How Adams became a public figure

1770 Boston Massacre

Famously defended 5 British soldiers

Soldiers were eventually acquitted

On the forefront of the American Revolution as a Representative of Massachusetts

Washington’s Presidency

First Vice President of the United States
Wife: Abigail Adams

- Met Abigail at age 26
  - She was 17
  - Began a courtship through letters, where John would address them as “Dear Adorable”
  - They did not marry for 3 more years (long for that time!) because her mother didn’t like him
  - During the American Revolution, they were apart for months and continued their letters
John Adams, 2\textsuperscript{nd} President

- John Adams is elected the 2\textsuperscript{nd} president of the United States by 3 votes!

- Thomas Jefferson is Vice President

- What problems could this cause?
Election of 1796

After Washington retires...

➢ Personal rivalries among political leaders create divisions...

➢ Differing viewpoints...

- North vs. South
- Federal government vs. State government
- Business vs. Agriculture
Election of 1796

Democratic Republicans

Founded by: Jefferson & James Madison

Nominated: Jefferson & Burr

Federalists

Founded by: Alex Hamilton

Nominated: Adams & Thomas Pinckney
What type of economy did Republicans support?

What type of economy did Federalists support?
Domestic Policy

Relations with France were not so good...rapid fear of French Spies!

Congress is controlled by the Federalist Party

Pass a set of laws: The Alien & Sedition Acts
Adams and the French

- The Jay Treaty with Britain offended the French!
- France began to capture American ships at sea in attempts to weaken the British.
- Many Americans wanted war against the French, but Adams sent ambassadors Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, Elbridge Gerry and John Marshall to negotiate peace instead…
XYZ Affair

The French ambassadors, called X, Y, and Z wanted a $250,000 dollar bribe to talk to the Americans.

- The French refused to open official negotiations with the Americans and would not meet with all the ambassadors.
- John Adams stopped negotiations and asked for the commission to return home.
- The **X,Y,Z affair** Made Americans dislike the French
  - Showed that America needed to be treated with respect!
Quasi-War with France

- Congress expanded the army and created a small navy to fight against the French.
- Adams believed that a navy would be the most accurate defense of the nation.
- Had some success! Six frigates constructed including the Constitution.
- Congress passed some new taxes to pay for the “war”.
- Congress also passed the Alien and Sedition Acts to deal with pro-France Americans.
Essential Question:
How did Adam’s Domestic Policy affect the rest of his presidency?
Alien and Sedition Acts

- **Alien Act**
  - President can deport immigrants that criticize the national government
  - Government can deport immigrants from a country the US is at war with
  - Immigrants must live in the US for 14 years (instead of 4!) before they can become a US citizen

- **Sedition Act**: It is illegal to say bad things about the national government

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alien Acts</th>
<th>Sedition Acts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws that made it possible for the government to deport any immigrant</td>
<td>Laws that made it possible for the government to arrest anyone who spoke out against the government or president</td>
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<td>Which political party was effected?</td>
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**Kentucky & Virginia Resolutions**

- Stated Alien & Sedition acts were unconstitutional
- Madison & Jefferson pressured Congress to appeal these acts however they didn’t
- HOWEVER, it showed that the States could CHALLENGE the Federal Government
Democratic Republicans did not like the Alien and Sedition Acts!

Thomas Jefferson and James Madison wrote the Virginia and Kentucky Resolutions

They said…

- the Alien and Sedition Acts were unconstitutional!
- States can cancel laws made by the federal government if they are unconstitutional.
- Is this true today?
The Sedition Act and new taxes to pay for the undeclared war with France made John Adams unpopular.

He was not re-elected a second term in 1800.

John Adams was the first 1 term president.
Election of 1800

- Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr tie!
- House of Representatives chooses Jefferson as the 3rd president under the influence of Alexander Hamilton
- The election is significant because it is an example of a peaceful transfer of power from one party to another!
“Midnight Appointments”

- 19 days before Adams leaves office, Congress passes the Judiciary Act of 1801
- Adams works quickly to fill as many of the new positions as possible
- This scramble leads to the Supreme Court case *Marbury vs. Madison*…
- Adams also nominated John Marshall to become the new Chief Justice.