

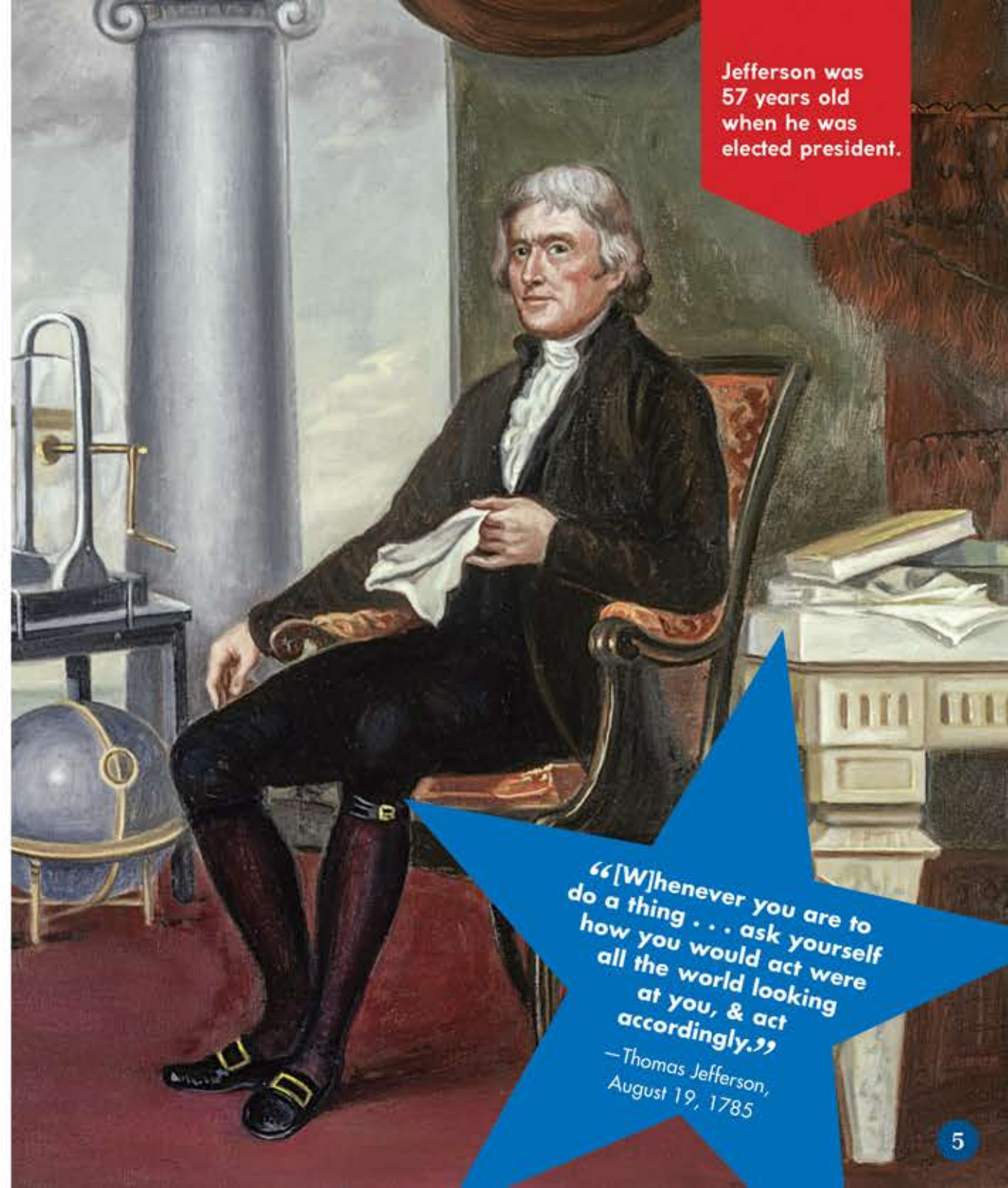


CHAPTER 1

Meet Thomas Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson had many talents. He was a lawyer and a musician. He designed buildings and was an excellent writer. In fact, Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence. That document helped free the 13 American **colonies** from British rule. Jefferson was also the third president of the United States. During his first **term**, he nearly doubled the size of the country.

Jefferson came from a wealthy family. He owned a lot of property and held many **enslaved** people. He collected many books and works of art. Yet Jefferson spent his career making sure the government represented the common man. He had very big dreams for his country and worked hard to see them through.



Jefferson was 57 years old when he was elected president.

“[W]henver you are to do a thing . . . ask yourself how you would act were all the world looking at you, & act accordingly.”

—Thomas Jefferson,
August 19, 1785

Jefferson's love of books—and of learning—continued throughout his life.



“I cannot live without books.”

—Thomas Jefferson,
June 10, 1815

Jefferson's Early Years

Shy, quiet Thomas Jefferson was born on April 13, 1743. He was one of ten children. The Jeffersons lived in Virginia—the largest of the 13 British colonies in America. Thomas grew up on a large **plantation**.

The Jeffersons' house was filled with books and musical instruments. As a youngster, Thomas enjoyed reading, writing compositions, and playing the violin. He also loved to go exploring outside.

At first, Thomas was taught in a little schoolhouse on the plantation with his siblings. At age nine, he was sent to boarding school. There, Thomas studied French, Latin, and Greek. He was always excited to learn new things.

Young Jefferson often practiced violin for three hours a day.



TIMELINE

American History



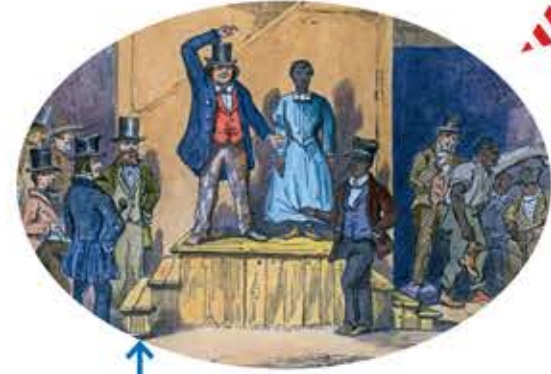
1744
King George's War, a struggle between Great Britain and France over territory in North America, begins in May. It lasts until 1748.

1773
On December 16, colonists dump tea into Boston Harbor to protest taxes. The Boston Tea Party results in more laws that increase tensions between England and the colonies.

1775
On April 19, the first battle of the American Revolution takes place at Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. The war ends eight years later, on September 3, 1783, with the Treaty of Paris. The United States officially becomes a country.



1803
The United States buys the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million.



1808
The slave trade is officially outlawed in the United States, beginning January 1. But holding enslaved people is still legal. James Madison is elected president in December.

1812
The War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain begins on June 18. It lasts until February 1815.



Thomas Jefferson's Life

1743
On April 13, Thomas Jefferson is born in the colony of Virginia.

1772
Jefferson marries Martha Wayles Skelton on January 1. They will have six children together.

1776
Jefferson spends 17 days writing the Declaration of Independence and two days revising it before it is approved on July 4.



1801
Jefferson begins his first term as president on March 4. His second term begins on March 4, 1805.



1825
Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia opens on March 7.

1826
Thomas Jefferson dies on July 4 at the age of 83.

