



Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

Teacher Guide



Conserving the Jefferson Bible

with Janis Stagnitto Ellis, Emily Rainwater, Laura Bedford, Sarah Emerson

Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/jefferson.mp3>

Pre-Listening Questions

- Think about any family heirlooms or objects that are personally important to you that you have in your home. What do you do to take care of them? Where do you keep them?

Discussion Questions

- What does a paper conservator do?
- The curator compares the Jefferson Bible to a scrapbook. If you put together a scrapbook of your favorite writings, what would you put in it? What would it say about you?
- What do you think we could learn about Thomas Jefferson from looking at his Bible?
- Did anything surprise you about the conservation process that the curators describe?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History

- Unlocking the Mysteries of Jefferson's Bible with High-Tech Analysis and Microscopic Testing
<http://blog.americanhistory.si.edu/osaycanyousee/2011/10/unbinding-the-jefferson-bible.html>
- Online Exhibit: Jefferson's Bible
<http://americanhistory.si.edu/jeffersonbible/>

Related Resources from History Explorer

- Drafting the Declaration: The Jefferson Desk and the Declaration of Independence
<http://historyexplorer.si.edu/resource/?key=2590>

Related Standards for U.S. History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1820s)
 - Standard 1: The causes of the American Revolution, the ideas and interests involved in forging the revolutionary movement, and the reasons for the American victory

Related Standards for World History (National Center for History in the Schools)

- Era 7: An Age of Revolutions (1750-1914)
 - Standard 6: Major Global Trends from 1750-1914

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Pre-Listening vocabulary- Define these words:

Conservation

Binding

Pre-Listening Question:

Think about any family heirlooms or objects that are personally important to you that you have in your home. What do you do to take care of them? Where do you keep them?

Listen to the podcast. Take notes and answer the questions.

What does a paper conservator do?

The curator compares the Jefferson Bible to a scrapbook. If you put together a scrapbook of your favorite writings, what would you put in it? What would it say about you?

What do you think we could learn about Thomas Jefferson from looking at his Bible?

Did anything surprise you about the conservation process that the curators describe?

Email your questions, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>