Power and Parties

Compare choices made by the early presidents

6-12.US1.18 "Compare and contrast the political differences and similarities among early Republic Presidents, including the significance of the Election of 1800 and the Era of Good Feelings."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two political differences between presidents and circle two similarities. Write 1 beside the sentence that shows why the Election of 1800 mattered, and 2 beside a sentence that shows what the Era of Good Feelings did or did not mean.

A Changing Republic

1. George Washington and John Adams both wanted a strong national government, but they faced party politics differently. Washington warned against political parties and tried to stay above them. Adams, a Federalist, supported a national bank and strong federal power. He signed the Alien and Sedition Acts, which angered critics who said the laws threatened free speech. Thomas Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican, opposed those acts and favored more power for states and farmers. Still, all three presidents worked to keep the new republic together.

2. In the election of 1800, Jefferson defeated Adams after a bitter campaign. For the first time, power passed peacefully between rival parties, showing that elections could settle major disputes. Jefferson favored a smaller federal government than Adams did, yet he used federal power to buy the Louisiana Territory. James Madison, another Democratic-Republican, also faced a hard choice about federal action. Unlike Adams, who avoided a full war with France, Madison led the nation into the War of 1812 against Britain.

3. After the war, James Monroe's presidency became known as the Era of Good Feelings. The Federalist Party had faded, so Monroe faced little organized party opposition. This looked closer to Washington's hope for unity than to the fierce Adams-Jefferson contest. Yet the calm hid deep disagreements, especially over slavery's expansion. In 1820, the Missouri Compromise admitted Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state. The deal preserved the Senate's balance between slave and free states, but it did not end the conflict.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Washington and Adams differ in their approach to political parties?

2. Adams and Jefferson disagreed about federal power. What goal did they share?

3. What does the Election of 1800 show about rival parties, and how was the Era of Good Feelings different?

4. How did Adams's and Madison's responses to conflict with another country differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Which president showed the biggest gap between a political goal and a choice he made in office? In four or five sentences, compare him with another president, use two details from the passage, and explain your choice.

ANSWER KEY

Power and Parties

GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.18

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two political differences between presidents and circle two similarities. Write 1 beside the sentence that shows why the Election of 1800 mattered, and 2 beside a sentence that shows what the Era of Good Feelings did or did not mean. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Washington and Adams differ in their approach to political parties?	**Washington warned against parties and tried to stay above them. Adams was a Federalist.**
2	Adams and Jefferson disagreed about federal power. What goal did they share?	**Both worked to keep the new republic together.**
3	What does the Election of 1800 show about rival parties, and how was the Era of Good Feelings different?	**The election showed that power could pass peacefully between rival parties. During the Era of Good Feelings, Monroe faced little organized party opposition, though disagreements remained.**
4	How did Adams's and Madison's responses to conflict with another country differ?	**Adams avoided a full war with France, while Madison led the nation into the War of 1812 against Britain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jefferson showed the biggest gap between a goal and a choice. He favored a smaller federal government, yet he used federal power to buy the Louisiana Territory. Adams supported strong federal power and signed the Alien and Sedition Acts. Jefferson's purchase stands out because it did not seem to fit his preference for a smaller federal government.

For the open task, accept another president if the response accurately compares a stated goal with a choice and supports the judgment with two passage details.