

Name _____

George Washington's Presidency and the Birth of Political Parties

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Federalist Party, led by Alexander Hamilton, believed in a strong central government, a loose interpretation of the Constitution, and supported industrialization and a strong financial system. In contrast, the Democratic-Republican Party, led by Thomas Jefferson, advocated for a more limited federal government with a strict interpretation of the Constitution. They emphasized individual liberties and states' rights, favoring agrarianism over industrialization.
2. The Jay Treaty controversy was significant because it highlighted the divisions between Federalists and Republicans. The treaty, negotiated with Britain in 1795, faced strong opposition from Republicans who believed it favored Britain at the expense of France. This controversy demonstrated the growing political polarization in the United States and solidified the positions of the emerging political parties.
3. George Washington faced challenges as President due to the divisions within his cabinet and the emergence of political parties. He had to navigate differing viewpoints between Alexander Hamilton's Federalists and Thomas Jefferson's Republicans, often putting him in a difficult position. Maintaining a balanced approach to governance while avoiding partisanship was a significant challenge.
4. George Washington's Farewell Address had a lasting impact on the development of political parties and national unity in the United States. His warning against the dangers of political parties and his call for unity resonated throughout American history. While political parties did emerge and evolve, Washington's message emphasized the importance of national unity and the avoidance of divisive partisanship, ideals that continue to be valued in American politics.

