

THOMAS JEFFERSON

A P R E S I D E N T ' S V I S I O N

IMAGE ANALYSIS WORKSHEET

This worksheet will help you examine and analyze the images on the Thomas Jefferson *President's Vision* poster. Carefully study the images featured on the poster, then write your answers to the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

THOMAS JEFFERSON BY REMBRANDT PEALE, 1800.

1. In four or five sentences, describe this painting for someone who isn't able to see it.
2. Consider the painter's portrayal of Jefferson. What characteristics of Jefferson's did he probably intend to capture?

VIEW OF THE WEST FRONT OF MONTICELLO AND GARDEN BY JANE BRADDICK PETICOLAS, 1825.

3. What does this painting suggest about what life was like at Monticello?
4. The image includes a man, women, and a child. How is each acting? What do their actions suggest about life on this plantation?
5. Monticello was a large plantation. It was home to Jefferson, his family, and over two hundred enslaved people. To what extent does the artist's choice of scene tell only part of the story of life on this plantation? What is not told?
6. Why is this image included on a poster about Jefferson's presidential vision?

THE LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION BY THOMAS MICKELL BURNHAM, CA. 1850.

7. Who were Lewis and Clark? What did they do during Jefferson's presidency?
8. Consider the portrayal of Lewis and Clark in this painting. What message did the painter probably intend to convey about the two explorers and their expedition?
9. Do you think the explorers are at the beginning of their journey or sighting the Pacific? Explain your answer.
10. What parts of Lewis and Clark's expedition are not emphasized in this painting?
11. Why is this image included on a poster about Jefferson's presidential vision?

THE HAPPY EFFECTS OF THAT GRAND SYSTEM [SIC] OF SHUTTING PORTS AGAINST THE ENGLISH!! BY CRUIKSHANK, 1808.

In 1807, President Jefferson was forced to respond to the outcry over impressment, the British practice of forcing American sailors to join the British navy. Instead of declaring war, Jefferson helped design an embargo that closed the nation's seaports to international trade. This cartoon was published in the wake of his decision.

12. What political point of view does the cartoonist adopt?
13. What are the merchants' complaints?
14. What does President Jefferson recommend to the merchants?
15. Who is the figure crouching behind Jefferson's chair?
16. What is the role of the small dog included in the cartoon? Who is he barking at, and why?

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CHESAPEAKE VS. LEOPARD, JUNE 21, 1807 BY IRWIN JOHN BEVAN.

This painting of an 1807 naval battle shows the capture of the U. S. naval ship *Chesapeake* by the British naval ship *Leopard*. The capture occurred off the shore of Norfolk, Virginia, at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. After the battle, the British removed several possible British navy deserters from the *Chesapeake*'s crew. Many Americans urged President Jefferson to declare war on Great Britain after this incident.

17. Why do you think the artist chose to portray the opening shots of this battle instead of the battle's aftermath? Explain your answer.
18. President Jefferson had greatly reduced the size and funding of the navy in the years leading up to this event. He responded to this attack with a trade embargo instead of military action. Had you been a member of Jefferson's cabinet, would you have agreed with his policy?
19. Why is this image included on a poster about Jefferson's presidential vision?

"PROCLAMATION TO THE RESIDENTS OF NEW ORLEANS" BY WILLIAM C. C. CLAIBORNE, DECEMBER 20, 1803.

This document was posted in New Orleans in 1803. It informed people of the transfer of the Louisiana territory from Spain to France to the United States.

20. How does the use of three languages mirror the ownership of the territory from 1763–1803?
21. Why is this image included on a poster about Jefferson's presidential vision?

A VIEW OF NEW ORLEANS TAKEN FROM THE PLANTATION OF MARIGNY BY JOHN L. BOQUETA DE WOISERI, 1803.

This painting with the motto "Everything prospers under my wings" was made when the United States purchased the Louisiana Territory.

22. What is the significance of the eagle with the banner?
23. How might an American in 1803 have explained the importance of making New Orleans part of the United States?
24. How does this painting reflect the importance of New Orleans to the United States at this time?
25. How does this image add to your understanding of Jefferson's presidential vision?

LOUISIANA PURCHASE TREATY, APRIL 30, 1803.

Marked F P on its front cover, this case and seal contain the Louisiana Purchase Treaty. The treaty is the deed to one of the largest pieces of real estate ever purchased.

26. Why did President Jefferson and the Congress wish to make this purchase?
27. From whom did they buy Louisiana? Why might the previous owner have wanted to sell it to the United States?
28. At the time of the purchase, Jefferson worried he might have exceeded his constitutional authority. Would you have advised him to purchase Louisiana? Why or why not?

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