**THE PRESIDENCY OF JOHN ADAMS**

John Adams had not passed his eight years as vice president quietly. He had made enemies in the Senate because his long speeches and lectures to the Senate angered some and his desire for ceremony. Additionally, his party connections were troubling, for even though he declared himself a strong member of the Federalist Party, he sometimes aligned with the other party as well.

**The Election of 1796**

During the second election, in 1792, Adams received seventy-seven votes for vice president, slightly more than his first time around. However, by the time 1796 rolled around, and with Washington set to step down from the presidency, the situation in Washington looked bad. The Anti-Federalists political party started rumors that the Federalists political were attempting to start a dynasty by marrying off John Adams' daughter to Britain's King George III!

The 1796 presidential race would be the first race for the presidency in the country's history. (George Washington was elected as the first President with everyone’s vote.)

Despite warnings from the departing President Washington that political parties would destroy the country, the Federalists and the Anti-Federalists (Republicans), lined up behind their respective candidates: John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. Additionally, Thomas Pinckney, a former representative to Great Britain and a Federalist, and Aaron Burr, a Republican, also entered the race.

As the election neared, much of the Northern states supported Adams for president and Pinckney for vice president. The final vote was Adams, seventy-one, Jefferson sixty-eight, Pinckney fifty-eight, and Burr 30. For the only time ever in America's history, the president and vice president were from different parties.

**The Conrtovery over Jay’sTreaty**

Jay's Treaty of 1794, provided for the removal of British troops from lands claimed by America. It became a key topic of discussion. While seen as largely unsuccessful then, many felt the treaty prevented another war with Britain. Most importantly, perhaps, some viewed it as the beginning of a new alliance with England, and the French heartily disapproved.

John Adams was inaugurated as president of the United States on March 4, 1797, at Federal Hall in Philadelphia (then the nation's capital). He would spend almost all of his presidency in the old city, while a new capital was built on a swamp in an area named Washington, D.C. Adams moved to the new capital, and the new presidential mansion, in the closing months of his term.

Humbled by his slim electoral victory, Adams began his administration by working for cooperation between political parties. He reached out to Jefferson, his defeated opponent (and now vice president) and worked to mend fences with his fellow Federalists. With no precedent on how to appoint a new Cabinet, Adams kept Washington's former Cabinet.

One issue, however, stood above all others in Adams' administration: pending disagreements and possible war with France.

**A war with France?**

The ruling party of France, had ordered attacks on U.S. shipping in response to Jay's Treaty. By June 1797, the French had seized over three hundred American ships. They had broken off diplomatic relations with the U.S. Many Americans were growing to see war with France as inevitable, and Adams found himself under increasing pressure to act.

Washington had continually pushed to stay out of international affairs, stressing in his Farewell Address that the country should remain free of international entanglements and concentrate on forming a solid government at home. Adams, though, found this advice hard to follow. He began preparations to put the country on an alert for war while his envoys began trying to work out a deal with France.

In January 1798 he proposed the creation of a navy department and asked that Congress appropriate enough money to arm the military for war.

It appeared that war with France was all-but inevitable

**THE PRESIDENCY OF JOHN ADAMS**

1.    How long did Adams serve as Vice President

2.    Why did he anger member of the Senate?

3.    What “rumor” did the Senate start

4.    Why was 1796 considered the first real Presidential race in our country’s history

5.    Who did the Federalists support in this election?

6.    Who did the Anti-federalists support?

7.    When the election was over, who became Vice President?

 8.    What was Jay’s treaty supposed to do

9.    Why did some people disapprove of it?

 10. Where was Adams inaugurated as President

11. Why did the French attack US shipping?

12. How many American ships did they take?

 13. What did Washington say before he died about getting involved in foreign affairs

14. What did Adams do to strengthen our military?