**EOCT Review**

**Chapter 4: The First Presidents of the New Republic**

* George Washington was our nation’s first President and set important precedents - actions that would be followed later. The most important precedent was the creation of the Cabinet—a group of all the heads of government departments, such as the Secretary of State and Secretary of the Treasury, who meet regularly to advise the President.
* During Washington’s Presidency, Alexander Hamilton presented his financial plan to Congress. Hamilton proposed: (1) the nation pay its debts and those of the states to establish its good credit; (2) a tariff on foreign manufactured goods; (3) a national bank; and (4) a tax on whiskey. Hamilton and Washington later led an army to put down a rebellion of farmers in western Pennsylvania who objected to the whiskey tax.
* Jefferson and Madison opposed Hamilton’s plan, giving rise to the first political parties, known as the Federalists and Democratic-Republicans.
* The French Revolution further divided these political parties: Federalists favored Britain, and Democratic-Republicans favored France.
* Washington issued the Proclamation of Neutrality to keep America out of war when Britain and France started fighting in 1793. At the end of his second term, Washington published his “Farewell Address,” advising Americans to stay out of permanent alliances with Europe and to avoid political parties.
* John Adams became the nation’s second President in 1797. Adams was a Federalist. During his Presidency, the United States and France nearly went to war.
* Congress passed the Alien and Sedition Acts, which gave President Adams the power to send aliens (*foreigners*) back to Europe. The Sedition Act made it a crime to criticize the government. Jefferson and Madison thought these acts violated the right to free speech guaranteed by the First Amendment.
* The Alien and Sedition Acts were very unpopular and may have cost Adams the Presidential election of 1800. Instead, Thomas Jefferson was elected President. Jefferson considered this the “Revolution of 1800” because power passed peacefully from one political party to another.
* President Jefferson sent a negotiator to Paris to obtain New Orleans when France acquired Louisiana from Spain. Jefferson wanted to be sure farmers could still ship their goods down the Mississippi River. Napoleon offered to sell all of the Louisiana Territory. Jefferson was unsure whether the Constitution permitted him to accept, but he snapped up the offer because the deal was so favorable. The Louisiana Purchase nearly doubled the size of the United States, gave Americans control of the Mississippi River, and put America on the path of westward expansion. It also expanded Presidential power.
* Britain tried to prevent Americans from trading with France, while France tried to stop them from trading with Britain. Jefferson imposed an embargo prohibiting all foreign trade until Britain and France lifted their restrictions. The embargo hurt Americans more than foreigners.
* British officers were encouraging Indian tribes to attack American settlers in the Northwest, while British ships were continuing to “impress” (*seize*) American sailors at sea in their search for deserters. “War hawks” in Congress thought this might be a good time for Americans to seize Canada. These factors led to the outbreak of the War of 1812 between the United States and Britain.
* James Madison was President during the War of 1812. He had to flee the White House when the British temporarily occupied Washington, D.C., in 1814. Francis Scott Key wrote “The Star-Spangled Banner,” our national anthem, when the British failed to take Baltimore.
* During the War of 1812, Americans were forced to buy American manufactured goods since British ones were not available. This helped American manufacturers.
* In 1814, a peace treaty was signed ending the War of 1812. The treaty left borders just as they had been before the war. Americans had preserved their independence. The war was a crucial step in the development of our national identity
* James Monroe became the next President. Now, France helped restore the King of Spain to his throne in Spain. Many feared the French would also help Spain to recover its former colonies in Latin America. President Monroe issued the “Monroe Doctrine” (1823) warning colonial powers not to try to regain by force those colonies that had successfully won independence