

Women in the 18th Century

Activity Suggestions

Women at Mount Vernon

- Listen to the **story of Caroline** and **Nelly**, and read about **Eleanor**. Write down details about their lives, and how the three women might have interacted with one another while at Mount Vernon.
- Look at a room from the **Mount Vernon Virtual Tour**. List: what objects do you notice, and how might **Caroline**, **Eleanor**, or **Nelly** interact with those objects? Are there objects that all three of them would have used? Discover more information with our **Collections Page**.

The Mount Vernon Virtual Tour is an excellent way to explore the stories of the women who lived, worked, and interacted with the Mount Vernon plantation.



Why Women Matter

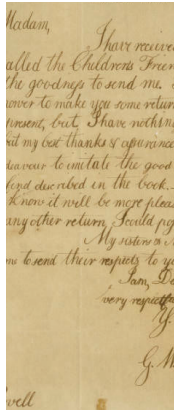
- Women in the 18th century identified by their gender. Think of ideas, words, and adjectives that describe how you identify yourself (see this **identity thinking routine** for ideas).
 - Then, choose three objects of your own that show those identities. Consider: why would this describe you? What do you want people to remember about you?
- Choose three women in your life that are important to you. Draw a picture of these women. Write: why are these women important to you, and how do they meet your needs?
- Read out loud **Elizabeth Wiling Powel's letter** to George Washington convincing him to run for a second term. In a class discussion, ask:
 - What was Powel's relationship to Washington?
 - How did women participate in politics in the 18th century?
- Write a persuasive letter, like Powel's, convincing your teacher to change something about your classroom or school.



SILHOUETTES



OBJECTS



LETTERS

Studying Women's History

- Fill in a **blank silhouette** with images of artifacts, words, thoughts, and other ways to describe a woman who lived in the 18th century (like **Caroline**, **Eleanor**, or **Martha**).
- Show a **picture of a single object**, like a scraping tool used by indigenous people or a teacup used by individuals who were enslaved. Build a story about how that item would have been used in daily life.
- Read six-year-old George Washington Parke Custis's **thank-you letter to Elizabeth Powel**. Then, write a thank-you to an important woman in your life.