

# History Review New Nation

## Articles of Confederation

After writing the Declaration of Independence, the Second Continental Congress set out to write a new plan of government. They called this plan the **Articles of Confederation**. They hoped that it would bring unity and stability to the newly formed nation. Unfortunately, the Articles of Confederation had some basic weaknesses.

The Articles of Confederation was the first constitutional agreement made between the original 13 states. A **constitution** is a plan of government or the rules of a country. The Articles of Confederation was written during the American Revolution to **establish the powers of the new national government**.

Because of their past problems with the British king and his Parliament, the members of the Second Continental Congress were not in favor of setting up another strong central government that might ignore the needs of the people. Instead, **the Articles established a weak national government** and a “firm league of friendship” between 13 sovereign states.

Although the new national government was given some powers, **the weaknesses of the Articles** soon became obvious. Under the Articles, the national government had a legislative, or lawmaking branch, consisting of a Congress. No executive or judicial branches were established. The states elected representatives to serve in the Congress. Each state, regardless of its size, had one vote. The Congress could conduct foreign affairs, declare war and peace, and maintain an army and navy to defend the nation, but that is where its authority ended.

The new national government had no power to tax and so depended on the charity of the states to run the government and repay fifty million dollars in war debts. As a result, little money was collected, and soldiers and suppliers who had supported the colonial war effort were not paid. In addition, the national government was not given the power to regulate commerce, or business, between the states. States began to compete and charge each other **tariffs** on goods that crossed state lines. *A tariff is a type of tax that makes goods more expensive to buy.*

Another weakness in the Articles was in the area of **currency**. Although the national government was given the power to coin money, it could not prevent the states from coining their own money. This resulted in each state printing its own paper bills. Before long a confusing variety of paper bills of different values began to circulate throughout the new nation. As more and more paper money was made, it began to lose its value and in many cases became worthless.

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### **The Constitution and the Bill of Rights**

In the spring of 1787, state delegates began to arrive in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for the purpose of changing the Articles of Confederation. The 55 delegates in attendance elected George Washington, a delegate from Virginia, as the convention's president and began to discuss how to fix the government under the Articles. It soon became clear that a new plan was necessary. A stronger central government was needed. The result of this historic convention was a new plan of government called the **Constitution of the United States of America**.

The **Constitutional Convention** continued for four months as delegates struggled to make many important decisions.

- Delegates debated over how much **power** should be given to the new government and how much power should be reserved for individual states. The result was a federal system of government based on power shared between national and state governments. This was a significant development to the foundation of the American republic.
  
- Delegates decided that the structure of the new national government would include three separate branches of government. In the **Legislative Branch**, Congress would have the power to make laws. Congress would consist of two houses: the Senate and the House of Representatives. In the **Judicial Branch**, the Supreme Court would determine if the laws made by Congress were constitutional or lawful. In the **Executive Branch**, the President would carry out the laws made by Congress.
  
- The **Great Compromise** settled the debate between large states and small states and how each would be represented in the new government. This compromise established the number of votes each state would be given in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

After the Constitution was signed at the end of the convention, it was then up to the states to ratify, or approve, this new plan of government. Nine of the 13 states had to vote in favor of the Constitution before it could become law.

Three years after the constitution was ratified, a **Bill of Rights** was added to the end of the Constitution. This document was based on the Virginia Declaration of Rights, written by George Mason, and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom, written by Thomas Jefferson. The Bill of Rights consisted of ten amendments, or changes, to the Constitution. These ten amendments are a written guarantee of our individual rights and freedoms. Some of these protected rights include the freedom of speech, religion, assembly, press, and the right to a trial by jury.

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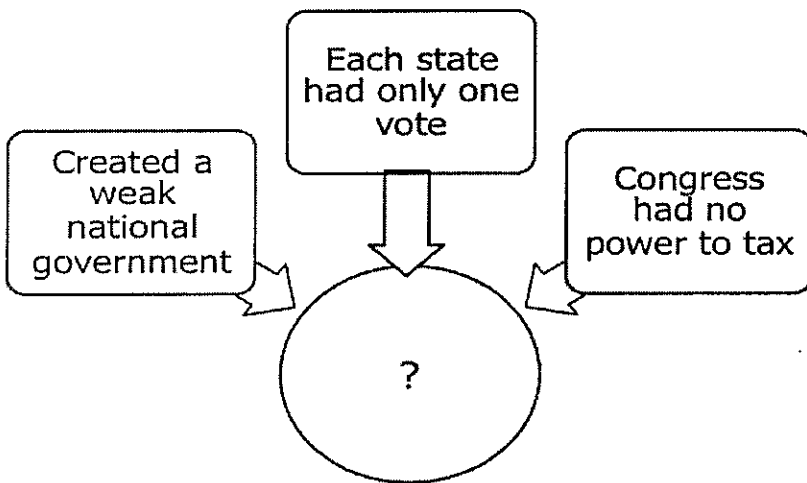
1 The two American gentlemen are talking about the —

- A United States Constitution
- B Declaration of Independence
- C Articles of Confederation
- D Bill of Rights



A weak national government and congress has no power to tax.

There is no common currency and each state has one vote regardless of size.



2. What is the best title for this graphic?

- A Articles of Confederation
- B U.S. Constitution
- C Monroe Doctrine
- D Declaration of Independence

Use the editorial in the box below to answer questions 3-4.

**Philadelphia Times**  
 Articles of Confederation Not Working With Large National Debt and Land Disputes Among States

3 Why did the United States have a large national debt?

- A Owed England money after the Revolutionary war
- B President and Congress had large salaries
- C Cost a lot money to rebuild after the war
- D Central government could not force states to contribute funds

4. Which of the following is NOT a weakness of the Articles of Confederation?

- F Gave Congress the power to tax
- G No common currency
- H Each state had one vote
- J No executive or judicial branches

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5. The Articles of Confederation would be considered –

- A an unreliable source
- B a primary source
- C a secondary source
- D an untruthful source

6. Which document was written during the American Revolution to establish the powers of the new national government?

- F The Bill of Rights
- G The Continental Congress
- H The Constitution of the United States
- J The Articles of Confederation

7. The Articles of Confederation resulted in the formation of a government best described as a –

- A strong dictatorship
- B strong federal system
- C weak monarchy
- D weak national government

8. Which of the following was a major weakness of the Articles of Confederation?

- F it provided for no common currency
- G it was opposed to England
- H did not provide for a judicial or executive branch
- J it was based on the Monroe Doctrine

9. Who was elected President of the Constitutional Convention?

- A John Adams
- B Patrick Henry
- C Benjamin Franklin
- D George Washington

10. Which of the following led to the decision to draft a new constitution?

- A the Missouri Compromise
- B unhappiness with the current monarchy
- C weaknesses in the Articles of Confederation
- D war with France

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11. The three branches of the federal government are defined in the—

- F United States Constitution
- G Articles of Confederation
- H Declaration of Independence
- J Bill of Rights

12. How many of the original 13 states had to vote in favor of the US Constitution before it could become law?

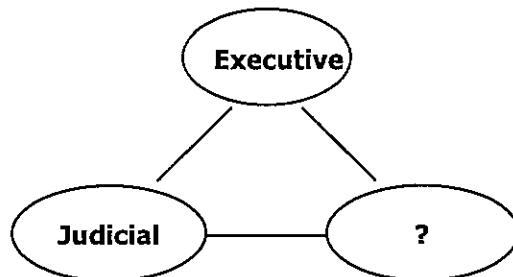
- F 13
- G 9
- H 7
- J 3

13. The first ten Amendments to the constitution provided a written guarantee of-

- A individual rights
- B common enemies
- C limitation of states
- D states rights

14. The Great Compromise was deciding the number of votes each state would have in the-

- F the General Assembly
- G the Executive Branch
- H Senate and House of Representatives
- J the Judicial Branch



15. What is the branch of government that is missing in the above graphic?

- A Military
- B Legislative

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C State

D Press

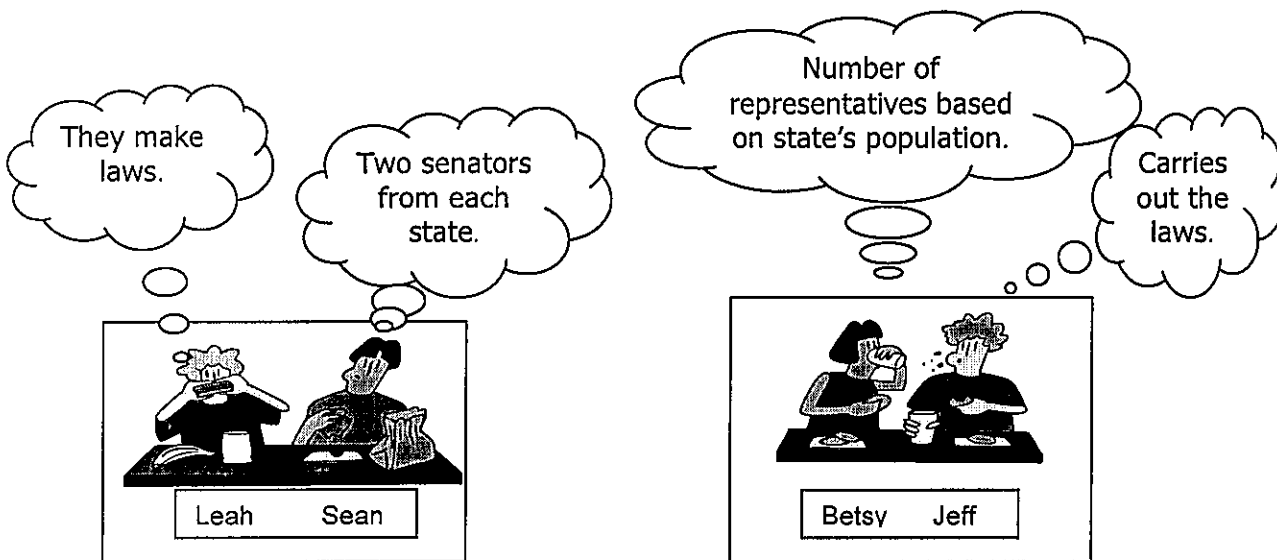
16. The first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America were written to—

F provide economic freedom

G have Congress meet annually

H guarantee individual rights

J ensure Congress's rights



17. Which student is thinking about the executive branch?

A Leah

B Sean

C Betsy

D Jeff

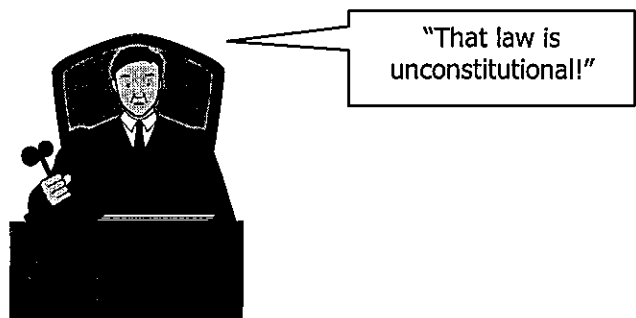
18. The man above is part of the—

F Executive Branch

G Military Branch

H Legislative Branch

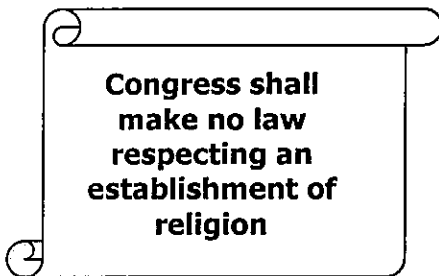
J Judicial Branch



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19. What is the purpose of the checks and balances provided for in the U.S. Constitution?

- A Keep one branch from gaining too much power
- B Protect peoples' basic rights
- C Add amendments to the U. S. Constitution
- D Create a Federal system of government



20. The statement above can be found in the —

- F Bill of Rights
- G Declaration of Independence
- H 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment
- J Virginia Plan

**An addition or change to a bill  
or constitution**

21. Which word is defined above?

- A Additive
- B Amendment
- C Alteration
- D Adjustment

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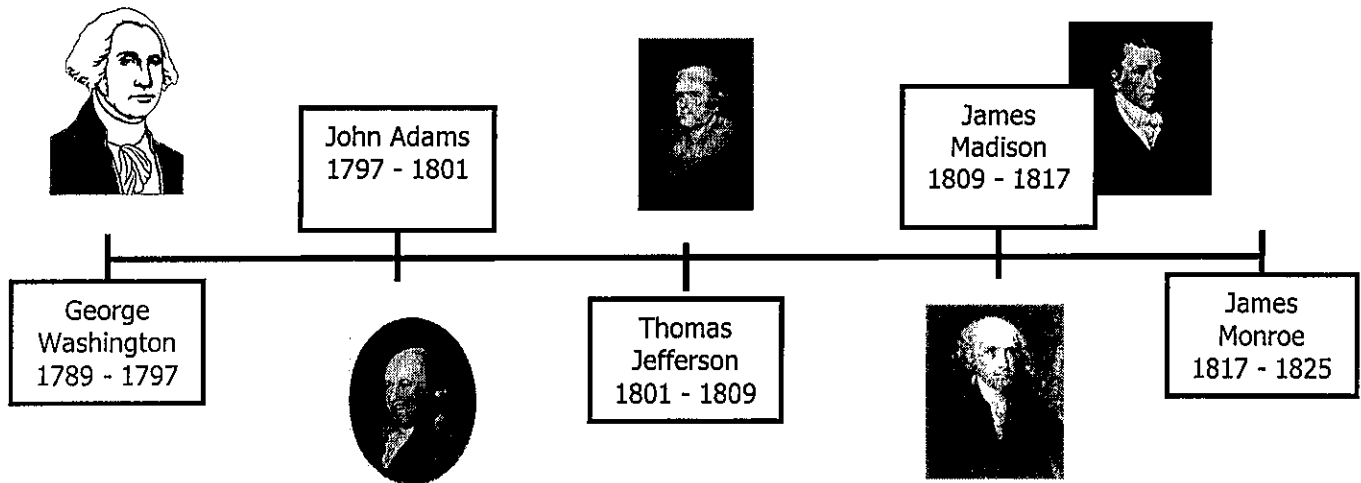
### Norfolk Gazette

European Nations Now Gain  
Respect for the United States!

22. What event was the reason for the above headline?

- F Louisiana Purchase
- G War of 1812
- H Washington's First Inauguration Speech
- J The Lewis and Clark Expedition

Use the timeline below to answer questions 23 - 25.



23 Which president was in office when the Bill of Rights added to the Constitution of the United States of America?

- A George Washington
- B Thomas Jefferson
- C James Madison
- D John Adams



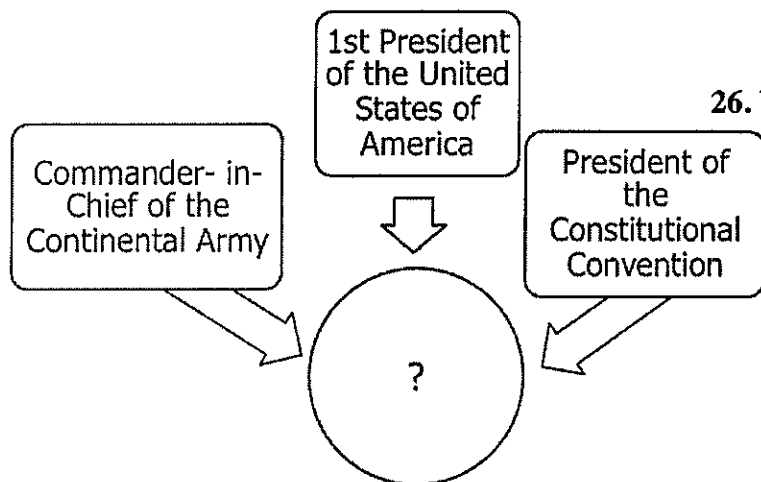
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24. Who was President of the United States when the two-party system emerged?

- F James Madison
- G Thomas Jefferson
- H John Adams
- J James Monroe

25. What president bought Louisiana from France, nearly doubling the size of the United States?

- A George Washington
- B John Adams
- C James Madison
- D Thomas Jefferson



26. Which choice below best completes the chart to the left?

- F James Madison
- G Thomas Jefferson
- H James Monroe
- J George Washington

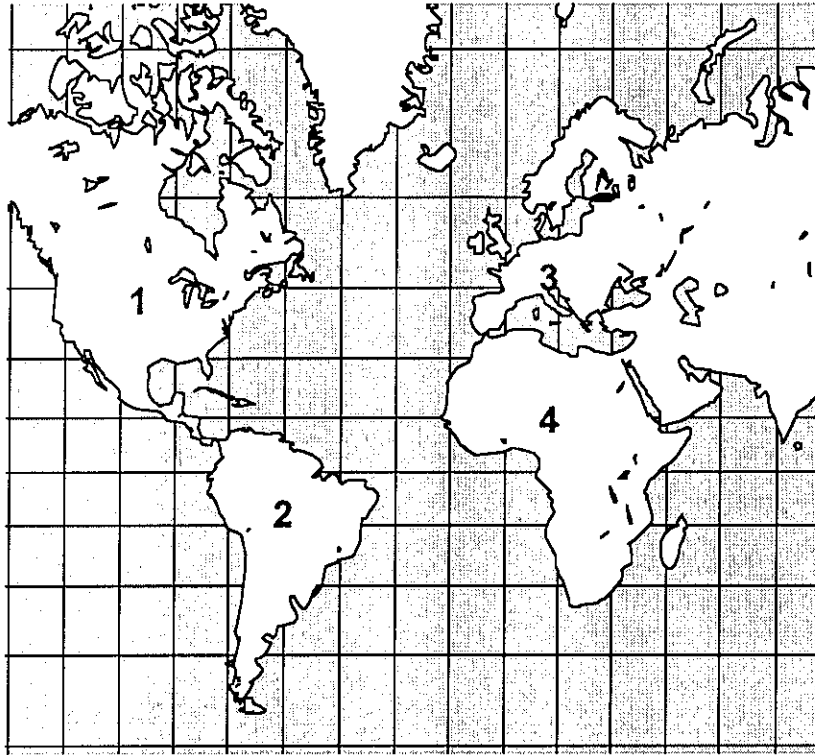
27. Who was the President of the United States when the Federal court system was established?

- F John Adams
- G James Madison
- H Thomas Jefferson
- J George Washington

28. Which of the first five Presidents introduced a doctrine warning European nations not to interfere in the Western Hemisphere?

- A Thomas Jefferson
- B James Monroe
- C George Washington
- D John Adams

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29. Using the map above, the Monroe Doctrine would keep European nations from interfering in areas—

- F 1 and 2
- G 1 and 3
- H 2 and 3
- J 3 and 4

30. Which President bought Louisiana (Louisiana Purchase) from France and supported the Lewis and Clark expedition?

- F Thomas Jefferson
- G Nat Turner
- H George Washington
- J John Adams

31. The War of 1812 caused European nations to gain respect for the United States during the administration of which United States President?

- F George Washington
- G Andrew Jackson
- H James Madison
- J Thomas Jefferson

## The Accomplishments of the First Five U.S. Presidents

United States Government established by the U.S. Constitution (we currently use)

### LEGISLATIVE BRANCH Article I

Consists of the **Congress**, a **bicameral** (2 house) legislature consisting of the

-**House of Representatives**  
(435 members, based upon populations of the states)

- **Senate** (100 members—two per state)

#### **JOBS:**

- Makes the laws of the nation
- Approves the annual budget
- Confirms presidential appointments
- Raises revenue through taxes and other levies
- Regulates interstate and foreign trade
- Declares war

### EXECUTIVE BRANCH Article II

• Headed by the **president** of the United States, the chief executive officer of the nation

• Has a vice president

#### **JOBS:**

- Executes the laws of the land
- Prepares the annual budget for congressional action
- Appoints cabinet officers, ambassadors, and federal judges
- Oversees executive agencies and departments

### JUDICIAL BRANCH Article III

• Consists of the **federal courts**, including the **Supreme Court**, the highest court in the land

• Supreme Court has 9 nine justices

#### **JOBS:**

- The **Supreme Court** exercises the power of judicial review.
- The **federal courts** try cases involving **federal law** and questions involving **interpretation of the Constitution** of the United States.

## U.S. Government Review Questions

Directions: Using page 1 answer the following questions.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: which branch of government creates laws?
2. \_\_\_\_\_: branch includes the Senate and the House of Representative.
3. \_\_\_\_\_: Branch of government is explained by reading Article III (3) of the U.S. Constitution.
4. \_\_\_\_\_: Article II (2) of the U.S. Constitution talks about what branch of government?

### True/False Section:

Directions: write true or false on the line and if you say false explain your answer in the space provided.

1. \_\_\_\_\_: The Legislative Branch of government approves and carries out the laws.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_: The President is part of the Judicial Branch.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_: The Supreme Court is made up of 5 Supreme Court Justices.  
a. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Matching:

Match each branch of government to the people in it.

- |                             |                              |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. _____ Legislative Branch | A. President/ Vice President |
| 2. _____ Executive Branch   | B. Supreme court / Justices  |
| 3. _____ Judicial Branch    | C. Congress / House / Senate |

## The Accomplishments of the First Five U.S. Presidents

The United States grew rapidly over the next three decades. The first five presidents were faced with making decisions that would help the new nation grow in size and power. What were the major national issues and events faced by the first five presidents?

George Washington was the first president of the United States. A federal court system was established under Washington's guidance, and he selected the first chief justice of the United States Supreme Court. In addition, two years (1789) after he was sworn in, the **Bill of Rights** was officially added to the U. S. Constitution. It consisted of ten amendments, or changes, that were added to protect the rights of the people. Also during Washington's presidency, plans were created for the development of the national capital in **Washington, D.C.** Washington was asked by Congress to choose the site for the new city, and after much searching, he chose a piece of land on the border between Maryland and Virginia. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a Frenchman, designed the city and later his assistant, an African American astronomer and surveyor by the name of Benjamin Banneker, helped complete the job.

### George Washington Questions

**What was accomplished during his presidency? (List)**

1.

2.

**Who were the two people who designed Washington D.C. ? Who were they? (Answer in complete sentences)**

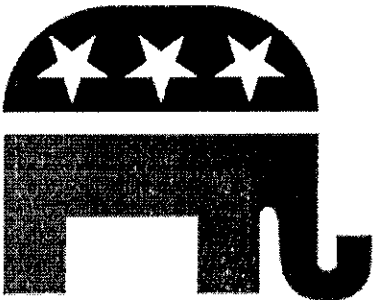
**When was the Bill of Rights added to the U.S. Constitution? Why was it added to the U.S.. Constitution? How many amendments are in the Bill of Rights? (Answer in complete sentences)**

**John Adams** was the **second president** of the United States. During his presidency, the newly formed political parties evolved into a strong **two-party system**. Each party began to officially support presidential candidates and opposing views on how to best run the nation.

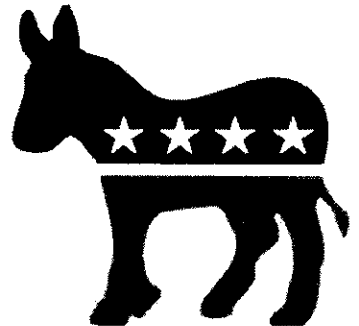
### Political Parties

- o A group of like-minded people, who share the same point of view
- o Parties have platforms, which is a list of issues and views

Political Parties tend to have different views of how the government should run and the government's role. They tend to have a better chance of winning elections than the smaller parties



There are two major parties in the United States, the Republicans and Democrats. However, there are other smaller parties, including the Libertarians, Independent, and Green.



John Adams Questions
1. What emerged during John Adams presidency?(Answer in complete sentences)
2. What are political parties? (Answer in complete sentences)
2. What are the two major political parties in the United States systems? (Answer in complete sentences)

**Thomas Jefferson** was the **third president** of the United States. During his presidency the United States purchased a huge area of land from France for \$15 million, which was about 3 cents an acre. With over 800,000 square miles of land stretching from the Mississippi River west to the Rocky Mountains, the **Louisiana Purchase** doubled the size of the United States overnight!

On January 18, 1803, President Jefferson sent a confidential letter to Congress asking for \$2,500 to fund an expedition to the Pacific Ocean. He hoped to establish trade with the Native American people of the West and find a water route to the Pacific. Jefferson also was fascinated by the prospect of what could be learned about the geography of the West, the lives and languages of the Native Americans, the plants and animals, the soil, the rocks, the weather, and how they differed from those in the East.

In order to learn more about new land west of the Mississippi River, President Jefferson hired **Meriwether Lewis** and **William Clark** to explore the land. Their travels took them all the way to the Pacific Ocean. Over two years later, **Lewis and Clark** returned with carefully drawn maps and a detailed report of the land and its plants, animals, and people.

#### Thomas Jefferson Questions

1. What land did Jefferson buy from France? How big was the land? Where is the land located? (Answer in complete sentences)
2. What were Jefferson's goals/hopes with exploring the newly gained land? (Answer in complete sentences)
3. Who explored the new land? (Answer in complete sentences)
4. What did they bring back from their travels? (Answer in complete sentences)

**James Madison** was the **fourth president** of the United States. During his presidency Great Britain and France were at war. Both countries began capturing U.S. ships and taking their cargo. Great Britain even began forcing captured American sailors to work on British ships. In addition, the United States was afraid that these two nations had plans to take control of lands in the interior regions of the country. James Madison had no choice but to declare war. The **War of 1812** lasted approximately 2 years. In the end the British and French withdrew their troops. A wave of national pride and patriotism spread across the country. The new nation had once again proven its strength and gained the respect of the nations of Europe.

### **James Madison Questions**

- 1. Which two nations (countries) were at war? (Answer in complete sentences)**
- 2. What did those countries do to the U.S.? (Answer in complete sentences)**
- 3. What was the United States afraid of? (Answer in complete sentences)**
- 4. This war is often referred to as referred (called)? How long did it last?**
- 5. What did the U.S. prove to the world? (Answer in complete sentences)**



