

1. Research Dolly Madison and the British invasion of Washington D.C in 1812. What did Dolly have removed from the White House and why in that short space of time? What would you have chosen and why?

When the British were approaching the White House, Dolly Madison ordered her servants and slaves to remove the important documents and other items that were critical to the presidency (as well as the curtains!). But she also took something else; a huge portrait of George Washington. The reason she took it wasn't just sentimental, it was because she took into account the psychological toll it would take on the young nation if the British were able to seize one of the few national icons they had. I think I probably would have made much the same decision in her place, although I wouldn't have been as worried about the curtains.