

SHAPING America

LESSON 12:

“A PEACEFUL TRANSFER OF POWER”

Lesson Assignments

You are encouraged to be very attentive while viewing the video program. Review the video objectives and be prepared to record possible answers, in abbreviated form as you view the video. The topics and time periods may differ somewhat from the chapters of the textbook your school system is using. Each video program chronicles a wide array of events and personalities during a specific time period of American history prior to 1877. Keep in mind that one of the overarching goals of each lesson is to help you understand how past historical events and actions by historical personalities did not occur in a vacuum, and that they are inextricably interwoven in your society today.

Activities:

Your teacher may assign one or more activities for each lesson. Refer to your course syllabus for details.

OVERVIEW

President Washington left office in 1796, and his parting words in his Farewell Address were a warning to the nation to avoid permanent alliances like the alliance that had been formed with the French in 1778. He had done his best to prevent the new nation from becoming embroiled in conflicts among European nations when he issued his Neutrality Proclamation in 1793. This statement became a prop for the spreading isolationism that was to become a tradition. President Adams followed Washington's advice when he became president and refused to lead the nation down the path of war in the late 1790's, although, a Quasi War did exist between the French and Americans from 1798 to 1800. Adams remained steadfast in his conviction that war was to be avoided at all costs, which included the personal cost to him of not being reelected in 1800. Neither the critics of the unpopular Jay Treaty nor the war hysteria following the X Y Z Affair could divert him from his goal of keeping the United States out of a war that could have spelled the demise of the struggling United States.



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Washington's plea to avoid foreign war and concentrate on domestic issues may have pleased some Europeans, but it had disastrous effects on the Native Americans. Now the Indians faced the brunt of the restless spirit of the American frontiersmen and their ever-increasing appetite for more western lands. The American settlers looked longingly at the Indian lands beyond the Ohio River. The result was the eventual defeat of the northwest Indians at the Battle of Fallen Timbers in 1794 by General Anthony, subsequent Treaty of Greenville, which forced the Indians cede most of their claims to the Ohio country.

The election of 1800 saw the reins of power pass peacefully from Adams and the Federalists to Jefferson and the Anti-Federalists, who were to become the Jeffersonians. Jefferson and Burr were deadlocked in the electoral vote for president, and only when Hamilton secured support for Jefferson was the matter resolved. Hamilton's actions sealed his fate as he was later killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. The election also prompted the passage of the 12th Amendment in an attempt to avoid similar election problems in ensuing elections.

Jefferson ushered in a different political philosophy of how the nation should be governed. Political parties were born to help Jeffersonians as well as Federalists get their nominees elected and then help them implement their political objectives.

George Washington and Madison had warned of the dangers inherent in political factions, but were unable to stem the tide that brought political parties to the American shores. During Adams' administration, the Federalists passed the Alien and Sedition laws to curb the vociferous attacks by the Anti-Federalists. The Anti-Federalists retaliated with the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions, which were authored by Jefferson and Madison respectively. The right of states to nullify federal laws was advocated. Jefferson and Madison saw the passage of the Alien and Sedition Acts as an attack by the central government on the rights of the states. Neither Jefferson nor Madison, however, was suggesting the right of states to secede from the Union, but Calhoun and other Southern leaders would later view such action as the only viable option in the face of growing northern political and economic power.

VIDEO OBJECTIVES

The following objectives are designed to assist the viewer in identifying the most significant aspects of the video segment of this lesson. You should take succinct notes while viewing the video.

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1. Analyze the Treaty of Greenville of 1795 and the significance of the United States Government signing treaties with Native Americans.
2. Incorporate the following into an evaluation of Franco-American relations: French Treaty of Alliance, Jay Treaty, Washington's Farewell Address, X Y Z Affair, Quasi War Convention of 1800, and John Adams.
3. Analyze the significance of the Election of 1800.
4. Discuss the provisions of the Alien and Sedition Acts and the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions and the long-term implications.



WEB ACTIVITIES

These activities are assigned at the discretion of your teacher. They are offered as suggestions to help you learn more about the material presented in this lesson.

Activity 1: Jefferson's Kentucky Resolution.

- a. Access and review the following web sites:
An American Time Capsule:
<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/rbpehtml/pehome.html>
Library of Congress. Questions for Analyzing Primary Sources:
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/psources/studqsts.html>
Library of Congress. Analysis of Primary Sources:
<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/psources/analyze.html>
Thomas Jefferson, November 16, 1798, Kentucky Resolution
[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mjtj:@field\(DOCID+@lit\(tj080201\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mjtj:@field(DOCID+@lit(tj080201)))
- b. Do an analysis of Jefferson's Kentucky Resolution document using the Library of Congress Questions for Analyzing Primary Sources as a guide.

Activity 2: Comments on the 1800 Election.

- a. Access and review the following web sites:
United States v. Thomas Cooper: A Violation of the Sedition Law
<http://www.nara.gov/education/cc/cooper.html>

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An American Time Capsule:

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/rbpehtml/pehome.html>

Library of Congress. Questions for Analyzing Primary Sources:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/psources/studqsts.html>

Library of Congress. Analysis of Primary Sources:

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpedu/lessons/psources/analyze.html>

Thoughts on the subject of the (1800) ensuing election, addressed to the Party in the state of New York. April 1, 1800.

http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/D?rbpebib:1:/temp/~ammem_SfzA::

- b. Do an analysis of the “thoughts on the subject of the (1800) ensuing election . . . “document using the Library of Congress Questions for Analyzing Primary Sources as a guide.

PRACTICE TEST

After watching the video and reviewing the objectives, you should be able to complete the following Practice Test. Access the Answer Key to score your answers after you have completed the Practice Test.

Multiple Choice:

Select the single best answer. It will be indicated if more than one answer is required.

1. Which of the following is least related to the other three?
 - A. “Mad” Anthony Wayne
 - B. X Y Z Affair.
 - C. Battle of Fallen Timbers.
 - D. Treaty of Greenville.
2. John Jay’s 1794 treaty with Britain:
 - A. Increased George Washington’s huge popularity.
 - B. Provided further evidence of American support for France.
 - C. Alienated America from Spain.
 - D. Created deeper splits between Federalists and Democratic-Republicans.
3. President Adams sought a peaceful solution to the undeclared war with France in order to:
 - A. Ensure his chances of reelection in 1800.
 - B. Align himself with the Hamiltonian wing of the Federalist Party.
 - C. Save the Franco-American alliance of 1778.
 - D. Prevent the outbreak of a full-scale war.

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4. The main purpose of the Alien and Sedition Acts was to:
 - A. Capture French and British spies.
 - B. Control the Federalists.
 - C. Silence and punish critics of the Federalists.
 - D. Keep Thomas Jefferson from becoming president.

5. The Virginia and Kentucky resolutions were written in response to
 - A. The X Y Z Affair.
 - B. Thomas Jefferson's presidential candidacy in 1800.
 - C. The Alien and Sedition Acts.
 - D. The compact theory of government.

6. One of the greatest problems that John Adams and the Federalists faced in the election of 1800 was:
 - A. Adam's efforts to get America involved in a war with France.
 - B. Increased public debt brought on by war preparations.
 - C. Adams's refusal to take the country to war against France.
 - D. Alexander Hamilton's support of Adams.



Essay Question:

1. Analyze the ramifications of the following on American history: Jay's handling of the Quasi War with France, the election of 1800, and the Alien and Sedition Acts.

Answers to the Practice Test:

The correct answer is indicated first, followed by the objective (s) that correlate with the test question.

1. B: 1
2. D: 2
3. D: 2
4. C: 4
5. C: 4
6. C: 3

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TEACHER'S NOTES

