



## THOMAS JEFFERSON

Did all presidents have to be good speakers? No, they did not. Thomas Jefferson was not good at talking. He did not like speaking in front of a lot of people. He was afraid to speak in front of a crowd. Though he did not speak well, he could write words on paper very well. That is what he did best of all.

Tom was very tall. He had freckles and sandy-colored hair. He was born on April 13, 1743. Tom loved to be out in the woods. He loved to read books. Tom went to private school.

He went to William and Mary College. He went to learn math and science. He went to learn to write and know the laws.

Tom became a lawyer in 1767. He wrote the Declaration of Independence. It said we would be free from England. We would make our own choices.

He was the third president. It was very hard to make the people happy. He tried very hard. There were problems with France. Some of his ideas were good. Others were bad.

After eight years, he went home and did what he wanted to do.



### STORY QUESTIONS

1. What did Thomas Jefferson write?
  - a. stories for his children
  - b. the Declaration of Independence
  - c. letters to his wife
  - d. notes in his school classes
  
2. A **synonym** is a word that means the same thing. *Learn* means . . .
 

a. study.	c. happy.
b. free.	d. wrote.
  
3. What did Thomas have problems doing?
  - a. asking for help
  - b. writing notes in school
  - c. talking in front of people