jefferson improved the part of the plow where it cuts the ground and makes a trench for planting so that it moved more quickly and easily.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“Turning Machine” for holding clothes
This was never made, but designed by Jefferson to hold more clothes in a closet.

Dumbwaiter
Jefferson had two of these dumbwaiters put into the sides of the fireplace in the dining room. They are like little elevators that went from the wine cellar to the dining room, and they carry wine bottles up and down.

The Great Clock
Jefferson designed this clock to tell time down to the second. It has weights that make it run. On the side of the wall where the weights hang he put markers for the 7 days of the week, so the clock not only tells you the time but also what day of the week it is. There was no room on the wall for Saturday, so the weights go through the floor to the basement.

Questions to answer as a group about the pictures:

1. What do you see in the pictures?
2. What do these things have in common?
3. What do these things tell you about Jefferson's personality?
4. Why would Jefferson make these items?
5. What seemed most important to Jefferson? Why did you choose that one?
Thomas Jefferson's Talents & Interests: Meteorology

Source Citation: Weather Memorandum Book, 1 July 1776, Philadelphia and 18 July 1814, Philadelphia. Original manuscript from the Coolidge Collection of Thomas Jefferson Manuscripts. Massachusetts Historical Society.

Meteorology is the study of the weather, and Jefferson enjoyed it. Every day he would record the temperature in the morning and around 4 pm. He would also note the direction of the wind, whether it was cloudy, sunny, rainy, etc., and any other details he noticed. He did this almost every day for 50 years.

Observations on the weather, Philadelphia 1776
Questions to answer as a group about the sources:
1. What do you see?
2. What does it tell you about Jefferson’s personality?
3. Why do you think Jefferson was interested in the weather?
4. What do you think he learned from it?
5. Why do you think he kept such careful records?
Jefferson's Talents

Thomas Jefferson was an Enlightenment thinker who enjoyed a lot of things, including art and music, science and nature, thinking and reading. Like the Enlightenment thinkers of Europe, he was a “Renaissance Man”, a person who was talented at many different things. While this may not have been remarkable or special in the Enlightenment salons in Europe, Jefferson was very special for America at that time.

Directions: In groups, look through the sources on one of Jefferson's talents and interests. Answer the questions in groups. Then, make a “Pinterest” posting that Thomas Jefferson would like and post on his Pinterest wall. Make the posting on a piece of poster paper. Draw a picture, write a short description, include a pretend person who “made” it (that can be Jefferson or someone else --- maybe an enslaved worker?), and a category Jefferson would tag it with. There is an example below. Pin it to the wall in the class. Tomorrow we will look at all of them and you will answer the questions at the bottom of this page.

Summary Questions to Answer Individually

1. What were 6 of Jefferson's talents and interests?
2. Which talent was your favorite? Why?
3. Which do you think was most important to Jefferson? Why?
4. What do all these talents tell you about Jefferson's personality?
5. Did Jefferson's talents and interests make him a better American leader? How so or why not?