Thomas Jefferson used a "lap"top to write the Declaration of Independence

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights…”

Who designed Jefferson’s special desk?

Why was it designed this way?

Find out in... The AMERICAN PRESIDENCY on 3 Center

1776

Find Yourself in American History

You’re the one with the bright ideas! What fascinates you most is what makes things go—and how can we make them go further, faster, better? You’re a problem solver, happiest when puzzling things out. When you enter the Museum’s doors, your curiosity ignites!

Find the objects and people chosen to fit your personality.

Use the images and quotes to help your search.

Start on the 1st floor and move up through the Museum.

What other artifact from the museum belongs on this list? Design your own tour stop here!

Title

Ask a question

A little more info

Smithsonian
National Museum of American History
Kenneth E. Behring Center
1999

How many lids does it take to cover a coffee cup?
What would you need to take this cup in your car?
How many options do you have?
Count them in... FOOD on 1 East

1950

What made Edison’s bright idea brighter?
“...The first electric sign which was ever made [I] constructed in December, 1881, and hung up in the Crystal Palace in London, England. It flashed the name ‘Edison’ by means of a huge lever spring switch.”
—William Hammer, in a lecture to the New York Electrical Society, 1913

1891

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1977

Did you know that you “save” history everyday?
“You have to trust in something—your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.” —Steve Jobs

1977

What could you save to before USB drives?
What does your “save” button look like?
Find out in... AMERICAN STORIES on 2 East

Find Yourself in American History