The Jefferson Era

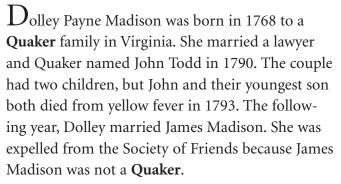
Polley Madison



WHY SHE MADE HISTORY Dolley Madison was the wife of President James Madison. She is known for her elegance and grace as the official hostess of the White House.



As you read the biography below, think about how Dolley Madison's charms and manners helped her become the "unofficial" first lady of the Jefferson administration.



In 1801 Thomas Jefferson appointed James Madison secretary of state. Dolley Madison often helped President Jefferson with state functions, such as entertaining guests. Both Jefferson and Vice President Aaron Burr were widowers, and Dolley Madison took on the role as unofficial first lady for the Jefferson administration.

Dolley was known for her charm, tact, and elegance. She was very outgoing and loved parties and social events. When James Madison became president in 1809, Dolley Madison continued her role as Washington's hostess. The Madisons entertained in their home and held weekly **salons**. She insisted on formal **etiquette** and kept her guests comfortable.

During the War of 1812, British troops invaded Washington, D.C., and attacked the White House. Dolley Madison was able to save many valuable



VOCABULARY

Quaker member of the Society of Friends, a Protestant religious sect salon society meeting etiquette manners

Name	Class	Date
Dolley Madison, continued		Biography
belongings, including the White		
important official papers, from l	being destroyed by	
the British invaders.		
After James Madison's two ter	rms as president, he	
and Dolley retired to their plant	ation in Virginia.	
When James Madison died in 18	336, Dolley moved	
back to Washington, D.C. She di	ied in 1849.	
WHAT DID YOU LEARN?1. From what you have learned Dolley Madison.	l in this passage, list two a	idjectives that describe
2. Draw Conclusions Why do y important during Dolley Ma	•	ng guests might have been so
ACTIVITY		

Imagine that you are helping Dolley Madison entertain during an event at the White House. On a separate sheet of paper, create a simple invitation to this social event. Include the name or title of the event, the date and time, and a description of what might be expected at the party.