

Tests of Power

How early disputes shaped constitutional government and foreign policy

7.5d "Foreign and domestic disputes tested the strength of the Constitution, particularly the separation of powers, the system of checks and balances, and the issue of States rights..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one constitutional power or check in paragraphs 1 and 2. Circle two foreign-policy goals in paragraph 3.

Power at Home and Abroad

- ① In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson considered buying Louisiana from France. The Constitution did not explicitly authorize buying territory, raising questions about federal power. His administration negotiated the treaty, the Senate approved it for ratification, and Congress funded the purchase. These actions illustrate how executive and legislative powers worked together. The purchase greatly increased the nation's size and tested how broadly officials could interpret the Constitution.
- ② Domestic disputes also reached the Supreme Court. In *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), the Court declared that a federal law conflicted with the Constitution. By refusing to enforce that law, the Court established judicial review, the power to judge whether laws follow the Constitution. This decision strengthened checks and balances because the judicial branch could limit Congress when Congress passed an unconstitutional law. At the same time, the Court's power did not let it make laws or carry them out.
- ③ In 1823, President James Monroe opposed new European colonies and interference with independent nations in the Western Hemisphere. The United States would generally avoid European wars and political conflicts. The Monroe Doctrine combined noninvolvement in European affairs with opposition to European interference nearby. It did not end existing European colonies or all U.S. foreign involvement, but expressed a lasting foreign-policy goal.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did the Louisiana Purchase show separation of powers between the president and Congress?

2 What power did the Supreme Court establish in Marbury v. Madison, and which branch could it limit?

3 What two foreign-policy goals did the Monroe Doctrine combine?

4 Why did the Louisiana Purchase raise a constitutional question even after Congress approved the money?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Invent a new situation in which a European nation interferes with an independent country in the Western Hemisphere. Write 3 sentences that describe the situation, state how the United States could respond under the Monroe Doctrine, and explain how that response balances isolationism with protection.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one constitutional power or check in paragraphs 1 and 2. Circle two foreign-policy goals in paragraph 3. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Louisiana Purchase show separation of powers between the president and Congress?	Jefferson's administration negotiated the treaty, the Senate approved it for ratification, and Congress funded the purchase.
2	What power did the Supreme Court establish in Marbury v. Madison, and which branch could it limit?	The Court established judicial review, which allowed the judicial branch to limit Congress when it passed an unconstitutional law.
3	What two foreign-policy goals did the Monroe Doctrine combine?	It aimed to keep the United States out of European wars and political conflicts while opposing new European colonies or interference in the Western Hemisphere.
4	Why did the Louisiana Purchase raise a constitutional question even after Congress approved the money?	The Constitution did not clearly state whether a president could purchase new land, so the purchase raised questions about broad interpretation of federal power.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A European country announces plans to establish a colony in a newly independent country in the Americas. The United States should oppose the new colony under the Monroe Doctrine while avoiding involvement in the European country's other conflicts. This response protects the Western Hemisphere without requiring the United States to enter European wars.

Accept equivalent descriptions of executive treaty negotiation, congressional spending power, judicial review, and the Monroe Doctrine's two goals. For the open response, accept any plausible invented situation that correctly opposes European interference while keeping the United States out of European conflicts.