

Name: _____

Date: _____

Period: _____

The First 3 Presidents REVIEW

1. George Washington

As our first president, Washington set many precedents or examples for others to follow. He began by asking the American people to address him as Mr. President. He then realized he would need help running the United States of America, so he created the first cabinet, or group of advisors to help him. Two of the cabinet members he selected had many differences of opinion. These are Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, and this led to the formation of the first two political parties in the United States.

Washington also had a rebellion to deal with. He sent the military into Pennsylvania during the Whiskey Rebellion when farmers refused to pay a federal tax on whiskey. This showed the strength of the new United States government.

Washington's foreign policy called for neutrality, which kept the United States from taking sides in foreign issues. Washington warned against making enemies or alliances with foreign countries. He stated this warning in his last speech called the Farewell Address.

Washington left office after 2 terms, believing a president could be viewed too much like a king if in power too long.

2. John Adams

President John Adams avoided conflict with France when he chose not to get involved in bribery during an event that came to be known as the XYZ Affair. When attempting to settle an issue with France peacefully, France demanded a bribe. John Adams responded by not paying and preparing for war. But as foreign suspicions grew, he passed the Alien and Sedition Acts. These two laws were later declared unconstitutional.

3. Thomas Jefferson

In John Adams' final hour of office as a lame duck president, appointed several Federalists to judicial positions. James Madison should have delivered the papers but didn't. John Marbury, never receiving his new job, sued James Madison. Because of the Judiciary Act, the case, known as Marbury v. Madison went directly to the Supreme Court. Not sure how to rule, the Supreme Court declared the Judiciary Act unconstitutional. This is the power of Judicial Review.

There were different points of view about the purchase of the Louisiana territory from France in 1803. Jefferson offered Napoleon, the leader of France, \$10 Million for the city of New Orleans. However, France responded by offering all of the Louisiana territory for \$ 15 Million. Jefferson believed in a strict interpretation of the Constitution and didn't believe he had the right to buy land. Therefore he purchased the land and called it a treaty. He sent explorers Lewis and Clark to explore the new land. They traveled west along the Mississippi River and eventually reached the Pacific Ocean.

While Jefferson was president, France and England were at war with each other. The United States wanted to remain neutral but continued to trade with both countries. Neither England or France liked this very much and they began impressing or attacking American ships. To avoid more conflict, Jefferson passed the Embargo Act which stopped the U.S. from trading with all foreign nations. This destroyed the American economy. So Jefferson repealed the Embargo Act and passed the Non-Intercourse Act. This allowed the United States to trade again, just not with England or France.