

Founding Farmers



Our country's founding fathers were not just passionate about liberty—they were also passionate about their farms and gardens—and the mark they left on America goes beyond their influence on our government.

1. What impact did our founding farmers have on the U.S. apart from the government?

George Washington took breaks from his soldiers from time to time to write home about his garden. He left his generals shortly before the British invasion of New York, to compose a letter to his estate manager about planting groves of flowering trees at Mount Vernon.

2. What was on George Washington's mind before the British invasion of New York??

Benjamin Franklin believed strongly that agricultural self-sufficiency would keep our country free from outside tyranny. While in London, dealing with political emergencies, he was also sending seeds back to Philadelphia, both to be used in his own garden, and to be distributed to other Philadelphia property owners.

3. What did Benjamin Franklin think would keep our country free from tyranny?

Name _____

Using Text Evidence



When Thomas Jefferson and John Adams were in London for trade negotiations, they spent their spare time together touring English gardens. But there they were surprised to find that the English gardens were actually American—they recognized many species of American trees and shrubs, and later learned that they had been sent to England by Philadelphia farmer and botanist John Bartram. They realized that they could still have the ornate gardens that they had loved in England while living in America without being unpatriotic, and found it ironic that shortly after America had won its independence from Britain, England's gardens were filled with American plants.

James Madison could be considered the founding father of American environmentalism. He tried to stop Americans from destroying the forest and the soil. He believed that for America to survive, they had to protect the environment.

4. What was ironic about the English gardens that Jefferson and Adams visited?

5. Who sent American plants to England?

6. Why is James Madison the founding father of American environmentalism?
