TEACHING ACTIVITY #3
VIEWS OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON, SECRETARY OF THE
TREASURY, AND THOMAS JEFFERSON, SECRETARY OF STATE

OBJECTIVES
Students should be able to
1) Understand the views of Hamilton and Jefferson as they relate to the important
events of the 1790s;
2) Compare and contrast these ideas; and
3) Evaluate the impact of the ideas on the United States.

MATERIAL
Dialogue between Hamilton and Jefferson on six issues
Concept of Government
Financial Plan
Citizen Genet Affair
Jay Treaty
Formation of the Democratic-Republican Party
XYZ Affair

PROCEDURE
Assign students to
1) Analyze the views of Hamilton and Jefferson on each of the issues in the dia-
logue presented;
2) Complete the chart below by providing the appropriate points of view; and
3) Write an editorial favoring either the views of Hamilton or Jefferson for a news-
paper in 1800.

Editorial Title:
Newspaper Name:
City:
Date:
### ALEXANDER HAMILTON AND THOMAS JEFFERSON COMPARISON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domestic Issues</th>
<th>View(s) and Rationale of Alexander Hamilton</th>
<th>View(s) and Rationale of Thomas Jefferson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Future of the United States—Agriculture versus Manufacturing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Plan for the Nation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alien and Sedition Acts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States' Rights</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formation of Political Parties</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foreign Policy Issues</th>
<th>Alexander Hamilton</th>
<th>Thomas Jefferson</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizen Genet and XYZ Affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay Treaty</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THOMAS JEFFERSON
INTRODUCTION

I was born on April 13, 1743 at Shadwell in Albemarle County, Virginia. Virginia is where my heart is - to me it is God's country. I attended William and Mary for two years and then studied law under George Wythe. In my mid-twenties I entered the House of Burgesses. My political career was launched. In 1772 I married Martha Wayles Skelton with whom I had two daughters, and I was already building my home at Monticello.

During the Revolutionary War, I was a patriot and wrote Summary View of the Rights of British America and the Declaration of Independence. In 1779 I was elected Governor of Virginia. With others I wrote the Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom. My political enemies make much of the fact that in their minds I fled when the British troops came into Virginia. Under the Articles of Confederation government, I served as Minister to France and missed the Constitutional Convention. Washington asked me to be his first Secretary of State. I found myself increasingly at odds with the Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON
Introduction

I was born on January 11, 1755/56 in Nevis in the British West Indies. At age 12 I worked with some merchants who took note of my quickness. A Presbyterian clergyman raised money for me to attend grammar school and then King's College. Very soon after my arrival I became a patriot. At the Battle of Princeton I became a known figure in the Revolution and was appointed aide-de-camp under Washington. I worked well with the French because I spoke French. I left Washington's staff in anger in 1781, but I returned and acquitted myself well at Yorktown.

The year before Yorktown I married the daughter of General Philip Schuyler and was blessed with eight children. I was admitted to the bar. I was worried over the weak central government under the Articles. I personally want to take some credit for calling the Annapolis Convention and suggesting that we revise the Articles.

At the Constitutional Convention I favored a strong executive indirectly elected with an absolute veto. Even though the Constitution did not include everything I wanted, I fought hard for its ratification writing essays - The Federalist. In the first administration under the Constitution, I served as Washington's Secretary of the Treasury, and I came into conflict with the Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson.

ISSUE #1 - CONCEPT OF GOVERNMENT
Secretary of State Jefferson

Secretary Hamilton, I want to state my strong belief in a limited central government exercising only those powers specifically enumerated in the Constitution. The purpose of government is to protect individual liberties, and this is best accomplished by our state governments. Our individual liberties are embodied in the yeoman farmers who till the soil and produce both the wealth of the nation and the virtue of the nation.

Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton

Mr. Jefferson, as you know a strong central government is absolutely necessary to protect property and the rights of those who possess property. To leave such matters solely to the states may well be to throw those who are our leading citizens to the mercy of the propertyless masses. I believe it is the further duty of the federal government to extend its power over trade and commerce; for it is through trade and commerce and the development of industry that our nation will prosper.

ISSUE #2 - FINANCIAL PLAN
Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton

Mr. Jefferson, I have provided to President Washington a plan which will establish both the nation's credit and raise money. The assumption of states debts by the national government will stabilize the nation's financial affairs. We will establish a schedule of regular payments until the debt is paid off. I propose the chartering of a National Bank. I suggest the levying of tariffs on foreign trade and the imposition of a Whiskey Tax. I recognize the fact that there will be objections to the tax by the western farmers which may be followed by open defiance on their part and should this be the case, the federal government must by military force move quickly to show its strength and repress rebellion. We will not tolerate having our citizens do what we did to the British when they taxed us.

Secretary of State Jefferson

Mr. Hamilton, I have read your financial plan; I find it objectionable in many ways. Its end result is to create a central government with unlimited powers. You mention the assumption of state debts yet Virginia and many of its southern sister states have taxed their citizens heavily to rid themselves of the debts accumulated in the Revolution. On the matter of the bank, I believe that the establishment of such an institution is clearly unconstitutional. For nowhere in the Constitution do I see specific authorization for a bank.
Secretary Hamilton’s Response to Secretary Jefferson’s Response

Mr. Jefferson, the Constitution clearly enumerates the powers given to Congress in Article I, Section 8, and the last part states that Congress may make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers. It is clear to me from this that Congress may, without violating the Constitution, establish a National Bank.

Mr. Jefferson, though you oppose the assumption of state debts, your concurrence in this action would delight us and lead us to support the establishment of a permanent new national capital in the South.

Secretary Jefferson’s Response to Secretary Hamilton’s Response

Mr. Hamilton, I believe that you may find my associates willing to withdraw their opposition to the assumption of state debts in exchange for the location of the capital in the South. Virginia and Maryland have agreed to cede a small section of their lands for this purpose.

ISSUE #3 - CITIZEN GENET AFFAIR

Background

Washington, on the advice of Jefferson, recognized the new French Republican Government and received its Ambassador Citizen Edmond Genet. When Genet arrived in Charleston, he organized a Jacobin Club, an organization supporting the ideas and ideals of the more radical elements of the French Revolution. He also gave authority to privateers to bring in any British ships. The final straw was when Genet went over the head of Washington and appealed to the American people for support for the French cause and France’s war against other European nations. Washington had had enough, and Washington demanded Genet’s recall. Meanwhile, a new government had taken power in France and had a warrant for Genet’s arrest. Genet sought asylum here, married the daughter of the Governor of New York, and died an American citizen. George Washington responded to this affair by issuing the Proclamation of Neutrality.

Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton

Mr. Jefferson, I observe that you are wearing a cockade with the tricolors of France. I note also your initial support for Citizen Genet and your general sympathy for the French Revolution. In the contest between England and France, you have chosen to support the democratic rabble rather than to side with the orderly, stable British government, our best trade partner.

Secretary of State Jefferson

Mr. Hamilton, the French Revolution is but an extension of our own Revolution. The shot heard round the world at Concord was heard in Paris as well as Philadelphia. You would seek to make us again an economic colony of Great Britain in an effort to appease and win support from the commercial and wealthier classes. It is true that I initially supported Genet, but I grant you he did go too far. However, I still support the French Revolution and the liberties for which the French people fight.

ISSUE #4 - JAY TREATY

Secretary of State Jefferson

Mr. Hamilton, I note with displeasure your support of the Jay Treaty. It strikes me as nothing more than a sellout to British interests. We did not receive any compensation for slaves freed during the American Revolution. Yet Britain demands repayment of debts owed to them prior to the Revolution, and we agreed to it. The British West Indies trade so important to us was so heavily restricted we struck it from the treaty, and only trade with the East Indies was really opened to us. We gave England most favored nation status in trade. No mention was made of the impressment issue, and we allowed the British definition of neutral rights to stand. The British in their insulting manner said that it would take them two years to remove their troops from the forts on our side of the Canadian border. I do believe they could do it in two months if they really wished. Many groups are angered by this treaty: Southerners still receive no compensation for their former slaves; those in the West are furious that Britain is taking so long to evacuate the forts; and our Northern brethren still see no restoration of their trade with the British West Indies or an end to British impressment. Our national honor has been compromised.

Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton

Mr. Jefferson, you should note that though restricted, we did receive some trade rights in the British West Indies, but our Senate removed this part of the treaty. The ports in the East Indies are now open to us. British troops will be withdrawn from Northern forts. Also, some reparations will be paid by Britain to us for seizing our ships. Our trade with England is all important to the future of this country. Jay’s Treaty has averted a war with England.
ISSUE #5 - FORMATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICAN PARTY
Secretary of State Jefferson

Mr. Hamilton, increasingly as we and our friends in Congress disagree with you and your friends, it is apparent that some of us must form a separate political party. We heartily disagree with you over establishing the National Bank and your support of the Jay Treaty. I have been selected by the new party as their presidential candidate in 1796; Aaron Burr of New York is my vice-presidential running mate.

Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton

I am sorry that you and your friends feel you must split into a separate party, but what hurts me most is the way you and those newspaper editors friendly to your position have criticized not only me but our first President George Washington. I have never liked John Adams, and I did scheme to deny him the presidency and instead give it to his South Carolina vice-presidential running-mate Thomas Pinckney. Hearing of this, Adams' New England Federalists friends did not vote for Pinckney, and thus, I allowed you to receive the second highest number of electoral votes and become Adams' Vice-President. What a mess I created! We now have a President from one party and a Vice-President from the other party.

ISSUE #6 - XYZ AFFAIR
Background

Reasons for French anger with the United States
- American acceptance of the Jay Treaty
- Unwillingness of the United States to Support France in its War in Europe
- Removal of the Francophile, James Monroe, as Ambassador to France

Reasons for United States Anger with the French
- Plundering of 300 American Ships
- Breaking Off of Diplomatic Relations with the United States

Secretary of the Treasury Hamilton

Mr. Jefferson, I am enraged by the treatment our representatives received in France at the hands of French officials identified as X, Y, and Z. X, Y, and Z demanded a loan of 12 million dollars to the French government and a bribe of $250,000 for themselves in order for us just to negotiate with government officials. I am angry with Mr. Adams even though he is my party's President for not declaring war on France. My own party is divided on this issue. I demand war with France to save our national pride and honor. Washington has insisted that I be his second in command in the army authorized in 1798 so if we do go to war with France, I shall be the commander in the field. Because of this real threat of war, the Federalists had no choice but to enact the Alien and Sedition Acts. The nation must stand together against this external threat.

Background

Adams put country above party. The United States and France have an undeclared naval war in the West Indies and soon end the Alliance of 1778.
The Alien and Sedition Acts state the following:
- Naturalization Act
  - Residency for Citizenship from Five to Fourteen Years
- Alien Acts
  - Expulsion of Aliens by President in Peace or War
- Sedition Act
  - Prohibition on Writing or Speaking Out Against the Government or Government Officials

Secretary of State Jefferson

I too am upset by the treatment of our American representatives, but please remember that the French government has not yet stabilized. However, I believe that you and other Federalists are using the XYZ Affair to silence the Democratic-Republicans and to delay suffrage for the recent immigrants who often join my Democratic-Republican Party. The Alien and Sedition Acts are unconstitutional, and if you read the Virginia and Kentucky Resolves, you will see what I believe needs to happen so that acts like the Alien and Sedition ones cannot be passed again.