# Two Paths Forward

Compare two plans for the new nation's economy.

**SS24.6.20c** "Compare Alexander Hamilton's vision for an industrial United States to Thomas Jefferson's agricultural vision."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two details about Hamilton's vision and circle two details about Jefferson's vision. Write 1 beside a goal they shared so you can compare their plans.

### What Should the New Nation Make?

1 In the 1790s, the new United States faced a big question: What kind of economy should it build? Most people lived on farms, but small workshops and mills also made goods. Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton pictured a country with growing towns, factories, and busy ports. He wanted Americans to make more cloth, tools, and other goods at home instead of buying so much from abroad. Hamilton did not want farms to disappear. He believed farms, factories, and trade could support one another and make the nation stronger.

2 Hamilton argued that the national government should help new industries grow. He supported a national bank that could strengthen the country's credit and make it easier to borrow money. He also proposed tariffs, taxes on imported goods, to help American-made goods compete with foreign products. Picture a mill turning cotton into cloth: it needs workers, machines, money, and buyers. To Hamilton, industry offered more kinds of jobs and made the United States less dependent on goods from other countries. He favored an active federal role in building this economy.

3 Thomas Jefferson imagined a different center for the nation's economy: family farms. He believed farmers who owned land could support themselves and make independent choices as citizens. Rather than relying on factories, the United States could sell farm products and buy manufactured goods from other countries. Jefferson worried that a powerful national government tied to banks and business might weaken local control. He did not oppose every workshop or trade, but he favored farming and a more limited federal role. Both men wanted a strong nation, yet they trusted different paths to reach it.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What would a town following Hamilton's vision build more of? What would a community following Jefferson's vision center on?

2. How did Hamilton's and Jefferson's plans differ on buying manufactured goods from other countries?

3. How did the federal government's role in Hamilton's plan differ from its role in Jefferson's plan?

4. What benefit did Hamilton expect from industry, and what benefit did Jefferson expect from landowning farmers?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A new community can spend its shared money on either a small cloth mill or tools and land for family farms. Write four or five sentences recommending one choice, explaining how Hamilton and Jefferson would each view it, and naming one benefit and one concern from their visions.

**ANSWER KEY**

# Two Paths Forward

**GRADE 6 · SS24.6.20c**

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details about Hamilton's vision and circle two details about Jefferson's vision. Write 1 beside a goal they shared so you can compare their plans. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | What would a town following Hamilton's vision build more of? What would a community following Jefferson's vision center on? | **A town following Hamilton's vision would build more factories or mills. A community following Jefferson's vision would center on family farms.** |
| 2 | How did Hamilton's and Jefferson's plans differ on buying manufactured goods from other countries? | **Hamilton wanted Americans to make more goods at home and depend less on foreign goods. Jefferson thought the country could sell farm products and buy manufactured goods from other countries.** |
| 3 | How did the federal government's role in Hamilton's plan differ from its role in Jefferson's plan? | **Hamilton favored an active federal government that helped industry grow. Jefferson favored a more limited federal role and worried about a powerful government tied to banks and business.** |
| 4 | What benefit did Hamilton expect from industry, and what benefit did Jefferson expect from landowning farmers? | **Hamilton expected industry to offer more kinds of jobs. Jefferson believed landowning farmers could support themselves and make independent choices.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would spend the money on tools and land for family farms. Jefferson would favor this choice because he believed landowning farmers could support themselves and make independent choices. Hamilton would probably prefer the cloth mill because he wanted more goods made at home and more kinds of jobs. A benefit of my choice is that more families could earn a living from farming. A concern from Hamilton's view is that our community might still need to buy cloth made in other countries.

Accept either recommendation if the response accurately contrasts both visions and gives a benefit and concern connected to them. For the marking job, students may mark any two accurate details for each man and the shared goal of a strong nation.