Rivals and Rules

How economic debates shaped parties and elections

SS24.6.20 "Trace the development of the Federalist and Democratic-Republican political parties in the 1790s, and describe the role of political parties in the American political system..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two parts of Hamilton's economic plan, and circle Hamilton's and Jefferson's different arguments about the bank. Number the election tie, peaceful transfer, and voting reform 1, 2, and 3 to trace what happened next.

A New Nation Chooses

1. Imagine the new United States as a shop opening with unpaid bills. In the 1790s, Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton proposed that the federal government take over state war debts and pay its own debts. He wanted taxes and tariffs, or taxes on imports, to raise money for these payments. Paying debts could build trust so lenders would lend again. Hamilton also backed a national bank to hold government money and help provide credit to businesses. His plan encouraged private investment, a key part of capitalism, in which people own businesses and seek profits.

2. Hamilton pictured a nation of factories, trade, and busy cities. Thomas Jefferson pictured a nation of independent farmers. Their bank debate sharpened this split. Hamilton argued that the Constitution let Congress use powers needed to carry out its listed duties, including collecting taxes, so Congress could create a bank. Jefferson argued that the Constitution did not list a power to create one, so Congress could not do it. These different readings of the Constitution helped divide Hamilton's supporters into the Federalist Party and Jefferson's supporters into the Democratic-Republican Party.

3. The parties gave voters choices and organized support for candidates, but their rivalry could be fierce. In the election of 1800, Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, defeated President John Adams, a Federalist. Under the voting rules, Jefferson and his running mate, Aaron Burr, received equal electoral votes. The House of Representatives broke the tie and chose Jefferson. Adams left office, and Jefferson took power without violence in 1801. This peaceful change between opposing parties set an example. To prevent a similar tie, the Twelfth Amendment required separate electoral votes for president and vice president.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could paying war debts and creating a national bank each help the economy grow?

2. Why did Hamilton and Jefferson reach different conclusions about whether Congress could create a bank?

3. How did Hamilton's and Jefferson's different visions help shape the two parties, and what choice did the parties give voters?

4. How did the election of 1800 set a peaceful example and lead to a change in electoral voting?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence letter to a voter in 1801 explaining whether disagreements between parties make elections useful. Include an economic disagreement, one fact about the transfer of power, and a suggestion to prevent another Jefferson-Burr tie.

ANSWER KEY

Rivals and Rules

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.20

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two parts of Hamilton's economic plan, and circle Hamilton's and Jefferson's different arguments about the bank. Number the election tie, peaceful transfer, and voting reform 1, 2, and 3 to trace what happened next. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could paying war debts and creating a national bank each help the economy grow?	**Paying debts could earn lenders' trust so they would lend again. The bank could provide credit to businesses.**
2	Why did Hamilton and Jefferson reach different conclusions about whether Congress could create a bank?	**Hamilton said Congress could use powers needed to carry out its listed duties. Jefferson said Congress could not create a bank because that power was not listed.**
3	How did Hamilton's and Jefferson's different visions help shape the two parties, and what choice did the parties give voters?	**Hamilton's supporters formed the Federalist Party around a vision of factories and trade. Jefferson's supporters formed the Democratic-Republican Party around a vision of independent farmers, giving voters competing choices.**
4	How did the election of 1800 set a peaceful example and lead to a change in electoral voting?	**Adams left office and Jefferson took power without violence. Jefferson's tie with Burr led to the Twelfth Amendment's requirement for separate presidential and vice-presidential votes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear voter, disagreements between parties help you choose the plan you support. Federalists favor Hamilton's vision of factories and trade, while Democratic-Republicans favor Jefferson's vision of independent farms. Adams's peaceful handoff to Jefferson shows that rivals can disagree without fighting for power. To avoid another tie like Jefferson and Burr's, electors should vote separately for president and vice president.

For question 1, accept taxes or tariffs only if the student connects them to paying debts and rebuilding lenders' trust. In the letter, accept either view of party disagreements if the student supports it with the required facts.