

Jefferson's Turning Points

Trace domestic and international events during Jefferson's presidency.

SS.8.A.3.14 "Explain major domestic and international economic, military, political, and socio-cultural events of Thomas Jefferson's presidency."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline only these five named events when they first appear: Marbury v. Madison, the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition, the First Barbary War, and the Embargo Act. Next to each underline, write every category letter supported by the passage: D for domestic, I for international, E for economic, M for military, P for political, and S for socio-cultural. Do not mark Jefferson's spending and tax policies.

Decisions at Home and Abroad

- ① When Thomas Jefferson became president in 1801, he faced questions about federal power. In Marbury v. Madison (1803), the Supreme Court claimed judicial review, the power to decide whether laws violate the Constitution. Although the Court did not give William Marbury his job, the decision strengthened the judicial branch. This domestic political event shaped how the three branches would limit one another. Jefferson also tried to reduce government spending, paid down national debt, and cut some internal taxes, choices that affected the nation's economy.
- ② In 1803, Jefferson bought Louisiana from France for \$15 million. The Louisiana Purchase doubled the nation's size and gave the United States control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans. It was an international agreement, but it also raised a domestic political question: Did the Constitution allow the president to make this purchase? Jefferson sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark west to gather scientific information and meet Native peoples. Their expedition increased knowledge of western lands, while also opening the region to later U.S. expansion.
- ③ Overseas dangers also tested Jefferson. Barbary pirates from North African states attacked ships and demanded payments. Jefferson sent the navy and marines to fight in the First Barbary War, protecting American trade and showing military action abroad. Later, Britain and France interfered with U.S. shipping during their war. In 1807, Jefferson backed the Embargo Act, which stopped most American exports. He hoped economic pressure would protect U.S. neutrality, but the embargo hurt merchants and farmers, caused smuggling, and became unpopular at home.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Marbury v. Madison change the balance of power in the federal government?

2 Why was the Louisiana Purchase both an international event and a domestic political issue?

3 What threat led to the First Barbary War, and how did Jefferson respond?

4 What was Jefferson trying to accomplish with the Embargo Act, and what happened to people in the United States?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two of the five underlined events. In exactly three sentences, name a category for each event, explain how each affected the United States, and decide which had a more direct effect at home.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline only these five named events when they first appear: Marbury v. Madison, the Louisiana Purchase, the Lewis and Clark expedition, the First Barbary War, and the Embargo Act. Next to each underline, write every category letter supported by the passage: D for domestic, I for international, E for economic, M for military, P for political, and S for socio-cultural. Do not mark Jefferson's spending and tax policies. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Marbury v. Madison change the balance of power in the federal government?	The decision strengthened the judicial branch by claiming judicial review, the power to decide whether laws violate the Constitution.
2	Why was the Louisiana Purchase both an international event and a domestic political issue?	It was an agreement with France, so it was international. At home, it raised the question of whether the Constitution allowed the president to make the purchase.
3	What threat led to the First Barbary War, and how did Jefferson respond?	Barbary pirates attacked American ships and demanded payments. Jefferson sent the navy and marines to fight and protect American trade.
4	What was Jefferson trying to accomplish with the Embargo Act, and what happened to people in the United States?	He hoped stopping exports would use economic pressure to protect U.S. neutrality. The embargo hurt merchants and farmers, caused smuggling, and became unpopular.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Louisiana Purchase was an international and domestic political event because it was an agreement with France, doubled the nation's size, and raised constitutional questions. The Embargo Act was an economic and international event because it stopped exports to pressure Britain and France, but it hurt American merchants and farmers. The embargo had a more direct effect at home because its economic harm affected people in the United States.

Accept category labels when students support them with passage details. Some events may reasonably receive more than one label, such as the Louisiana Purchase as international and political, or the Embargo Act as economic, international, political, and domestic in consequence.