

**ELECTION OF 1800
ANSWER KEY**

Questions for “The Providential Detection”

1. The creator of this political cartoon included several symbols that represent danger. What are they and where do they appear in the cartoon?

Student should identify the eagle talons, snake, fire, and skull and crossbones, naming where each appears in the cartoon.

2. There is a fire burning on top of the pillar and the words “Altar of Gallic Despotism” appear etched into its side. “Gallic” refers to the French, and “despotism” is a government in which a leader has absolute power. What does the cartoon’s artist want us to think about Jefferson’s position? What does his position suggest about his loyalties?

The cartoon suggests that Jefferson will be beholden to French ideals and serve them and their interests, placing them above the interests of the United States government.

3. What was the eagle preventing Jefferson from throwing on the fire? What do you think the eagle might represent?

The eagle is preventing Jefferson from throwing the U.S. Constitution on the fire.

Student must make a claim and support it with reference to the image. Answers should point toward the eagle representing those people in the government fighting against Jefferson.

4. Based upon your understanding of the divisions between opposing political parties competing in the election of 1800, this political cartoon most likely represented the views of which political party?

The political cartoon most likely represents the Federalist Party.

Questions for Excerpt from the Sedition Act

1. What behavior did Section 2 of the Sedition Act make a criminal offense?

Section 2 of the Sedition Act made it a criminal offense to engage in writing, printing, saying or publishing anything “false, scandalous and malicious” about the U.S. government or helping anyone to do the same.

2. How might the enforcement of the Sedition Act threaten the rights granted to Americans in the Bill of Rights?

The enforcement of the Sedition Act might go against the freedoms of speech and press guaranteed by the Bill of Rights.

3. This is one portion of the larger Alien and Sedition Acts that were passed by a Congress controlled by the Federalist Party and signed into law by the Federalist president John Adams. What about these laws aligns with the Federalists' vision of national power?

The Federalists believed in a strong central government that wished to have a larger degree of control over the actions and decisions of its citizens.

4. The supporters of Thomas Jefferson opposed the Alien and Sedition Acts. What about these laws threatened Jefferson's vision of national power?

Jefferson's vision was of a small, limited government that did not have a great deal of control over the actions or decisions of its citizens.

Questions for Excerpt from the Kentucky Resolution

1. Thomas Jefferson wrote the Kentucky Resolution. In this excerpt of the Kentucky Resolution, what law was Jefferson opposing?

Jefferson was opposing the Alien and Sedition Acts.

2. What does Jefferson see happening if those in charge of the government are allowed to ignore the limits for the federal government established by the Constitution?

Jefferson sees the power of state governments being greatly reduced and replaced by a “centralized consolidated government.”

3. Why do you think Jefferson begins the statement reaffirming “attachment to the Union”?

Student must state a claim and support it with evidence from the text. Answers should indicate that Jefferson believes in the Union, but wishes to see his version of federal power manifested.

4. The Kentucky Resolution first introduced the idea of “nullification.” Based on what you have read in this excerpt, what does that concept allow state governments to do? What does this say about Jefferson’s views on the relationship between state governments and the federal government?

Nullification allows state governments to refuse to enforce federal laws that they oppose.

Jefferson believes that state governments should be more powerful than the federal government.

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Questions for Excerpt from Letter, Elizabeth House Trist to Thomas Jefferson

1. What occasion prompted Trist to write Jefferson this letter?

Trist writes to Jefferson on the occasion of his election as president.

2. What did she believe Jefferson's election would bring to the country?

She believes that Jefferson's election will show "what a Republican Administration can effect as to the happiness of the people."

3. What elements of the letter suggest that the emergence of political parties in the election of 1800 had created divisions in American society?

Trist writes about the negative things that Adams and his supporters have said about Jefferson during the campaign.

4. Trist makes an argument for why women should be included in political discussions. What is her argument?

Trist believes that women can "candidly inform" leaders of what the "true sentiments" are of the people.

Questions for Excerpt from First Inaugural Address

1. In the very first line, what does Jefferson call on his fellow-citizens to do? Why do you think he started his speech this way?

Jefferson calls on the country to unite.

Student must make a claim and support it with evidence from the text. Answers should point toward the divisive campaign that led to Jefferson's election.

2. Jefferson claimed that religious intolerance, "that had for so long caused humankind to suffer," might be replaced with what new form of intolerance?

Jefferson claims that religious intolerance might be replaced by political intolerance.

3. Jefferson's statement that "We are all republicans, we are all federalists," is considered the most famous line of this inaugural address. What do you think he meant by this?

Student must make a claim and support it with evidence from the text. Answers should point toward Jefferson's claim that differences of opinion are not differences of principle, that citizens can disagree about specific issues but still support the same government.

4. According to Jefferson, why was this new federal government worth preserving?

Jefferson states that the new federal government is the "world's best hope" and is the strongest government on earth.