



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 4

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 804

A Firm Foundation (1789–1820)

INTRODUCTION | **3**

1. FEDERALIST ERA 5

WASHINGTON'S FIRST TERM | **7**

THE GREAT SEAL | **10**

WASHINGTON'S SECOND TERM | **12**

ADAMS ADMINISTRATION | **15**

SELF TEST 1 | **20**

2. JEFFERSONIAN DEMOCRACY 23

DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS IN POWER | **24**

PROBLEMS AND CONTROVERSIES | **28**

WAR HAWKS | **31**

SELF TEST 2 | **36**

3. WAR OF 1812 39

NOT THE WAR THEY PLANNED | **40**

TO THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR AND BACK | **43**

RESULTS | **49**

GOOD FEELINGS | **53**

SELF TEST 3 | **58**



LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

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A Firm Foundation (1789–1820)

Introduction

The first forty years after the ratification of the Constitution was a time of foundation building. The new Constitution had to be transformed from ideas on paper to a practical, working government. Even with a good plan, a weak original government would set precedents that would be hard to change. It was up to first president, George Washington, and his advisors to use the blueprint of the Constitution to build a good foundation for the structure of the United States.

The early years of our nation were complicated by events in Europe. The French Revolution began in 1789. The king of France was overthrown and executed. The Revolution degenerated into a bloodbath called the Reign of Terror (1793-94). A war began in Europe as other monarchs tried to interfere. Finally, General Napoleon Bonaparte seized power in France (1799) and conquered much of Europe. He was defeated by an alliance led by Britain (1813) and went into exile (1814). In 1815 he returned to be defeated again.

The war put America in a difficult position. France had been America's ally in the Revolution, but Britain was America's biggest trading partner. Both sides had interfered with American trade during the long years of conflict, but the actions of the British were especially infuriating. The hard-pressed American leaders did not want to get into a European war. By 1812, the long-suffering Americans could take no more; war was declared on Britain. The second war of independence, the War of 1812, finished laying the foundation of America. With the foundation laid, the country built toward its future.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFEPAAC. When you have finished this LIFEPAAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the important events of the first five presidential administrations.
2. Describe the Great Seal of the United States.
3. Describe the course and nature of America's problems with Britain that led to the War of 1812.
4. Describe the growth, policies, and decline of the Federalist Party.
5. Describe the growth and policies of the Democratic-Republican Party.
6. Describe the course and results of the War of 1812.
7. Describe how America changed after the War of 1812.
8. Describe the development of the power of the Supreme Court under John Marshall.
9. Explain the reasons behind U.S. policy decisions from 1789 to the early 1820s.

1. FEDERALIST ERA

The Federalists led the victorious battle for the Constitution after the Constitutional Convention. When the first government was formed under the new plan in 1789, it was dominated by the same Federalists. They controlled the U.S. government through the Washington and Adams administrations, but they were driven from power in 1801 when Thomas Jefferson became president under the Democratic-Republican Party.

The republic faced many difficulties in the first twelve years under the Constitution. Washington had to establish exactly what all the

descriptions of his duties meant and what the newly created post required of him. Alexander Hamilton, the first secretary of the treasury, had to repair the poor state of the nation's finances. A rebellion broke out against the new taxes which such repairs required. America had to deal with the French Revolution and a European war. Trade problems threatened war with both Britain and France. Controversy brewed over a treaty with Britain and a bribery scandal with France. Finally, the Federalists began their own decline by threatening freedom of speech in an attempt to control the passions of the era.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the important events of the first five presidential administrations.
2. Describe the Great Seal of the United States.
3. Describe the course and nature of America's problems with Britain that led to the War of 1812.
4. Describe the growth, policies, and decline of the Federalist Party.
5. Describe the growth and policies of the Democratic-Republican Party.
9. Explain the reasons behind U.S. policy decisions from 1789 to the early 1820s.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

agrarian (u grar' ē an). Concerning agriculture or rural matters.

bond (bond). A certificate issued by a government or company which promises to pay back, with interest, the money borrowed from the buyer of the certificate.

nominal (nom' i nal). In name only; not real or actual.

nullify (nul' i fi). To deprive of legal force; make void.

partisan (pär' ti zan). A very strong supporter of a party, cause, or faction.

repudiation (ri pyoo' dē ā' shun). The act of rejecting the validity of something.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.



AMERICA from 1789 to 1820



George Washington
1789–1797



John Adams
1797–1801
Federalist



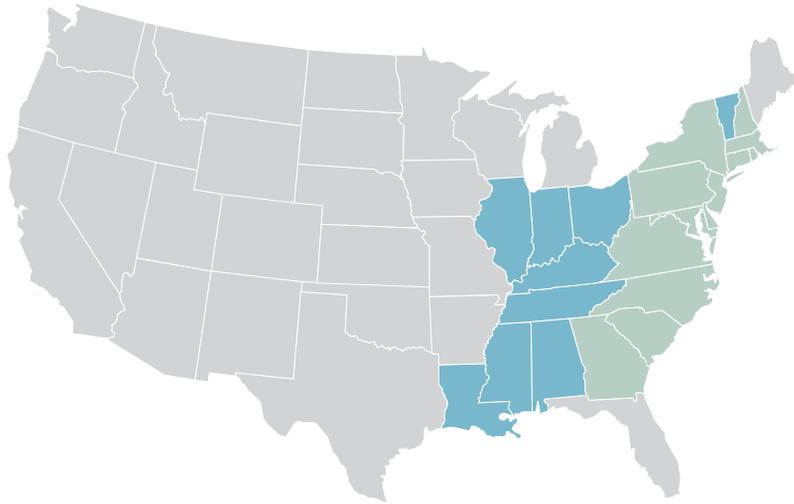
Thomas Jefferson
1801–1809
Democratic-Republican



James Madison
1809–1817
Democratic-Republican



James Monroe
1817–1825
Democratic-Republican



STATES ADMITTED TO THE UNION

Vermont	1791
Kentucky	1792
Tennessee	1796
Ohio	1803
Louisiana	1812
Indiana	1816
Mississippi	1817
Alabama	1819
Illinois	1819

POPULATION of the United States of America



Washington's First Term

There was never any doubt as to who would be elected as the first president of the United States. George Washington was the one person who had the public trust and the stature to take the job. He had the support of both the Federalists and Anti-Federalists. It can reasonably be argued that the position was created with him in mind. The Constitution required each state to choose electors who would then choose a president. When the vote was counted in April of 1789, the tally was unanimous for Washington. (He was the only president to receive a unanimous electoral vote). John Adams was chosen as vice president.

The same qualities that made Washington a great general also made him a superb first president. He did not like politics and accepted the presidency only because he felt the nation needed him. He commanded the respect of his subordinates and gave his tremendous prestige to the new post. He was careful, fair, and methodical. He chose wise counselors and listened to them before making his decisions. He provided the stability and thoughtful leadership the new nation so desperately needed in those early years.

Inauguration. Washington received word of his election at his home in Mount Vernon, Virginia. He immediately left on the long journey to New York City, which was America's temporary capital. He was greeted all along the route by cheering crowds. He took the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall, overlooking Wall Street, on April 30, 1789. He then gave an inaugural address in the chambers of the Senate.

Washington set a formal tone for the new office, mainly because of his own rather formal personality. He would bow, not shake hands, to greet visitors. He dressed richly and drove about in a handsome coach. Visitors could see him during his weekly open house or make an appointment. His wife Martha held a formal



| George Washington's Inauguration

reception every Friday evening that the president attended. The office of president was less than a king, but more than a simple politician.

Cabinet. The new Congress created three departments to help the president run the government: foreign affairs (state), war, and treasury. An attorney general, the attorney for the government, was added later. Washington chose men he knew and trusted to head these departments. They came to be his personal advisors and eventually met together to discuss decisions, forming the president's cabinet.

Washington stayed out of **partisan** politics as much as he could, but he recognized the conflicts of the day and represented both sides in his cabinet. Thomas Jefferson was the first secretary of state. He was a firm believer in a weak federal government, an **agrarian** country, and rule by the "common people." He eventually became the leader of the Democratic-Republican Party. Alexander Hamilton was the first secretary of the treasury. He was a Federalist leader who believed in a strong central government, a commercial nation, and rule by the "elite." The other cabinet members were

Secretary of War Henry Knox and Attorney General Edmund Randolph.

Washington did not officially attach himself to either of the new political parties. However, mainly on the basis of Hamilton's arguments, he supported much of the Federalist agenda. As a result, Washington came under attack from the Anti-Federalists, who eventually developed into the Democratic-Republican Party.

Finances. The main problem facing the new government was the same one they had faced under the Articles of Confederation—money. The nation was deeply in debt and had no stable currency. Hamilton proposed the government pay the debt at full value and assume the Revolutionary War debts of the states as well. Hamilton intended to build the power of the federal government by establishing it financially and having the people look to it, not the state governments, for their money.

There was a tremendous amount of opposition to Hamilton's plan. Few people believed the **bonds** issued by the Revolutionary government would ever be paid. The war veterans and people who originally held the bonds had sold them for a fraction of what they were worth. Most were owned by wealthy men who could afford to hold them and wait. Many felt that it was unfair to give the profit to these men. Hamilton wanted the support of these wealthy citizens for the new government. He wanted to give the rich and well-born a stake in the new system.

Most of the southern states had already paid off their war debts. They objected to also paying off the northern debts through the federal government. Eventually, they agreed to the plan in exchange for placing the new national capital in the south, on the Potomac River between Maryland and Virginia. The rest of Hamilton's plan was accepted because Congress believed that a government should pay its lawful debts and knew it would be impossible to find the original owners of the bonds.

The third part of Hamilton's plan called for the establishment of a national bank. The bank would be partially owned by the government and would be used to deposit government funds. It also would issue a stable paper currency backed by the deposits in the bank.

The bank ran into violent opposition in Congress. Most of the supporters came from the north which favored a strong currency and bank to build trade and manufacturing. State's rights advocates did not want a large central bank which would compete with their state banks. The measure was passed after a heated debate and was sent to Washington for his signature.

Washington was deeply concerned about whether the bill was constitutional. He asked Jefferson (against) and Hamilton (for) to each give him a written opinion on the matter. Jefferson argued that the Constitution did not specifically authorize a bank. He favored a "strict construction" of the Constitution. The government could only do things specifically allowed by the Constitution, a position that would have severely limited federal power. Hamilton, on the other hand, persuasively argued for a "loose construction." The Constitution said that the Congress could pass any laws "necessary and proper" to carrying out the powers of the government. Since the government was authorized to collect taxes, a bank was both necessary and proper to fulfill that function. Washington agreed with Hamilton and signed the bill.

Money to pay the debts and finance the bank came from taxes. The primary tax of that day was the tariff, a tax on goods imported from other countries. A tariff also made foreign goods more expensive, thus protecting the few American manufacturers. This fit well with Hamilton's far-sighted plan for America to become a manufacturing nation. Congress also passed an excise tax on distilled liquor to supplement the tariff income.

The prosperity of the new government depended on trade which produced tariff income. Most of America's trade was with Britain. Thus, Hamilton and the Federalists came to

favor England over France in foreign policy. This created yet another difference with Jefferson's supporters who favored France, a country that found itself in the middle of its own revolution.



Match these people.

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1.1 _____ | George Washington | a. secretary of war |
| 1.2 _____ | John Adams | b. attorney general |
| 1.3 _____ | Thomas Jefferson | c. chosen unanimously by the electors |
| 1.4 _____ | Alexander Hamilton | d. vice president |
| 1.5 _____ | Edmund Randolph | e. secretary of state |
| 1.6 _____ | Henry Knox | f. secretary of the treasury |

Answer these questions.

- 1.7 What were Hamilton's three main proposals for the nation's finances?
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- 1.8 What did the southern states get in exchange for the federal government taking over the state's debts? _____
- _____
- 1.9 What form of taxation was the main source of income for the new government? _____
- _____
- _____
- 1.10 Why did some people not want the war bonds to be paid at full value? _____
- _____
- _____



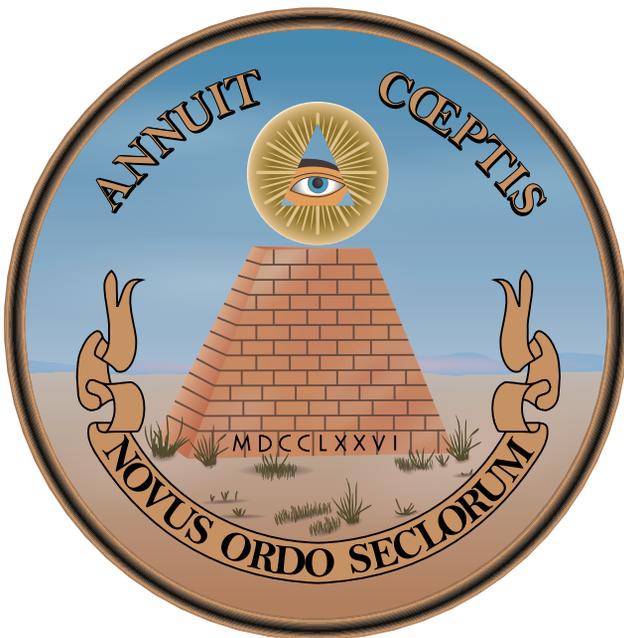
Put an “H” beside the policies supported by Hamilton and a “J” beside those supported by Jefferson.

- 1.11 _____ favored Britain
- 1.12 _____ strong central government
- 1.13 _____ agrarian society
- 1.14 _____ favored France
- 1.15 _____ weak federal government
- 1.16 _____ “strict construction” of Constitution
- 1.17 _____ “loose construction” of Constitution
- 1.18 _____ commercial society

THE GREAT SEAL

Nations are represented by symbols. The most famous symbol of the United States is our flag, the Stars and Stripes. Another important symbol is the Great Seal, which was adopted in 1782 by the nation’s first government, the Second Continental Congress. Most people have probably seen the front or “obverse” of

the Great Seal of the United States. It appears on federal buildings, vehicles, laws, and documents as well as coins and currency. The back or “reverse” is less well known, but it does appear on the back of the one-dollar bill. The Seal is rich with symbolism, much of which refers to the Christian foundation of our nation.



| The Great Seal of the United States

The Obverse of the Great Seal

On the obverse side of the seal are these symbols:

1. **The Crest:** At the top of the seal is a cluster of thirteen white stars on a blue field, which represents the original thirteen states. A ring of golden light is breaking through a white cloud which surrounds the stars. This light is a symbol of God's constant protection and guidance.
2. **The National Coat of Arms:** The remainder of the seal is our nation's coat of arms, which consists of these symbols;
 - a. **American Eagle:** The eagle was selected to represent the United States because of its dignity, size, strength, and majestic appearance. The head and tail feathers are white, the claws and beak are yellow. Franklin wanted our symbol to be a turkey, but he was wisely outvoted by the committee.
 - b. **Shield:** On the eagle's breast is a shield. The solid blue bar at the top represents the national government (originally just Congress). The seven white stripes and six red stripes stand for the first thirteen states.
 - c. **Scroll and Motto:** Held by the eagle's beak is a golden scroll on which are written these words in Latin:
E PLURIBUS UNUM
The English translation of this motto is "One out of many." Many states make up the one nation, the United States of America.
 - d. **Thirteen Arrows:** The eagle's left talon is clutching a bundle of thirteen arrows. This suggests that we will defend our nation.

- e. **Olive Branch:** The eagle's right talon is clutching a green olive branch with thirteen blue-tinted olives. The olive branch is a symbol of peace. Since the right side is considered to be more important, holding the olive branch in the right talon indicates that the United States prefers peace to war. The eagle is also facing the peace side rather than the war side.

The Reverse of the Seal

This part of the Great Seal is not as well known. The parts and their meanings are:

1. **The Pyramid:** In the center of the Seal is a pyramid built on the earth with a blue sky background. On the base of the pyramid are the Roman numerals MDCCLXXVI (1776), the year our nation was born. Thirteen layers of stone are in the pyramid, representing the original thirteen states. The pyramid is unfinished, indicating that our nation will continue to grow. The pyramid shape symbolizes the strength and stability of the United States.
2. **The Eye:** Above the pyramid is a large eye within a blue triangle surrounded by a golden light. The eye is a symbol that God is watching over our nation. The light represents God's glory and majesty.
3. **Latin Mottoes:**
 - a. *ANNUIT COEPTIS* is written across the top of the Seal in golden letters. This means: *He (God) has favored our undertaking.*
 - b. *NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM* is written in black letters on a golden scroll across the bottom. This means: *A new order of the ages.*



The Great Seal



On the Great Seal:

1.19 Name five ways that the original thirteen states are represented.

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

1.20 Name two ways the presence of God is represented.

- a. _____
- b. _____

1.21 Why is the olive branch in the eagle’s right talon? _____

1.22 What does “E Pluribus Unum” mean? _____

Washington’s Second Term

Washington wanted to retire after his first term. However, his friends urged him to stay on for another term for the sake of the country. He agreed and was unanimously re-elected in 1792. In March 1793, he was inaugurated in Philadelphia, which was the new temporary capital. Adams also returned as vice president.

European War. Washington received word of a general war in Europe a month into his second term. France was at war with Britain, Austria, Spain, and Prussia. France had been America’s primary ally during the Revolution, and the treaty of alliance obligated the U.S. to aid them now. However, that treaty had been signed with the king of France who had been executed in the French Revolution. Supporters of the French Revolution wanted to honor the treaty. But even Jefferson was reluctant to get into another war. The Federalists feared the effect that war with Britain would have on trade and urged neutrality.

America was not strong militarily or politically. There was no army, and the new government

had only been in place for four years. The pressures of a war could easily destroy all that had been built. Washington decided that the nation could not afford to be involved in a European war and issued a Proclamation of Neutrality on April 22nd. This continued to be the policy of the U.S. for most of the remaining years of this long war. American leaders desperately tried to keep out of the conflict as long as they could in order to buy time for their nation to grow strong.

Citizen Genêt. The republican government of France sent a new representative to America in April of 1793. He was Citizen (the title used by all in the Revolution) Edmond Genêt, an enthusiastic and tactless man. He had been commissioned to renew the treaty of friendship with America and obtain a new trade treaty. What he did was create a huge mess for Washington.

Genêt was received with joy by French supporters in America. He began at once to commission privateers to attack British shipping from American ports. He also tried to organize

SELF TEST 1

Match these people (each answer, 2 points).

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------|--------------------|----|--|
| 1.01 | _____ | Napoleon Bonaparte | a. | obtained an unpopular treaty with Britain under President Washington |
| 1.02 | _____ | Alexander Hamilton | b. | first secretary of state |
| 1.03 | _____ | Thomas Jefferson | c. | first secretary of the treasury |
| 1.04 | _____ | George Washington | d. | vice presidential candidate who tied with Jefferson in electoral votes in 1800 |
| 1.05 | _____ | John Adams | e. | dictator of France |
| 1.06 | _____ | Edmond Genêt | f. | troublesome minister from France to America under Washington |
| 1.07 | _____ | Edmund Randolph | g. | unanimously chosen president by the electors |
| 1.08 | _____ | John Jay | h. | first and last Federalist president |
| 1.09 | _____ | Aaron Burr | i. | first secretary of war |
| 1.010 | _____ | Henry Knox | j. | first attorney general |

Name the item being described (each answer, 3 points).

- | | | |
|--------------|-------|---|
| 1.011 | _____ | Political party that believed in rule by the elite, a strong central government, and was pro-British |
| 1.012 | _____ | Political party that believed in rule by the common people, a weak federal government, and was pro-French |
| 1.013 | _____ | Structure on the reverse of the Great Seal |
| 1.014 | _____ | A revolt in Pennsylvania in 1794 against the excise tax |
| 1.015 | _____ | The side that America fought with in the European war that began in 1793 |
| 1.016 | _____ | Scandal that erupted under John Adams when the French demanded a bribe before they would negotiate |
| 1.017 | _____ | Laws passed by the Federalists to control immigrants and silence opposition to their government. |

- 1.018** _____ Agreement between America and France that ended their alliance and settled their current disputes
- 1.019** _____ The English translation of “E Pluribus Unum”
- 1.020** _____ Washington’s statement that recommended the nation avoid political parties and foreign alliances

Answer these questions (each answer, 4 points).

1.021 What were the three parts of Hamilton’s financial plan?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

1.022 What was Thomas Jefferson’s argument against the National Bank?

1.023 What are three legacies of the Federalist Era?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

1.024 What were some of the problems America was having with Britain under Washington?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

Write true or false on the blank (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.025 _____ The national capital was to be built in the south in exchange for a lower tariff rate.
- 1.026 _____ Alexander Hamilton was vice president under John Adams.
- 1.027 _____ Citizen Genêt was a British ambassador who negotiated a treaty with the U.S.
- 1.028 _____ George Washington served two terms as president.
- 1.029 _____ “Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute” was the rally cry against the British during Washington’s term.
- 1.030 _____ The French and British interfered with American trade.
- 1.031 _____ Washington did not attach himself to any political party.
- 1.032 _____ The obverse of the Great Seal has an eagle on it.
- 1.033 _____ Washington liked politics and eagerly sought the presidency.
- 1.034 _____ Hamilton favored an agrarian society with a weak federal government.
- 1.035 _____ John Adams’ commitment to peace cost him his popularity.

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials	date
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