



AMERICAN HISTORY



THE FIRST CONSTITUTIONAL PRESIDENT

Name: _____

Date: _____

Multiple Choice

- Who was elected as the first president under the U.S. Constitution?
 - Thomas Jefferson
 - John Adams
 - George Washington
 - Alexander Hamilton\
- What year did George Washington take the oath of office?
 - 1787
 - 1789
 - 1791
 - 1793
- Where was George Washington inaugurated as the first president?
 - Washington, D.C.
 - Philadelphia
 - Boston
 - New York City
- What was the primary purpose of the Judiciary Act of 1789?
 - To create a national bank
 - To establish the federal court system
 - To sign the Constitution into law
 - To elect the first Congress
- What was the main cause of the Whiskey Rebellion?
 - Opposition to tariffs on foreign goods
 - Resistance to an excise tax on whiskey
 - Anger over land sales in the West
 - Disputes over state sovereignty



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6. Which two individuals were at the center of the debate over the national bank?
- a) Thomas Jefferson and George Washington
 - b) Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson
 - c) John Adams and Alexander Hamilton
 - d) George Washington and John Jay
7. What treaty settled boundary disputes with Spain and gave Americans access to the Mississippi River?
- a) Jay Treaty
 - b) Treaty of Paris
 - c) Pinckney Treaty
 - d) Treaty of Ghent
8. What political party did Alexander Hamilton lead?
- a) Federalists
 - b) Democratic-Republicans
 - c) Whigs
 - d) Anti-Federalists
9. Which event demonstrated George Washington's willingness to enforce federal laws?
- a) The French Revolution
 - b) The Whiskey Rebellion
 - c) The signing of the Jay Treaty
 - d) The Pinckney Treaty
10. Why did George Washington decline to run for a third term as president?
- a) He was in poor health.
 - b) He wanted to set an example of limited presidential power.
 - c) He lost the support of Congress.
 - d) He preferred to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.



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Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think George Washington chose not to serve a third term as president? How does this decision reflect his leadership style and values?
2. What were some of the challenges faced by the new U.S. government after the Constitution was adopted, and how did leaders like Washington, Hamilton, and Jefferson address them?
3. The Whiskey Rebellion was one of the first tests of federal authority. Do you think Washington was right to use military force to stop the rebellion? Why or why not?
4. Hamilton and Jefferson had very different ideas about the role of government. If you were alive during this time, whose ideas do you think you would support, and why?
5. How do you think George Washington's decision to include the words "So help me God" in his oath and wear an American-made suit for his inauguration influenced how people viewed him as a leader?





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Answer Key

- 1.c) George Washington
- 2.b) 1789
- 3.d) New York City
- 4.b) To establish the federal court system
- 5.b) Resistance to an excise tax on whiskey
- 6.b) Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson
- 7.c) Pinckney Treaty
- 8.a) Federalists
- 9.b) The Whiskey Rebellion
- 10.b) He wanted to set an example of limited presidential power

