

Author's Purpose

1. Thomas Jefferson, the third president of the United States, is remembered primarily for his work as a statesman, but his contributions to American agriculture and dining were important too. Early American cooks used the basic foods that were available in their new country; Jefferson expanded the foods available to them. As a diplomat, he traveled the world, and wherever he went, he sampled foods and investigated food sources. He brought the best of these back to the United States.

Even as a boy growing up on Shadwell, his family's plantation, Jefferson showed an interest in agriculture. At a young age, he began keeping books filled with comparisons of various garden plants. He continued keeping these records for half a century.

As an adult, Jefferson designed and built Monticello, a 10,000-acre estate. It was there that he tried food crops new to the American continent. He experimented with broccoli, asparagus, cucumbers, squash, eggplant, artichokes, lettuce, cauliflower, and spinach, as well as Spanish onions, cabbage, turnips, and various kinds of beans and peas (his favorite vegetable). Jefferson was also one of the first to grow sugar beets in this country. Not all of his agricultural adventures were successful. Among his recorded failures were olive trees and wine grapes.

Jefferson also planted and used potatoes, vegetables that were originally grown in South America and taken to Europe by early explorers. They were first thought to be poisonous, but later became a major source of food. In America, potatoes were initially accused of shortening men's lives and were used mainly as animal food.

Jefferson was also one of the first Americans to eat tomatoes, which gained acceptance even more slowly than potatoes. French immigrants enjoyed them, but others refused to try them. Raw tomatoes were thought to be poisonous. Many believed that they should always be boiled for three hours before being eaten.

Jefferson brought many other treats with him when he returned to this country from his trips abroad. In 1787, he introduced rice to the Carolinas, using some grains brought back from Italy. Hogs were imported from India, a waffle iron from Holland, and ice cream from France. When entertaining dinner guests, he often served a variety of foods from other countries. While these foods usually pleased his guests, Jefferson's political rivals complained that he was not showing enough loyalty to his own country when he served foods from foreign lands.

Even in his later years, Jefferson continued to experiment with new food plants. He exchanged plants, roots, and cuttings with other interested people and scattered seeds throughout the country he had helped to found. Many of the good foods we now think of as American were brought to the United States by Thomas Jefferson two hundred years ago.

The purpose of this essay is to _____

- A. Persuade the reader to eat American food.
- B. Sum up Jefferson's contributions to the United States
- C. Describe Jefferson's influence on American agriculture and dining.
- D. Introduce Thomas Jefferson's interest in plants and food.

Vandal Victim

One Saturday afternoon as I walked toward my car, intending to use it to do some errands, a strange sight met my eyes. Little slivers of glass and thin splotches of fine, damp sand dotted the front seat. As I walked around the car to investigate further, I was shocked to see that my windshield had a large hole in the passenger side. A partly empty sandbag lying a few yards in back of my car gave me a clue as to what might have happened the night before.

I wanted to believe that a truck loaded with sandbags had lost part of its load without the driver's knowledge. However, the force with which the sandbag had hit my car and the distance it had traveled afterwards suggested a more frightening explanation.

"Can you think of anyone who might hold a grudge against you?" the police officer asked me. I couldn't, but somehow that didn't make me feel more secure. Somewhere in my community lived someone who had damaged my property, hadn't been caught, and would probably continue getting kicks out of doing something similar. Thanks to my auto insurance company, I was spared paying the entire \$300 it cost to replace the windshield, but I still lost \$50 and time I could have put to better use.

People like the person who broke my windshield are called *vandals* because of their similarity to a Germanic tribe who, in the fifth century A.D., stripped many Romans of their valuables. Each year, the damage inflicted by vandals costs our nation more than a billion dollars. Most vandals arrested are under age eighteen, and many are younger than ten years old.

In an attempt to make them realize the seriousness of their crimes, many communities are ordering vandals to repay their victims with money and community service. Sometimes, as vandals carry out their service sentences, they begin to experience a pride in their communities and in their own abilities to make better places in which to live. I hope the vandals who ruined my windshield will be lucky enough to have such an experience.

The author wrote this passage to _____

- A. Solve a mystery about a hole in a windshield.
- B. Give information about a Germanic tribe that became famous for its destructiveness
- C. Help readers understand a victim's feelings about vandalism
- D. Show how auto insurance companies operate.

3. Rain in the Summer
by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

How beautiful is the rain!
After the dust and heat,
In the broad and fiery street,
In the narrow lane,
How beautiful is the rain!

How it clatters along the roofs,
Like the tramp of hoofs!
How it gushes and struggles out
From the throat of the overflowing spout!

Across the windowpane
It pours and pours;
And swift and wide,
With a muddy tide,
Like a river down the gutter roars
The rain, the welcome rain!

The author wrote this poem to _____.

- A. show his appreciation for the rain.
- B. persuade the reader to use water wisely
- C. provide information about rain
- D. warn the reader about heavy downpours.