Challenges of the First Five Presidents (c. 1800-1820's)
Washington & Adams
1789*

Territories

Washington

TERRITORY NORTHWEST OF OHIO RIVER

NH 5
MASS 10
RI
CONN 7
NJ 6
DEL 3
MD 6
VA 10
PA 10
NC
SC
GA 5

100%

69

ELECTORAL VOTE
TOTAL VOTING: 69
NOT VOTING: 12
Washington as President

- George Washington unanimously elected President by the Electoral College in 1789 and 1792.
- Set many precedents that future Presidents would follow.
- Created the Presidential cabinet, a group of advisors:
  - Thomas Jefferson served as Secretary of State
  - Alexander Hamilton served as Secretary of the Treasury.
- Washington also favored non-intervention in Europe and avoided siding with France against Great Britain in their continued fighting.
How has the power of the President changed?

Use the census results from 1790 and 2000 to compare and contrast:
1790- 3.9 million people ; 2010- 308 million people
The Whiskey Rebellion

- In order to pay back Revolutionary War debt, Washington passed a series of taxes.
- One tax in particular hit farmers in Western Pennsylvania hard.
- These farmers used excess crop to produce whiskey which they also used as currency.
- To protest the new taxes, the farmers led a revolt against tax collectors in the area.
In order to crush the revolting farmers in Western Pennsylvania, Washington orders in the federal troops.

They quickly force the farmers to disband.

Washington’s quick, firm handling of the Whiskey Rebellion proved that this new Constitution could in fact work.
A NEW WHISKEY REBELLION
Because this is no time for weak Tea.
"It serves to distract the Public Councils, and enfeeble the Public Administration....agitates the Community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms; kindles the animosity of one....against another....it opens the door to foreign influence and corruption...thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another."
Formation of Political Parties

- Political parties had their origin in the difference of opinion between Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton.
- Both men felt differently about how the new nation should be run and operated.
- Hamilton’s group (known as the Federalists) wanted to further expand the power of the government and create a national bank.
- Jefferson’s group (known as the Democratic-Republicans) believed the federal government should limit itself to powers delegated in the Constitution.
# Difference Between Parties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federalists</th>
<th>Democratic-Republicans</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wealthy</td>
<td>Poor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Rural</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose interpretation of the Constitution</td>
<td>Strict interpretation of the Constitution</td>
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<td>Federal rights</td>
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<td>Business</td>
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<td>England supporters</td>
<td>French supporters</td>
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<td>Hamilton’s vision:</td>
<td>Jefferson’s vision:</td>
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<td>-----------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ Complex economy</td>
<td>◦ Agrarian Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>◦ Industrious cities</td>
<td>◦ Small, farming families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>◦ Global trade</td>
<td>◦ Communities organized around agriculture</td>
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France Asks for Help

- The French Revolution began in 1789
- Tensions between France and England were high, and they were on the verge of war.
- Citizen Genêt = French diplomat who came to the US in 1793 to ask the American government to send money and troops to aid the revolutionaries in the French Revolution
- President Washington asked France to recall Genêt after Genêt began recruiting men and arming ships in US ports
- Washington later relented and allowed Genêt US citizenship upon learning that the new French government planned to arrest Genêt
France Asks for Help

- Jefferson (Secretary of State) advised helping France
  (When the US was fighting a revolution/ fighting the British, France helped. Now France was fighting a revolution/ fighting the British.)
- Hamilton (Secretary of the Treasury) advises non-intervention (stay out of the fight)
  (Worried about national debt and political instability in France)
- Washington decided not to involve the US in the conflict between England and France, because he believed that it would weaken the young US
Washington Steps Down

- After his 2nd term, Washington announced that he would not seek another four years as President.
- Seen as one of the most important things he ever did.
- When the announcement was made Jefferson and Hamilton’s respective parties began fighting to replace him.
- In Washington’s “Farewell Address” he warned the infant nation about the danger of political parties.
The Presidency of John Adams

- 2nd President of the US
- Defeated Jefferson in 1796 election
- Federalist
- His administration was plagued by the continuing conflict between England and France and an undeclared war with France, known as the Quasi-War
Adams Continues Non-Intervention Policy

- Adams found himself at odds with the French in a series of slights (insults) aimed at the United States.
- These insults led many Federalists to call for a formal declaration of war on France.
- Adams refused to follow his party’s wishes choosing a path of non-intervention.
- His refusal to engage in open conflict with the French is seen as one of the most important political decisions of the early nation.
Alien and Sedition Acts

- Early political fighting between the D-R’s and the Federalists led to the enactment of the Alien and Sedition Acts in the late 1790s.
- These laws were passed by a Federalist–controlled Congress in an attempt to limit political support for Thomas Jefferson and his party.
  - **Alien Act**: increased citizenship requirements and simplified the deportation process to prevent Jefferson from receiving support from immigrants.
  - **Sedition Act**: An attempt to limit freedom of speech by punishing or imprisoning anyone who spoke out against Federalist’s policies or President Adams himself.
Origin of States’ Rights Ideology

- Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions: political statements drafted in 1798 and 1799 respectively
- The state legislatures of KY and VA claimed that the federal Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional.
- The resolutions argued that states had the right to declare unconstitutional any federal act that was not specifically authorized in the Constitution.
- This refusal to follow federal laws is seen to be the beginning of “states’ rights ideology” that will play a large role in the forthcoming Civil War.
Thomas Jefferson & the Louisiana Purchase
Thomas Jefferson

Democratic-Republican

- Plantation Owner from Virginia
- States’ Rights supporter
- Repealed Alien and Sedition Acts
Jefferson’s Purchase from France
The Louisiana Purchase (1803)

The area known as Louisiana switched hands many times, but now was controlled by the French.

– President Jefferson, wanting access to the port of New Orleans, decided to make an offer to Napoleon for control of that port.

– Napoleon (who was in debt from war) decided to sell Jefferson not just New Orleans but ALL of Louisiana.

– **The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the country and brought with it many valuable resources.**
Jefferson’s Dilemma

- Thomas Jefferson (as an Anti-Federalist) believed that the power of the federal government (including the President) should be limited.
- His views on the Constitution were those of a strict constructionist: meaning that he followed the Constitution “word for word”.
- He felt that the purchase of Louisiana was unconstitutional; the Constitution did not specifically give the President the authority to buy territory.
- He decided however that the deal was too good to pass up and went through with the purchase.
Exploring Louisiana

- No one knew exactly what the lands between the Mississippi River and the Pacific Ocean held.
- In an effort to explore the new territory, Jefferson sent out an expedition team headed by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.
- The team charted trails, rivers and mountains, discovered new species and interacted with Native American tribes.
- Also staked American claim to the West coast, allowing us to eventually acquire more territory.
The War of 1812
James Madison

- Elected President in 1812
- Democratic-Republican
- “Father of the Constitution”
- Co-author of the “Federalist Papers”
Dispute with Great Britain

- For the first decade of the 19th century, American merchant ships had been caught in the middle of an ongoing fight between England and France.
- Jefferson was able to avoid war with these countries through diplomacy and economic embargoes.
- However hostilities intensified and in 1812, President Madison asked Congress to formally declare war on Great Britain.
Causes of the War of 1812

– 1. England was interfering with American trade with France.
– 2. British ships were boarding American vessels and forcing sailors to serve in the British navy, a process called impressment.
– 3. England had not fully abandoned forts in North America and were helping Native Americans fight westward settlers.
– 4. America wanted to invade Canada and take it from English control.
Results of the War of 1812

– 1. War ended in a draw.
– 2. America neither lost nor gained any new territory.
– 3. Increased respect for American army and navy throughout the world
– 4. End to Native American resistance in the Ohio River Valley
– 5. Signaled an end to the Federalist Party, who refused to support the war.
– 6. Stimulated American industry
– 7. Final official dispute with England
Star-Spangled Banner

- While imprisoned on a British ship, Francis Scott Key penned “The Star-Spangled Banner”.
- The song embodied a new spirit for the American people.
- Even after being independent of England for over 30 years, many still held to their English roots.
- The “victory” in the War of 1812 ushered in a period of intense nationalism and pride in being an America.
The Monroe Doctrine
During the early 1800s, many Central and South American nations gained their independence from Spain and Portugal.

In the 1820s, these European nations set their sights on recolonizing these recently freed nations.
The Monroe Doctrine

- In reaction to this attempt to recolonize parts of Central and South America, American President James Monroe issued the “Monroe Doctrine” in 1823.

- The doctrine stated that the United States would not tolerate Europeans meddling in the affairs of the Western hemisphere.
Monroe Doctrine

The occasion has been judged proper for asserting, as a principle in which the rights and interests of the United States are involved, that the American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.

- Monroe Doctrine

December 2, 1823
You are an American living in the year 1823.

You are upset at the prospect that European countries might attempt to recolonize your neighbors to the south.

Create a protest sign that clearly relates your disgust at this idea of re-colonization.

Your sign must include the following words:

1. Monroe Doctrine
2. Europe
3. Western Hemisphere