Decisions That Shaped

Trace how decisions changed the nation during the Jeffersonian Era.

8.C.6 "Analyze the political, constitutional, and geographic changes that occurred during the Jeffersonian Era. Explain issues surrounding the electoral process of the presidential election of 1800, its resolution by the 12th Amendment..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action about elections, one about the Supreme Court, one about western lands, and one about foreign trade. Circle a consequence of each action, then give each action and its consequence the same number, 1 through 4.

A Nation Tests Its Powers

1. In the presidential election of 1800, each elector cast two votes for president. Thomas Jefferson and his running mate, Aaron Burr, tied with 73 electoral votes each. The House of Representatives chose Jefferson after 36 ballots. Despite bitter party conflict, President John Adams, a Federalist, yielded power to Jefferson, a Democratic-Republican. This peaceful transfer showed that an election could change the governing party without violence. Ratified in 1804, the Twelfth Amendment required electors to vote separately for president and vice president, preventing that kind of running-mate tie.

2. In 1803, Chief Justice John Marshall's Supreme Court decided Marbury v. Madison. William Marbury wanted the Court to order James Madison to deliver his appointment papers. The Court found that a section of the Judiciary Act of 1789 giving it authority to issue that order conflicted with the Constitution. By refusing to apply that section, the Court confirmed judicial review, the power to reject unconstitutional laws. Also in 1803, President Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The purchase roughly doubled U.S. territory and expanded the nation west of the Mississippi River.

3. Jefferson then authorized the Lewis and Clark expedition to explore the new territory and seek routes to the Pacific. From 1804 to 1806, the Corps of Discovery traveled through lands already inhabited by Native nations. Jefferson also proposed moving eastern Tribes west of the Mississippi, helping start a removal policy that later forced many Tribes into Indian Territory. In 1807, after Britain attacked U.S. ships and seized sailors, Jefferson signed the Embargo Act. It stopped American ships from trading abroad. The ban hurt U.S. merchants but encouraged some American manufacturing.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What problem did the election of 1800 reveal, and how did the Twelfth Amendment address it? Why did Adams's response to the result matter?

2. How did the Court's decision in Marbury v. Madison demonstrate judicial review?

3. How did Jefferson's western decisions expand U.S. reach, and how did they affect Native nations?

4. What threat led Jefferson to sign the Embargo Act, and what were two different effects of the trade ban?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing two decisions from different parts of the passage. Argue which changed U.S. power or land more, using two passage details, and explain one cost or danger linked to either decision.

ANSWER KEY

Decisions That Shaped

GRADE 8 · 8.C.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action about elections, one about the Supreme Court, one about western lands, and one about foreign trade. Circle a consequence of each action, then give each action and its consequence the same number, 1 through 4. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What problem did the election of 1800 reveal, and how did the Twelfth Amendment address it? Why did Adams's response to the result matter?	**Jefferson and Burr tied because electors cast two votes for president. The Twelfth Amendment required separate votes for president and vice president. Adams yielded power to a rival party without violence.**
2	How did the Court's decision in Marbury v. Madison demonstrate judicial review?	**The Court found that a section of a federal law conflicted with the Constitution and refused to apply it.**
3	How did Jefferson's western decisions expand U.S. reach, and how did they affect Native nations?	**The Louisiana Purchase roughly doubled U.S. territory, and the Lewis and Clark expedition explored western lands. Those lands were already inhabited by Native nations, and Jefferson proposed moving eastern Tribes west.**
4	What threat led Jefferson to sign the Embargo Act, and what were two different effects of the trade ban?	**Britain had attacked U.S. ships and seized sailors. The ban hurt U.S. merchants but encouraged some American manufacturing.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Louisiana Purchase changed the United States more than the Embargo Act because it roughly doubled U.S. territory. It opened more western land to U.S. exploration through the Lewis and Clark expedition. The embargo stopped American ships from trading abroad but did not add territory. It also hurt U.S. merchants, a cost of restricting trade.

Accept a reasoned comparison of any two decisions from different paragraphs. The label must have four sentences, use two accurate passage details, and identify a cost or danger linked to one decision.