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? Why would these women interact with these objects?

- Find an object in the Mount Vernon collections. Think about that object - who might have used it, and where might it belong in the house?

The Importance of Women

- 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. Determine the answers to these questions in a class discussion:
    - What was Powel's relationship to Washington?
    - Based on this letter, do you think Powel was influential to Washington? Why or why not?
    - How were women politically active in the 18th century?

Making Connections

- Fill in a blank silhouette with images of artifacts, words, thoughts, and other ways to describe a woman like Martha, Eleanor, or Charlotte. Make sure you consider aspects of identity 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.

- Read Nelly's letter to her friend, Elizabeth. List things you learn about Nelly in the letter. Then, create a list of ten things people would learn about you by looking at your texts or writings.