

CHAPTER 6 Section 3 (pages 197–201)

Jefferson Alters the Nation's Course

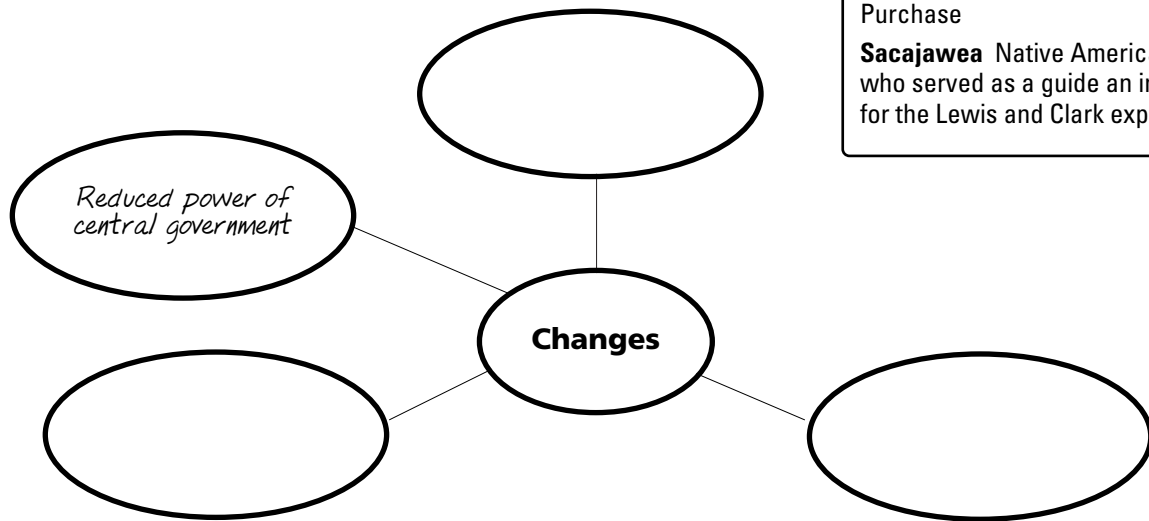
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read how Washington and Adams led the young country.

In this section, you will learn about the presidency of Thomas Jefferson.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes on the changes that Jefferson made during his presidency.



TERMS AND NAMES

Aaron Burr Democratic-Republican and running mate of Thomas Jefferson in the 1800 election

John Marshall Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Judiciary Act of 1801 Law that increased the number of federal judges by sixteen

midnight judge Judge appointed to the Supreme Court by President Adams late on the last day of his administration

Marbury v. Madison Court case that established the power of judicial review

judicial review The power of judges to declare a law unconstitutional

Louisiana Purchase Land bought from France in 1803

Lewis and Clark Leaders of an expedition to explore the Louisiana Purchase

Sacajawea Native American woman who served as a guide and interpreter for the Lewis and Clark expedition

Jefferson Wins Presidential Election of 1800 (pages 197–198)

How did Jefferson become president?

Thomas Jefferson and John Adams faced each other again in the presidential election of 1800. The election was close and bitter. Thomas Jefferson and his followers accused President Adams of making the federal government too pow-

erful. They also claimed he put the people's liberties in danger.

Jefferson defeated Adams by eight electoral votes. However, Jefferson and his running mate, **Aaron Burr**, received the same number of electoral votes. The House of Representatives had to decide the winner. Alexander Hamilton quickly stepped in. Hamilton, who disliked Burr, persuaded his supporters in the House to vote for Jefferson.

This controversy revealed a problem with the

election system. The nation solved it by passing the Twelfth Amendment. The amendment called for electors to vote separately for president and vice-president.

1. What were Jefferson's beliefs about government?

The Jefferson Presidency

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What is judicial review?

Jefferson's *inauguration* signaled the first time in the new nation's history that power was transferred from one political party to another. Jefferson believed that the people should have greater control of the government. He also believed that government should be simple and small. As president, he got a chance to put his beliefs into practice. He took steps to limit the power of the central government. For example, he reduced the size of the federal army. He also rolled back Hamilton's economic program by reducing the influence of the national bank.

While they no longer ruled the executive branch, the Federalists remained powerful in the judicial branch. Adams appointed **John Marshall**, a Federalist, as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Just before he left office, President Adams pushed a law through Congress called the **Judiciary Act of 1801**. This law increased the number of justices on the Supreme Court to sixteen. Adams quickly filled the positions with Federalists. These judges were called **midnight judges** because Adams signed their appointments late on the last day of his presidency.

Adams' packing of the courts with Federalists angered Jefferson and the Democratic-Republicans. They argued that these appointments were not *valid*.

This debate led to one of the most important Supreme Court decisions of all time. The case revolved around an appointed judge's insistence that he receive his official papers from Congress. The judge claimed that Congress must hand them

over under the Judiciary Act of 1789. In **Marbury v. Madison**, however, the Supreme Court ruled that the Judiciary Act was unconstitutional. The Court ruled that the Constitution contained no provision for the Supreme Court to issue such orders as the act required. This decision established the principle of **judicial review**. This principle allows the Supreme Court to declare a law unconstitutional.

2. What was the importance of *Marbury v. Madison*?

The United States Expands West

(pages 199–201)

What was the Louisiana Purchase?

During Jefferson's presidency, many more settlers moved west. The population in the western territories grew rapidly. In 1803, Jefferson purchased a large amount of western land from France. It was called the **Louisiana Purchase**. It stretched from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. With the Louisiana Purchase, the United States doubled in size.

Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore the new land. **Lewis and Clark** led a team of soldiers and adventurers. This group later included **Sacajawea**, a Native American woman who was a guide and *interpreter*. The team traveled more than two years from St. Louis to present-day Oregon and back. Lewis and Clark kept a journal of their explorations. The Lewis and Clark expedition showed that people could travel across the continent. It paved the way for even greater settlement of the West.

3. How did the Louisiana Purchase affect the nation?
