

Name: _____

Date: _____

Document 1: Reporter's Account of Jefferson's Inauguration

The weather was mild and beautiful. Jefferson's dress was, as usual, that without any distinctive badge of office. He broke precedent by walking to and from his swearing-in ceremony, rather than riding in a carriage as Washington and Adams did. A simple man of the people—he was even seen without his powdered wig at the Inaugural Ball.



1. Based on the document above, what claim could be made about whether Jefferson was a successful president?

2. What evidence did you use from the document, context and/or sourcing to make this claim?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Document 2: Letter from Jefferson on Slaves

To Edward Coles [Monticello Aug. 25. 1814]

Man, probably of any colour, but of this color (black) we know, brought up from their infancy without necessity for thought or forecast, are by their habits rendered (made) as incapable as children of taking care of themselves. In the meantime they are pests in society by their idleness (being without a job)... Their combination with the other colour (white) produces a disgrace which no lover of this country, no lover of excellence in the human character can innocently approve of...

1. Based on the document above, what claim could be made about whether Jefferson was a successful president?

2. What evidence did you use from the document, context and/or sourcing to make this claim?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Document 3

Document 3: Jefferson's Proposal for a Bill

"My bill proposes: Elementary schools in every county, which shall place every householder within three miles of a school...To all of which is added a selection from the elementary schools of subjects of the most promising genius, whose parents are too poor to give them further education, to be carried at the public expense...The object is to bring into action that mass of talents which lies buried in poverty in every country..."

1. Based on the document above, what claim could be made about whether Jefferson was a successful president?

2. What evidence did you use from the document, context and/or sourcing to make this claim?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Document 4: Slaves on Jefferson's Plantation

Jefferson lived in Virginia on a plantation called Monticello. About eighty slaves lived and worked at Monticello. They plowed the fields, planted the wheat, and drove the wagons. They cared for the hogs and cows. Household slaves fixed food for Thomas Jefferson and his family. They washed his clothes and cared for his children. The lives of Jefferson and his family were linked with the lives of his enslaved workers.

By law, Jefferson's slaves were his property. That meant he could buy and sell them. He could give them away. He could hire them out to other farmers. Slaves who didn't obey were punished. And Jefferson granted freedom to only seven slaves.



1. Based on the document above, what claim could be made about whether Jefferson was a successful president?

2. What evidence did you use from the document, context and/or sourcing to make this claim?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Document 5: Memoirs of Madison Hemings [1873]

About the time of [Thomas Jefferson's appointment as minister to France] and before he was ready to leave the country his wife died, and soon after her burial...he left for France, taking his eldest daughter with him. My mother [Sally Hemings] accompanied Jefferson's daughter as a servant...Their stay was about eighteen months. But during that time my mother became Mr. Jefferson's lover, and when she was called back home she was *enceinte* [i.e. pregnant] by him. He desired to bring my mother back to Virginia with him but she objected. She was just beginning to understand the French language well, and in France she was free, while if she returned to Virginia she would be re-enslaved. So she refused to return with him. To induce her to do so he promised extraordinary privileges, and made a solemn pledge that her children should be freed at the age of twenty-one years. In consequence of his promise...she returned with him to Virginia. Soon after their arrival, she gave birth to a child, of whom Thomas Jefferson was the father. It lived but a short time. She gave birth to four others, and Jefferson was the father of all of them. Their names were Beverly, Harriet, Madison (myself), and Eston--three sons and one daughter. We all became free agreeably to the treaty entered into by our parents before we were born. We all married and have raised families....

1. Based on the document above, what claim could be made about whether Jefferson was a successful president?

2. What evidence did you use from the document, context and/or sourcing to make this claim?

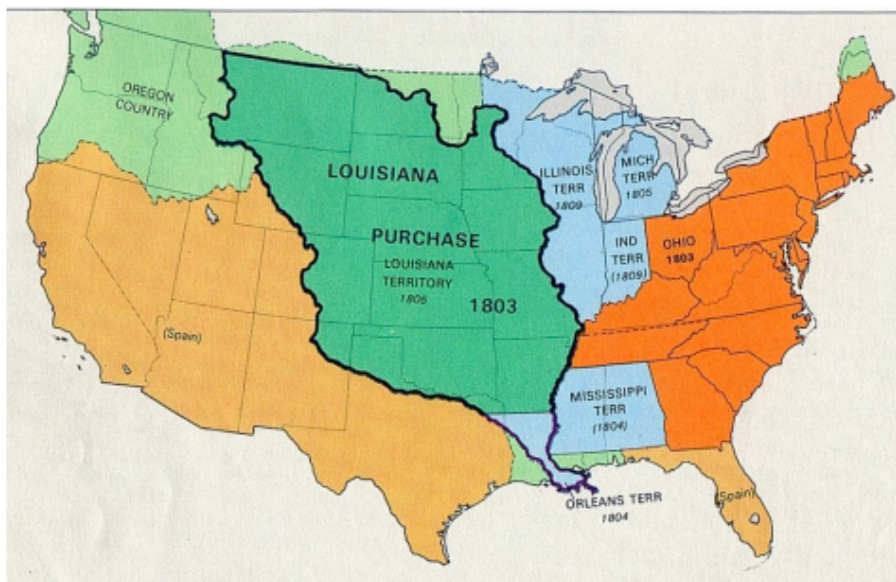
Name: _____

Date: _____

Document 6: Louisiana Purchase

Finalizing the deal with France had no Constitutional precedent. Nowhere in the Constitution could Jefferson find mention of the purchase of land from foreign powers. Jefferson struggled over whether to suggest an amendment or whether to finalize the deal without constitutional approval. In a letter to Wilson Cary Nicholas in 1803, Jefferson summarizes his internal conflict:

"When an instrument admits two constructions, the one safe, the other dangerous, the one precise, the other indefinite, I prefer that which is safe & precise. I had rather ask an enlargement of power from the nation where it is found necessary, than to assume it by a construction which would make our powers boundless."



Eventually, Jefferson was convinced by advisers, including Thomas Paine (*Common Sense*) that the transaction was not beyond the scope of the Constitution. Jefferson purchased the land from France in 1803 and effectively doubled the size of the U.S.

1. Based on the document above, what claim could be made about the effects of European Exploration?

2. What evidence did you use from the document, context and/or sourcing to make this claim?
