
Conserving the Jefferson Bible

Presenter: Paper Conservation Lab, National Museum of American History

Web Site: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/jefferson.mp3>

Teacher Guide

Listen to *Conserving the Jefferson Bible* Podcast (14:32)

- Download the podcast as an MP3 (<http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/jefferson.mp3>)

Discussion Questions

- What things do paper conservators look for and analyze when planning to repair historical documents and books like the Jefferson Bible?
- What do you think motivated Thomas Jefferson to create his own “version” of the Bible?
- What features of the Jefferson Bible do the conservators think tie it to the larger scope of colonial history?
- Why do you think this book is important for the Museum to maintain?
- What do you think are some of the skills paper conservators need to be successful at their job?

Related Resources from the National Museum of American History:

- A Peek Inside the Conservation of the Jefferson Bible: <http://blog.americanhistory.si.edu/osaycanyousee/2011/03/a-peek-inside-the-conservation-of-the-jefferson-bible.html>
- Unlocking the Mysteries of Jefferson’s Bible with High-Tech Analysis and Microscopic Testing: <http://blog.americanhistory.si.edu/osaycanyousee/2011/08/unlocking-the-mysteries-of-jeffersons-bible-with-high-tech-analysis-and-microscopic-testing.html>
- The Object of History: The Jefferson Desk <http://www.objectofhistory.org/objects/intro/desk/>

Thinkfinity Features:

- EDSITEment!: Jefferson vs. Franklin: Renaissance Men - <http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/jefferson-vs-franklin-renaissance-men>
- EDSITEment!: Jefferson vs. Franklin: Revolutionary Philosophers - <http://edsitement.neh.gov/lesson-plan/jefferson-vs-franklin-revolutionary-philosophers>
- EDSITEment!: Religion in 18th Century America - <http://edsitement.neh.gov/curriculum-unit/religion-18th-century-america>
-

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

- Era 3: Revolution and the New Nation (1754-1820s)

• Name:

Date:

Period:

Conserving the Jefferson Bible

Presenter: Paper Conservation Lab, National Museum of American History

Web Site: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/jefferson.mp3>

Student Worksheet

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

1. What things do paper conservators look for and analyze when planning to repair historical documents and books like the Jefferson Bible?

2. What do you think motivated Thomas Jefferson to create his own “version” of the Bible?

3. What features of the Jefferson Bible do the conservators think tie it to the larger scope of colonial history?

4. Why do you think this book is important for the Museum to maintain?

5. What do you think are some of the skills paper conservators need to be successful at their job?