THE PRESIDENCY OF
THOMAS JEFFERSON
POLITICAL BELIEFS

- “The government which governs least, governs best.”

- Strongly favored States Rights as opposed to a strong national government

- Believed in a strict construction, or strict interpretation, of the US Constitution

- Wanted to end all taxes of any kind paid by U.S. citizens
ACCOMPLISHMENTS PRIOR TO BEING ELECTED PRESIDENT #3

- Wrote the first draft of the Declaration of Independence
- Wrote the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom
- Created the University of Virginia
- Served as an ambassador to Europe from the United States
Adams would have won re-election, perhaps easily, had Alexander Hamilton not split the Federalist Party.
ODD BEGINNINGS

- Tried to fix election but tied with Aaron Burr
  - 36 votes required to break the tie.
  - Needed Hamilton to come to his aid
  - Burr becomes Vice-President:
    - No love lost between Jefferson and him
    - Angered by Hamilton’s involvement
- First President inaugurated in Washington D.C.
  - White House still under construction
  - Capitol building: only other building in town
  - Helped design the city
  - John Adams does not attend
FALLOUT FROM THE ELECTION OF 1800

- The messed up election pointed out the need for a Constitutional amendment regarding the Presidential election process.
- The 12th Amendment modified the Constitution so that the President and the Vice-President are elected using separate ballots.
AS HIS FIRST TERM BEGINS

- FEDERALISTS ARE FEARFUL OF ANOTHER REVOLUTION
- JEFFERSON TURNS THE TABLES
  - “WE ARE ALL REPUBLICANS, WE ARE ALL FEDERALISTS”
- MAKES SOME SURPRISING CHANGES
  - CUTS MILITARY SPENDING
  - CUTS ARMY FROM 4000 TO 2500
  - CUTS NAVY FROM 25 TO 7 SHIPS
  - REDUCES NATIONAL DEBT FROM $83 MILLION TO $45 MILLION
  - CUTS INTERNAL TAXES
- GOVERNMENT INCOME CONSISTED OF TARIFFS AND SALE OF WESTERN LANDS
- LET THE ALIEN AND SEDITION ACTS EXPIRE.
- MARBURY V. MADISON: DECIDED BY THE SUPREME COURT
  - FIGHT AGAINST ADAMS’ MIDNIGHT JUDGES
  - ESTABLISHED JUDICIAL PRECEDENT

If a law is judged to be unconstitutional, or goes against the U.S. Constitution, then the law ceases to be a law.
ANOTHER EARLY ACCOMPLISHMENT

- Appointed Albert Gallatin as Secretary of the Treasury (Swiss Immigrant)
  - BUSINESSMAN
  - PROFESSOR
  - POLITICIAN
  - LONGEST SERVING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY (1801-1814)
- HAMILTON’S BIGGEST HEADACHE
LITTLE KNOWN FACTS WORTH KNOWING

- Authored Declaration of Independence
- Foremost spokesman for democracy
- Champion of both religious and political freedom
- Kept over 200 slaves
- Freed 5 in his lifetime plus two that escaped (he did not try to capture them).
- "Jeffersonian Democracy"
- Majority of people must govern themselves.
- Keep the government simple and free of waste.
- Always ate at a round table usually with no more than 14 people
- The table encouraged social interaction
LITTLE KNOWN FACTS WORTH KNOWING #2

- Had a Pet Mockingbird
- Was an enthusiastic archaeologist
  - Had the fossil of a 40 million year old mastodon delivered to the White House.
- Sold 6500 books to the Library of Congress after the British ransacked it in the War of 1812.
- Died on the same day as John Adams in 1826 (Fourth of July!)
  - 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.
- A few hours before Adams
LITTLE KNOWN FACTS WORTH KNOWING #3

- Invented the dumbwaiter to reduce distractions and keep the conversations going without interference by servants.
- His mockingbird would follow him when he went upstairs to take a nap, sit on the couch and lull him to sleep with song.
- He was both a grandfather and great-grandfather.
- Kept grizzly bears received from the Lewis and Clark expedition on the White House grounds.
- Only two of his six children survived to be adults.
NEAT STUFF JEFFERSON DID

- HE WAS
  - A VIOLINIST
  - ARCHITECT
  - FARMER
  - SCHOLAR
  - HORSEMAN
  - INVENTOR

- MOLDBOARD PLOW
- POLYGRAPH MACHINE FOR COPYING DOCUMENTS
- WHEEL CIPHER TO ENCODE AND DECODE MESSAGES
AND LET’S NOT FORGET THESE GEMS

- MACARONI MAKING MACHINE
- THE SWIVEL CHAIR!

HE GOT THE IDEA FOR MACARONI AND CHEESE FROM A 12TH CENTURY ITALIAN DISH.

HIS DAUGHTER WAS THE FIRST TO SERVE IT IN THE WHITE HOUSE USING PARMESANEAN CHEESE.
AUTHORIZED THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE ($15 MILLION/ 3 CENTS PER ACRE)
HOW DID THAT HAPPEN?

- France began exploring region in 1600’s
- By mid-18th century France controlled area from New Orleans to the Great Lakes and present-day Montana. (More than any other power).
- Ceded territory west of the Mississippi River to Spain in 1762
- Transferred the remaining territory to Great Britain after the French and Indian War.
- 1800, Spain gave the territory back to France in a secret deal.
- If the French own the region, problem for us
  - French and Indians got along well: threat
  - Blocked westward expansion by US citizens
- The US had a deal with Spain for use of New Orleans (after Jay’s Treaty)
  - Concerned that Napoleon might terminate the deal.
  - No access to New Orleans would cripple the economy
- Jefferson sent a delegation to France to purchase New Orleans.
AND SO IT GOES:

- Robert Livingston directed to negotiate for purchase with Talleyrand.
  - $2 million for the port city
- James Monroe sent to help Livingston: raise ante to $10 million
  - Before he arrives, the French offer all of Louisiana to Livingston
- Reasoning:
  - French can’t put down a slave rebellion in Haiti
  - Preparing for war with Great Britain
  - Fearful of British blockade of France
  - France is in a tough economic time: need cash to fight Britain.
- But!!!
  - Spain had demanded that France gain their approval before any sale.
  - Spain did not want the US to get the territory.
- France turns over New Orleans to US on 20 December 1803.
CONUNDRUM FOR JEFFERSON

- PURCHASE IS NOT THE DEFINITION OF “SMALL” GOVERNMENT
- CONSTITUTION DOES NOT SPECIFY THAT THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH CAN BUY TERRITORY
- JEFFERSON DOESN’T THINK HE CAN BUY THE LAND
  - DRAFTED AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION TO MAKE THE PURCHASE LEGAL
    - CABINET ARGUED AGAINST IT
    - CONGRESS IGNORED IT
    - SENATE RATIFIED THE PURCHASE.
  - COMPROMISES HIS BELIEFS TO AUTHORIZIE THE SALE.
- IN 1810 DESCRIBED THE PURCHASE AS A GREAT ACHIEVEMENT
  - “It is incumbent on those who accept great charges to risk themselves on great occasions.”
JEFFERSON COMMISSIONED THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY TO FIND OUT WHAT HE BOUGHT

CAPTAIN MERIWETHER LEWIS IN CHARGE
- JEFFERSON’S PERSONAL SECRETARY
- SELECTS WILLIAM CLARK AS HIS CO-COMMANDER
  - LONG TIME FRIENDS

DEPART ST. LOUIS ON MAY 14, 1804

STOP IN THE MANDAN VILLAGE FOR THE WINTER OF 1805
- ESTABLISH FORT MANDAN

HOW DID THEY MANAGE TO KEEP FROM BEING MASACRED BY HOSTILE TRIBES ALONG THE WAY?
OMG!!! (BECAUSE I SPENT 3 YEARS IN THE CAVALRY) I ALMOST FORGOT.....

THE SLAVE WAS NAMED YORK

AND THE DOG WAS NAMED SEAMAN

Seaman
Seaman, Lewis' Newfoundland dog accompanied the expedition and alerted the Discovery Team of unexpected guests.

York
York, Clark’s slave who accompanied him on the journey West. The natives had never seen a black man before. They flocked around him and examined him from head to toe. Also York was given the right to vote as to the location of their winter quarters.
THE ROUTE
HIRE FRENCH TRADER (Toussaint Charbonneau) TO HELP AS AN INTERPRETER AND GUIDE: USELESS BUT!

- HIS WIFE AND NEWBORN INFANT SON ARE THE REAL PRIZE.
  - SHE CAN SPEAK THE LANGUAGES
  - HER SON IS PROOF THAT LEWIS AND CLARK’S EXPEDITION IS NOT A WAR PARTY

- TENSIONS ARISE WHEN THEY MEET THE SHOSONE TRIBE, BUT!
  - THE CHIEF IS SACAGAWEA’S BROTHER.
  - PROVIDES HORSES TO CROSS THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

- REACH PACIFIC OCEAN NOVEMBER 7, 1805

- DECISION TO ENCAMP RECORDS FIRST VOTE BY AFRICAN-AMERICAN AND FEMALE
  - YORK (LEWIS’S SLAVE)
  - SACAGAWEA
  - MEN OF DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES
  - STAY AT FORT CLATSOP FOR WINTER OF 1806
  - PROBLEMS DEVELOP WITH THE BLACKFOOT INDIAN TRIBE

- RACE BACK TO ST. LOUIS
  - ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 1806
  - 8000 MILES TRAVELED
  - MAPPED ENTIRE AREA: ONLY OFF BY 4 MILES.
LEWIS AND CLARK

- REACH PACIFIC OCEAN NOVEMBER 7, 1805
  Clark writes: “Ocean in view! O! The joy!”

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WHAT HAPPENED WITH THE BLACKFOOT TRIBE?

“We are the people of the buffalo, Blackfoot people.”**

- 1806 THE CORPS OF DISCOVERY STARTS ITS RETURN TRIP.
  - AFTER CROSSING THE ROCKIES EXPEDITION SPLITS UP
    - CLARK EXPLORES THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER TO THE SOUTH
    - LEWIS TOOK NINE MEN HEADED WEST TO THE GREAT FALLS OF THE MISSOURI RIVER
      - SIX STAYED AT THE GREAT FALLS
      - LEWIS AND THREE MEN HEADED NORTH TO THE MARIAS RIVER IN MONTANA.
- THE MARIAS RIVER COUNTRY WAS THE HOME OF THE BLACKFOOT TRIBE.
  - FIERcest of all the tribes on the great plains.
  - LEWIS WANTED TO MAKE PEACE AND GAIN THEIR COOPERATION
  - ANY ATTACK WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR LEWIS.
- A MEETING WITH EIGHT BLACKFOOT WARRIORS SEEMED TO GO WELL, AT FIRST.
  - EARLY NEXT MORNING, THE BLACKFOOT PARTY TRIED TO STEAL WEAPONS AND HORSES.
  - LEWIS PURSUED THEM, WARNING THAT HE WOULD FIRE IF THEY DID NOT STOP.
- ONE BLACKFOOT LEVELLED AN OLD MUSKET AT LEWIS.
  - LEWIS FIRED FIRST A HIT THE WARRIOR IN THE STOMACH
  - THE REST OF THE PARTY RETREATED.
  - LATER, DISCOVERED A SECOND WARRIOR WAS STABBED BY MEMBER OF LEWIS’S PARTY
- LEWIS AND HIS MEN LEFT THE AREA, ESCAPING ANY RETALIATION.
- THIS EPISODE SOURED ANY CHANCE OF GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN THE BLACKFOOT AND THE AMERICANS

**THE HOOVES OF THE BUFFALO ARE BLACK**
LEWIS AND CLARK RETURN

- RACE BACK TO ST. LOUIS
- ARRIVE SEPTEMBER 23, 1806
- 8000 MILES TRAVELED

- MAPPED ENTIRE AREA
- USED “LINE OF SIGHT” APPROXIMATIONS
- ONLY OFF BY 4 MILES.
WHAT HAPPENED TO MERIWETHER LEWIS?

- Appointed Governor of Louisiana Territory
- Purchases in advance of the Corps of Discovery’s journey questioned in Congress.
- Close to bankruptcy if he has to pay these expenses.
- After three years had not finalize report of expedition
- In deep depression
- Shot twice, then cut himself from head to toe with a razor.
- Thought to be suicide
- Now, possibly murdered by Mr. Grinder and/or bandits
- No one really knows. But we do know....
- Died at Grinder’s tavern on the Natchez Trace in Tennessee at the age of 35.
WHAT HAPPENED TO WILLIAM CLARK?

- Married Julia Hancock on his return in 1808
- Took care of Sacagawea’s children after she died in 1812
- Governor of Missouri Territory until 1820
- Worked for fair treatment of the Indian Nations
- Died in 1838 of natural causes (age 68).
- Always respected for his maps and journals depicting the territory he explored.
ZEBULON PIKE
BECAUSE HE’S A JERSEY BOY

• 1805: SENT TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER: WRONGLY IDENTIFIES THE SOURCE AS LEECH LAKE

• 1806: SENT TOEXPLORE THE RED RIVER AND ARKANSAS REGION
  • EXPLORED SPANISH HOLDINGS IN THE WEST
  • ATTEMPTED TO SCALE THE PEAK (NAMED AFTER HIM): FAILED!
  • WENT SOUTH TO NEW MEXICO
  • ARRESTED BY SPANISH FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY AND SENT BACK TO THE BORDER IN LOUISIANA AND RELEASED.
  • REPORTED ON THE WEAKNESS OF SPANISH DEFENSES IN SANTA FE AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF TRADE IN THE REGION.
    • PROMOTED EXPANSIONIST MOVEMENT INTO TEXAS BY AMERICANS
    • SERVED AS A BRIGADIER GENERAL IN THE WAR OF 1812
      • KILLED IN THE BATTLE OF YORK (TORONTO) 1813.
By 1804, Jefferson was unquestioned success as a President. He was easily reelected.

Burr decided to run for governor of New York.

Hamilton criticized Burr

Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel

Burr shoots and kills Hamilton.

Burr’s term as Vice President was not quite over at the time of the duel.
The problem of the **Barbary Pirates**

For years, European countries have paid tribute for safe passage through the **Straits of Gibraltar**.

- America is broke.
- Trade in the Mediterranean hampered by lack of a Navy to protect merchant ships
  - **1785** (yes 1785) The US does not have its first President but we already have our first enemy!
- Merchant ships captured by Muslim Pirates from Algeria
  - The Maria
  - The Dauphin
- Crews taken captive and made slaves: In the case of Captain O’Brien and his crew 10 years in slavery
- Only way to freedom
  - Convert to Islam
  - Escape
  - Wait for country to negotiate release
  - Pay ransom
JEFFERSON’S RESPONSE

- Refuses to pay
- Barbary Pirates declare war on U.S.
- Jefferson doesn’t want to fight
  - Orders blockade of the port of Tripoli
  - Marines lead a group of mercenaries across Libya
- Need for a navy is evident
- Jefferson agrees to developing a stronger defense
PROBLEMS WITH GREAT BRITAIN

- **Policy of Impressment Continues**
  - **British Kidnap** American sailors and force them to work for the British Navy
  - **Chesapeake-Leopard Affair 1807**

- **Jefferson Calls for an Embargo Against Great Britain and France (Blockage of Trade).**

- **Embargo Act of 1807**
  - US merchants suffer because they can no longer trade with any foreign countries

- **Jefferson's Popularity Suffers**

- **Act Repealed**
  - **Non-Intercourse Act 1809:** Only prohibited trade with France and Great Britain
  - **Same Result:** Merchants lose

- **Macon’s Bill #2**
  - Re-affirmed our neutrality
  - Removed all embargoes for 3 months
  - Tried to motivate Great Britain and France to stop seizing our ships

- **Jefferson Leaves Office with Great Loss of Respect**
POST-PRESIDENCY

- Their differences during Adams’ presidency took its toll on their friendship
- Renews friendship with Adams
- Exchange letters over the years (thousands)
- Jefferson and Adams die on 4 July 1826, hours apart.
EPITAPH

Jefferson designed his own tombstone and epitaph

“Here was buried Thomas Jefferson,
Author of the Declaration of Independence,
of the Statute of Virginia for religious freedom,
and the Father of the University of Virginia.”

Comment on what is included and what is omitted
Where do we see Thomas Jefferson today?

- $2 bill
- Nickel
- Jefferson Memorial
- Mount Rushmore
- University of Virginia

But!
- Today, people want to remove all evidence of his contributions because he owned slaves.

What do you think?
ACTIVITY

- You have been selected to design a new postage stamp honoring a Thomas Jefferson. What will you draw?

OR

- Write an epitaph for one of the Following figures:
  - President Trump
  - An athlete of your choice
  - A famous musician of your choice
  - A teacher of your choice
  - Other public figure of your choice
WAR COMES TO AMERICA 2.0
NEXT UP: JAMES MADISON
JEFFERSON’S HAND-PICKED SUCCESSOR