

Women in the 18th Century

Activity Suggestions

Women at Mount Vernon

- Choose a room from the **Mount Vernon virtual tour**. Examine the objects in that room. How would women like **Caroline**, **Nelly**, or **Eleanor** have interacted with the objects? Are there objects that all three of the women would have used?
- Create a chart comparing **Nelly's roles** and education to other colonial gentry women in the Washington family (**Martha Washington**, **Martha "Patsy" Parke Custis**, and **Mary Ball Washington**).

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.



Making a Difference

- Women in the 18th century were 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 from the mansion** that show those identities. Consider: why would this describe you? What do you want people to remember about you?
- Choose three famous, historic women that are influential to you. Write: why are these women important to you, and how did they change history? What lessons can we learn from the women you chose?
- Read **Elizabeth Wiling Powel's letter to George Washington** convincing him to run for a second term. Like Powel, write to a politician about an important issue that you are passionate about. When writing, consider:
 - Your own perspective and biases
 - Your relationship to this politician
 - Word choice - be sure to use persuasive language!
 - Format - how are you conveying this information?



SILHOUETTES



OBJECTS



DATABASE

Studying Women's History

- Fill in a **blank silhouette** with images of artifacts, words, and other ways to describe a woman who lived at Mount Vernon. Make sure you consider intersectionality such as race, gender, and social class.
- Choose 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.
- Using the **Database of the Enslaved Population**, research a women listed and construct a biography using the evidence found.