

★ UNIT STUDY

# Dolley Madison

A FIRST LADY WITH STYLE 1768 - 1849



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DEAR PARENTS,

We are excited to partner with you as you seek to educate your children.

This Unit Study is designed to not only educate your child on Dolley Madison's life, but also integrate other subjects including: vocabulary, art, Bible, reading, and handwriting. We strive to be as historically accurate as possible in every aspect of our lesson. For example, May 1, 1810 really fell on Tuesday. Our vocabulary elements will be in bold with the definition either incorporated into the sentence or in brackets next to the word.

The flexibility is yours for dividing the material into the number of lessons appropriate for your child.

Years of Study: K-2

Educational Elements: History, Vocabulary, Bible, Reading, Handwriting, Art, and Cognitive Thinking

All Things Homeschooling,

*Sarah and Julia*

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 READ THE STORY: *Dolley Madison*

Dolley Madison was born into a Quaker family on May 20, 1768 in North Carolina. Quakers are known for living peaceful lives and wearing plain clothes. John Payne, Dolley's father, **emancipated** his slaves because the Quaker's believed they should be set free. As a result, Mr. Payne sold his plantation and decided to move north to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1783.

Mr. Payne opened a laundry business which failed. Dolley's dad died in 1792. In order to support the family, Mary, Dolley's mom, opened rooms in their home and invited others to live there in exchange for rent. Aaron Burr, a Congressman from New York, lived with the Payne's and was the man who introduced Dolley to her future husband, Congressman James Madison.

When Dolley was 21 years old, she married John Todd, a lawyer in Philadelphia. Dolley and John had two boys, John and William. After being married for three, short years, Dolley's husband, John, became sick with yellow fever and died. This was a common illness that affected many families. Dolley's three-month-old son, William, also died the same day as his father.



Happily, Dolley met Congressman James Madison. They were a surprise to most people because Dolley was very **gregarious** [outgoing] and James was very **introverted** [shy]. They married in 1794 and moved to the Madison family plantation in Virginia named Montpelier. Dolley was 26 years old and *responsible for maintaining the household*.

★ *Bible Verse* Proverbs 31:27 “She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.”

★ *Just Think* What do you think a lady on a plantation would need to shop for or do? Complete the lists below:

*Shopping List*

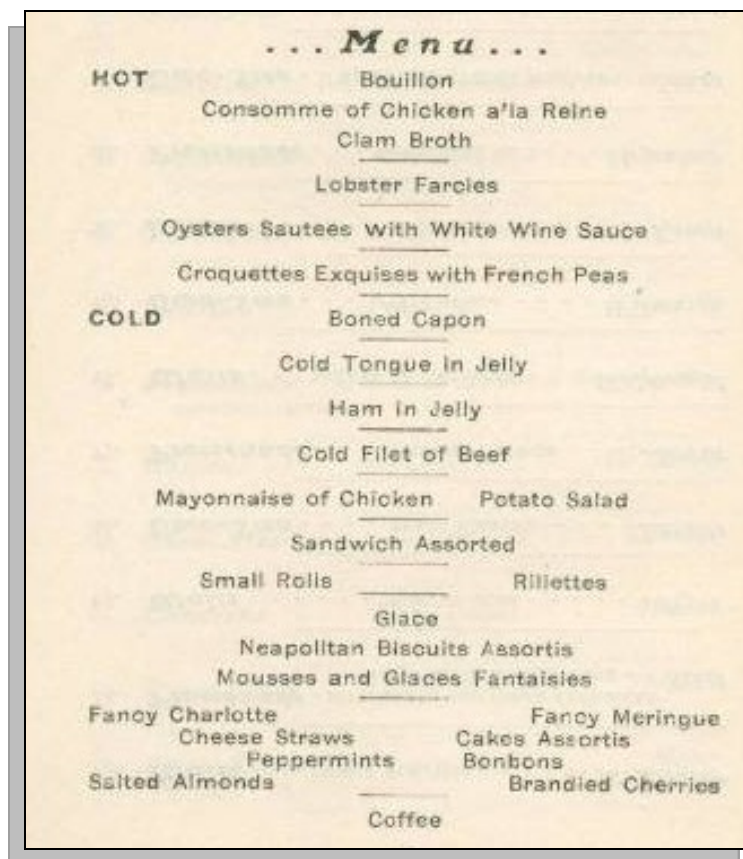
1. *Flour*
2. *Sugar*
3. *Yeast*
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

*To Do List*

1. *Tell Cook Meal Choices*
2. *Check with Tutor to see how John's studies are coming along*
3. *Mend clothing*
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

In 1801, the family moved to Washington, D.C. with James because of his new position as Secretary of State for President Thomas Jefferson. Since President Jefferson was widowed, he wanted to have a female help him greet and entertain his guests, a hostess. During both of Jefferson's terms as President, Dolley met many political figures and learned **immensely** [a lot] about how the political process worked.


When her husband was **inaugurated** [formally put in office] in 1809, a friend wanted Dolley to hold a dance and dinner. *That became the first inaugural ball.*





*An example of a dance card  
from an inaugural ball.*

Women carried decorative dance cards on a string, around their wrist at fancy balls. They would use them to write the names of young men they wanted to dance with throughout the night.

 **Activity** Create your own invitation to an **inaugural ball**: On the next page, choose the menu, the music you would play and the attire your guest should come dressed in. Color the card. Fold along the horizontal line first with text facing out, then fold together along vertical line with “you are invited” cover facing out.

\_\_\_\_\_ Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_ And

\_\_\_\_\_ Please wear your finest

**Ball**

invited to the

**You are cordially**

**Music by** \_\_\_\_\_

**Song List:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

DRINKS

DESSERT

HOT

COLD


**Menu**


**YOU ARE  
INVITED  
TO A BALL**



Dolley **differentiated** [set herself apart] from earlier Presidential wives by increasing the visibility of the President's wife with the public. Dolley also wisely **capitalized** her political power by exhausting every form of influence available to her such as, letters, parties, and friendships with other wives of key officials. Through these outlets, Dolley would learn what different political figures were thinking about the issues that were important to the Madison Administration. If they had a different opinion, she would ask them to consider supporting her husband's ideas.

Dolley was the first First Lady to publically work to help orphaned girls in Washington, D.C. by raising money and serving as a board member for the organization.

 *Bible Verse* **James 1:27 Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.**

 *Activity* **Plan a social calendar:** Cut out the calendar and event circles. Paste the event circles onto the calendar. Be sure to write some of your own ideas on the calendar as well.



# May 1810

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Visit Mrs.  
Andrew  
Gregg


Go to Repub-  
lican Party  
Fundraiser

Receive  
Mrs. James  
Lloyd

My Birth-  
day Ball  
May 20th

Fundraiser  
for  
orphanage


When British troops attacked Washington D.C. and began burning the city in the War of 1812, Dolley heroically refused to leave the White House until a famously, large portrait of George Washington was removed and safe from being destroyed. Dolley wrote: “Our kind friend, Mr. Carroll, has come to hasten my departure, and in a very bad humor with me, because I insist on waiting until the large picture of General Washington is secured, and it requires to be unscrewed from the wall. This process was found too tedious for these perilous moments; I have ordered the frame to be broken, and the canvas taken out. It is done! and the precious portrait placed in the hands of two gentlemen of New York, for safe keeping.”

 *Writing* Copy the underlined sentence from the letter above, onto the lined spaces below:

Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

After the war of 1812, a large debate ensued or followed to return the United States capital to Philadelphia, where congress met in years prior. It is widely accepted that Dolley was a key influence in keeping Washington, D.C. the United States Capital.

She was revered by many. After her terms as First Lady, other First Ladies including Julia Tyler and Sarah Polk came to her for advice on dealing with life in the public.


 ***Bible Verse:*** Proverbs 31:31 “Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”

 *For Additional Study*

Plan a Dolley Madison tea party.

Create a dance card and hold your own ball.

Research further at your local library or on-line.

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[www.allthingswithpurpose.com](http://www.allthingswithpurpose.com)  
Images used in this study can be found at the following link: <http://historygallery.com/historicmemorabilia/1901ball/1901ball.htm>

# Dolley Madison

N P W H I T E S I D E W B T U G X F F H E G  
C N H P R R E S I D E R Y N T B R P B H J G Z  
D N L Z R W T A C S K A R D Y A C P K A Z Z G D  
I S K R R T Q X K S H O X D L T O K A H N Q S O  
H V L R R Q Q X H H O A U L L O H V W H I O C O U  
B C X J T K U J A U H O D L O A H O C O E U  
V C O O V J S H A I W O N Q P L A B Y O O R C  
H M L T U W J H A M X G U T O K Z W P J C Q Y G  
N H M E U S Y A K J E J R A O N Q L H R G A U I L  
D K T A W J H A K J E J R A O N Q L H R G A U I L  
L B B D I U V C R F S D O X N M F R J C R Y B U S E  
A U X T P L A N Y I D J O R B I O Q X N M I H R I O W S E  
D N I P U A N Y I D J O R B I O Q X N M I H R I O W S E  
Y R O G N F A Y I D J O R B I O Q X N M I H R I O W S E  
B K S A N T I R P I Y I D J O R B I O Q X N M I H R I O W S E  
E X A O D R R A S I O R B I O Q X N M I H R I O W S E  
L X O R W S T Y F F E R S D O X N M I H R I O W S E  
O N R W T Y F F E R S D O X N M I H R I O W S E  
L E F F J E F F E R S D O X N M I H R I O W S E  
Z Z F F J E F F E R S D O X N M I H R I O W S E

WASHINGTON  
JEFFERSON  
DOLLEY  
JOHN  
JAMES  
PLANTATION  
PRESIDENT  
FIRST  
LADY  
WHITE  
HOUSE  
WAR  
BRITISH  
CONGRESS  
BALL  
ORPHANS  
DANCE  
CARD  
TEA  
PARTY