



## ***Teacher's Guide***

### **Virginia's Founding Fathers: Washington, Jefferson & Madison** **Drive Thru History/American History**

#### **Grade Levels:**

7-12

#### **Subject Areas:**

United States History

#### **Synopsis:**

Dave visits Mount Vernon, Monticello, and Montpelier recalling the achievements of the Presidents who lived there and their aims for the estates they called home. He highlights features of Georgian and Palladian architecture and provides insightful anecdotes associated with each home. These anecdotes concern the lives of African slaves and indentured servants, epitaphs on the graves of the three Presidents, and stories of Dolley Madison's successes in Washington. Viewers gain an understanding of the private lives of Presidents Washington, Jefferson, and Madison.

#### **Learning Objectives:** Students will:

- Describe characteristics of Georgian and Palladian architecture
- Understand that the Commonwealth of Virginia was dependent on the labor of slaves and indentured servants
- Appreciate the three Presidents' understanding of the rights of all human beings, slave or free
- Understand that the three residences embodied American values associated with the early years of the Republic

#### **Vocabulary:**

rustification, piazza, cupola, indentured servants, dumb waiter, epithet, Monticello, Montpelier, Mount Vernon

#### **Pre-Viewing Discussion:**

What Presidential estates were developed in the early years of the Republic?

Do these estates still exist today? What kind of condition are they in?

Do you think that Americans should support the restoration of Presidential estates? Why, or why not?

How did landowners like Jefferson, Washington, and Madison support their estates? Who worked the land when they were away on government business?

**Post-Viewing Discussion:**

How did the lives of indentured servants differ from the lives of slaves? Why did indentured servants stage Bacon's Rebellion?

What architectural features draw attention at Monticello and Mount Vernon?

How did Monticello express the unique personality and concerns of Thomas Jefferson?

How do details of the restoration of Montpelier reflect the daily lives of the Madisons?

**Further Activities:**

Visit the website dedicated to the restoration of Montpelier. Find further evidence of the topics Dave discusses in this program and ways the general public can assist in the restoration project.

Further investigate the lives of indentured servants in Colonial America.

Trace the abolition of slavery from the Declaration of Independence through issues of slave and free states in the American Civil War.

Find more detailed information about Dolley Madison and the reasons she was such a popular First Lady.

**Related New Dimension Media Titles:**

George Washington  
Colonial Life series  
Jefferson and the Declaration of Independence  
The Making of the America's Presidency  
Madison and Monroe  
Our Presidents in American History series  
Roman Feats of Engineering