

Chapter 16

The First President Begins His Work

1. The government that had operated under the Articles of Confederation was replaced by the new government set up by the Constitution.
2. An election was held in November of 1788. The members of the new government were elected. The new government was supposed to take power in March of 1789.
3. Because of bad roads, the new representatives were late getting to New York City, the new nation's first capital. The Congress didn't do any business until April.
4. One of the first things that Congress did was to tell George Washington he had been elected as the first President of the United States of America.
5. On April 30, 1789, Washington took the oath of office in New York City.
6. The old government had left the new one a pile of troubles with foreign nations, 70 unpaid clerks and an army of 672 men.
7. Money was one of the biggest problems facing Washington and his **administration** (the people who help the President). How would they raise money for the government to run?
8. The government owed millions of dollars to people and other nations. This had been borrowed during the Revolutionary War.
9. Washington appointed Alexander Hamilton to be Secretary of the Treasury, the man in charge of raising money.
10. Hamilton had been with Washington during the Revolutionary War. He had won a medal for bravery at the Battle of Yorktown. He also took part in writing the Constitution.
11. Hamilton told Congress that there were two good ways to get money. The government could borrow money or collect taxes.
12. Congress passed a law putting taxes on all trade goods coming into the nation. A tax on

foreign goods is called a **tariff**.

13. Congress also taxed some American goods, such as whiskey. America borrowed money by selling bonds to foreign nations and to rich Americans.
14. Hamilton wanted to set up a central National Bank to take care of the money problems of the nation. He said it would be easy to send money from a branch of the bank in one state to another branch in another state.
15. He also wanted the bank to be able to lend money to the national government if it was needed.
16. Thomas Jefferson, Washington's Secretary of State, was against the idea of a National Bank. He believed that the Constitution did not say it was all right and therefore it should not be done.



George Washington takes office as President.

Spotlight On George Washington

30. Most people grow up learning about George Washington. He's called **The Father of Our Country**, and **America's Best President**.

31. One of the best-known stories in American history is about Washington as a boy. In the story he chopped down one of his father's cherry trees with a small hatchet.

32. When asked by his father, Washington was reported to have said, "I cannot tell a lie. I did it with my hatchet."

33. Some people look at this story as proof that the good child grew up to be the great man.

34. But is the cherry tree story really true? Most historians are not sure.

35. The story first came to light in a book written by a minister in the Church of England, Mason Locke Weems, in 1806.

36. Weems said that he first heard the story from "an aged lady who was a distant relative of Washington's who, when a girl, spent much of her time in the family."

37. Ever since that time historians have been trying to find out if the story is true or a myth.

38. There is little proof that the cherry tree story ever really happened. There are many facts known about Washington, however.

39. He was born in Virginia in 1732, the son of a rich planter. Like other rich children in the Virginia colony, Washington went to school, rode horses, and learned about plantation life.

40. He stopped going to school at fourteen. He then became a surveyor, a man who measures land.

41. He took part in the French and Indian War and became an officer.

42. After the war he returned to his home at Mount Vernon, Virginia. He became a farmer,

and thought that his days of government service were over.

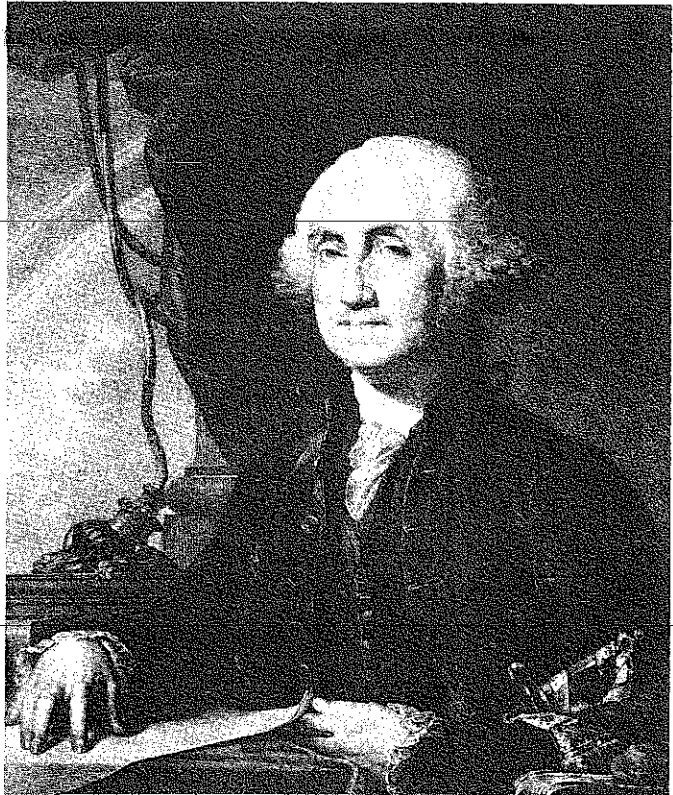
43. When the First Continental Congress was called in 1774, Washington was a delegate from Virginia.

44. After the Battle of Bunker Hill he was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the American army. He led the colonial soldiers to victory, then returned to his home in Virginia to take up farming again.

45. Five years later he was again a delegate to the Continental Congress. He was then made chairman of the Constitutional Convention.

46. Washington was elected to be the first President of the United States of America.

47. Whether the cherry tree story is true or not, Washington grew into a man who made his mark on American history.



George Washington, the first President of the United States.

17. He was also afraid that such a bank would control the **economy** (how a country makes money). He thought it would help rich Americans and hurt the small farmers and businessmen.

18. Hamilton won, and a National Bank was formed. It helped to make American business and the United States stronger in the eyes of the world.

Whiskey Revolt

19. Not all of Hamilton's ideas worked out as well as the National Bank. Many farmers in Pennsylvania made whiskey from grain. They did not like the tax on whiskey which Hamilton recommended and the Congress had passed.

20. Many farmers refused to pay the tax, and some attacked the tax collectors.

21. Washington had to send 12,000 **militiamen** (soldiers) from four states to Pennsylvania. The soldiers stopped the farmers and arrested some of them.

22. Two of the leaders of the farmers were found guilty of treason. However, Washington pardoned them both. They were allowed to return to their homes without being punished.

The First Political Parties

23. During this time, the first political parties began to form. Today the two main parties in the United States are the Democrats and the Republicans. In the days after the Revolutionary War the two parties were the **Federalists** and the **Democratic-Republicans**.

24. The Federalists were led by Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton did not trust the common people. He called **democracy** (the people's right to rule) a "poison".

25. Hamilton wanted the government to be run only by those who were educated and owned land. The others, he thought, were not smart enough to take part in choosing or running a government.

26. Hamilton wanted a strong federal government, courts, and an army and navy to "keep order".



The new government faced a revolt of grain farmers.

27. Thomas Jefferson was the leader of the Democratic-Republicans. He believed that the central government should leave many powers to the states.

28. He believed that the workers and farmers should have a loud voice in choosing and running the government. Jefferson wanted to educate everyone so that they could better take their place in America.

29. Washington held office as President for two four-year terms. By the time he left office the United States was a strong, up-and-coming nation.



Understanding What You Read

1. The first President of the United States was _____. (4)

2. One of the first problems of the new administration was:

- a. getting an army to fight the French and Spanish.
- b. raising money to support the new government.
- c. starting a bank.
- d. building ships.

My answer is _____. (7)

3. Congress passed a law putting a tax on all foreign goods. Such a tax is called a _____. (12)

4. Farmers in Pennsylvania did not like the government because it:

- a. set up a national bank.
- b. drafted many of them into the army.
- c. made New York City the new capital.
- d. put a tax on whiskey.

My answer is _____. (19)

5. Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson were on opposite sides in the new government because of their beliefs. Answer these questions by telling whether Jefferson or Hamilton would have been in favor of the statement:

a. America needs a central bank to help it do business. _____ (14)

b. Everybody should be educated so they can help run the government. _____ (28)

c. I am the leader of the Democratic-Republicans. _____ (27)

d. Democracy is a poison. _____ (24)

e. I am the leader of the Federalists. _____ (24)

f. Only those who are educated and own land should have a say in running the government.

_____ (25)

g. I want the states to have most of the power. _____ (27)

The ninth was _____. (33) That state ratified the Constitution, making it law, on _____. (33)

9. The three main arguments at the convention were over 1) _____, 2) _____, and 3) _____. (47)

10. The south wanted the Constitution to allow _____. (58) But the northern states refused. The south was promised that there would be no action against slavery for _____ years. (57)

11. **Map Skills:** Look at the map on pg. 89 and then answer the following questions:

a. The new border between America and her neighbors was the _____ River.

b. Much of the land to the west of America was owned by _____.

c. The land north of the new nation was owned by _____.

d. The only land east of the Mississippi River owned by another nation was owned by _____.

e. The land around the Rio Grande River was owned by _____.

f. Some land on the west coast was claimed by three countries, _____, _____, and _____.

g. Which country owned the most land in the Americas? _____.

h. I want the central federal government to have most of the power. _____ (26)

i. I want the farmers and workers to be able to run the government. _____ (28)

6. **Word Search Puzzle:** Find the hidden words in the puzzle below:

BANK	Y E K S I H W R Q A
CONGRESS	F N A G B C A E C B
DEMOCRATIC	E O C O D O S P I C
FEDERALIST	D T E V F N H U T D
GOVERNMENT	E L F E F G I B A F
HAMILTON	R I G R I R N L R H
REPUBLICAN	A M H N R E G I C J
TARIFF	L A K M A S T C O L
WASHINGTON	I H N E T S O A M N
WHISKEY	S I A N J K N N E P
	T L B T M N O P D R