Choices That Shaped America

Read how three presidents guided a growing nation.

5.C.7 "Summarize the growth of a new nation under the leadership of Presidents Washington, Adams, and Jefferson. Describe the presidential leadership of George Washington..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one leadership choice by each president and circle an effect of that choice. Number the paragraphs 1 to 3 in the order the presidents served.

Leading a New Nation

1. As the first president, George Washington had to show how the government could work. He brought together a cabinet of advisers, including the secretaries of state and the treasury, to help him make decisions. When he chose not to seek a third term, he set an example of leaving office after two terms. In his Farewell Address, Washington warned that political divisions and lasting alliances with other countries could put the nation at risk.

2. John Adams took office as tension grew between the United States and France. French ships attacked American merchant ships, and many people feared war. Adams strengthened the army and built up the navy so the nation could defend its ships and shores. At the same time, he sent diplomats to negotiate with France. Their agreement helped prevent a larger war. His cautious foreign policy put the nation's safety first without giving up on peace.

3. In 1803, Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The purchase nearly doubled the United States and opened more land to westward expansion. He sent Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to explore. Their team recorded rivers, plants, animals, and routes, adding to geographic and scientific knowledge. His government also tried to make and keep treaties with American Indian nations already living on the land, but the United States did not always honor them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Washington's cabinet and his choice not to seek a third term each shape the presidency?

2. How did Adams prepare to defend the nation while also trying to prevent a larger war?

3. How did the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition each change the nation's future?

4. Why were treaties with American Indian nations part of Jefferson's plans for a growing country? What problem does the passage raise about those treaties?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences for a museum label comparing leadership choices by two presidents in the passage. Explain an effect of each choice, then decide which helped the new nation more and support your opinion with evidence from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Choices That Shaped America

GRADE 5 · 5.C.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one leadership choice by each president and circle an effect of that choice. Number the paragraphs 1 to 3 in the order the presidents served. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Washington's cabinet and his choice not to seek a third term each shape the presidency?	**His cabinet gave him advisers to help make decisions. Leaving after two terms set an example for later presidents.**
2	How did Adams prepare to defend the nation while also trying to prevent a larger war?	**He strengthened the army and navy, then sent diplomats to negotiate with France. Their agreement helped prevent a larger war.**
3	How did the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark expedition each change the nation's future?	**The purchase nearly doubled the United States and opened more land to westward expansion. The expedition added knowledge of rivers, routes, plants, and animals.**
4	Why were treaties with American Indian nations part of Jefferson's plans for a growing country? What problem does the passage raise about those treaties?	**American Indian nations already lived on land the United States sought to expand into. Jefferson's government tried to make and keep treaties, but the United States did not always honor them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Washington brought together a cabinet so he could get advice when making decisions. Adams built up the navy to defend American ships and shores. Both choices helped the young nation, but I think Adams's choice helped more at that moment. French ships were attacking American merchant ships, so the nation needed a way to defend them.

Accept other passage-supported choices and effects. For the museum label, look for a comparison of two presidents, a supported judgment, and four sentences.