

**Graphic Organizer for Lesson One**  
**Individual Differences Between Jefferson and Hamilton**

| Categories  | Jefferson | Hamilton |
|---|-----------|----------|
| Family Life   |           |          |
| Education   |           |          |
| Early Career  |           |          |
| Participation in Revolution   |           |          |
| Work During The Years Leading to Cabinet Appointment (1783 to 1789) |           |          |
| Views on how America's economic system should be structured         |           |          |
| Relationship with Washington  |           |          |

## **Lesson One**

### **Biography of Thomas Jefferson**

Source: <https://www.monticello.org/site/jefferson/thomas-jefferson-brief-biography>

Thomas Jefferson -- author of the Declaration of Independence and the Statute of Virginia for Religious Freedom, third president of the United States, and founder of the University of Virginia -- voiced the aspirations of a new America as no other individual of his era. As public official, historian, philosopher, and plantation owner, he served his country for over five decades.

His father Peter Jefferson was a successful planter and surveyor and his mother Jane Randolph a member of one of Virginia's most distinguished families. Having inherited a considerable landed estate from his father, Jefferson began building Monticello when he was twenty-six years old. Three years later, he married Martha Wayles Skelton, with whom he lived happily for ten years until her death. Their marriage produced six children, but only two survived to adulthood. Jefferson, who never remarried, maintained Monticello as his home throughout his life, always expanding and changing the house.

Jefferson inherited slaves from both his father and father-in-law. In a typical year, he owned about 200, almost half of them under the age of sixteen. About eighty of these lived at Monticello; the others lived on adjacent Albemarle County plantations, and on his Poplar Forest estate in Bedford County, Virginia. Jefferson freed two slaves in his lifetime and five in his will and chose not to pursue two others who ran away. All were members of the Hemings family; the seven he eventually freed were skilled tradesmen.

Having attended the College of William and Mary, Jefferson practiced law and served in local government as a magistrate, county lieutenant, and member of the House of Burgesses in his early professional life. As a member of the Continental Congress, he was chosen in 1776 to draft the Declaration of Independence, which has been regarded ever since as a charter of American and universal liberties. The document proclaims that all men are equal in rights, regardless of birth, wealth, or status, and that the government is the servant, not the master, of the people.

After Jefferson left Congress in 1776, he returned to Virginia and served in the legislature. Elected governor from 1779 to 1781, he suffered an inquiry into his conduct during his last year in office that, although finally fully repudiated, left him with a life-long prickliness in the face of criticism.

During the brief private interval in his life following his governorship, Jefferson wrote Notes on the State of Virginia. In 1784, he entered public service again, in France, first as trade commissioner and then as Benjamin Franklin's successor as minister. During this period, he avidly studied European culture, sending home to Monticello, books, seeds and plants, statues

and architectural drawings, scientific instruments, and information.

In 1790 he accepted the post of secretary of state under his friend George Washington. His tenure was marked by his opposition to the pro-British policies of Alexander Hamilton. In 1796, as the presidential candidate of the Democratic Republicans, he became vice-president after losing to John Adams by three electoral votes.

Four years later, he defeated Adams and became president, the first peaceful transfer of authority from one party to another in the history of the young nation. Perhaps the most notable achievements of his first term were the purchase of the Louisiana Territory in 1803 and his support of the Lewis and Clark expedition. His second term, a time when he encountered more difficulties on both the domestic and foreign fronts, is most remembered for his efforts to maintain neutrality in the midst of the conflict between Britain and France; his efforts did not avert war with Britain in 1812.

Jefferson was succeeded as president in 1809 by his friend James Madison, and during the last seventeen years of his life, he remained at Monticello. During this period, he sold his collection of books to the government to form the nucleus of the Library of Congress. Jefferson embarked on his last great public service at the age of seventy-six, with the founding of the University of Virginia. He spearheaded the legislative campaign for its charter, secured its location, designed its buildings, planned its curriculum, and served as the first rector.

Jefferson died on July 4, 1826, just hours before his close friend John Adams, on the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. He was eighty-three years old, the holder of large debts, but according to all evidence a very optimistic man.

It was Jefferson's wish that his tomb stone reflect the things that he had given the people, not the things that the people had given to him. It is for this reason that Thomas Jefferson's epitaph reads:

HERE WAS BURIED  
THOMAS JEFFERSON  
AUTHOR OF THE  
DECLARATION  
OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE  
OF THE  
STATUTE OF VIRGINIA  
FOR  
RELIGIOUS FREEDOM  
AND FATHER OF THE  
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA  
BORN APRIL 2, 1743 O.S.  
DIED JULY 4. 1826

## **Lesson One**

### **Biography of Alexander Hamilton**

Source: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/duel/peopleevents/pande06.html>

This Founding Father came to America alone at age 15. He fought at Washington's side in the Revolution, helped ensure the ratification of the Constitution, and saved the fledgling United States from financial ruin. He died in a tragic duel with his political rival, Aaron Burr.

Alexander Hamilton was born on January 11, 1757, in Nevis, British West Indies. His father, James Hamilton, was a Scottish trader. His mother, a French woman named Rachel Fawcett Lavine, was married to another man, John Michael Lavine, at the time of Alexander's birth. She had been cast out of Mr. Lavine's home for adultery. When Alexander was still an infant, James Hamilton abandoned his family. They struggled to survive.

Owing to his intelligence and willingness to work, Alexander Hamilton quickly rose above his station. At age 11, he went to work as a clerk in a countinghouse owned by a St. Croix businessman, Nicholas Cruger. Impressed with the boy, Cruger joined with a minister, the Reverend Hugh Knox, to send young Hamilton to study in America.

In the fall of 1773, at age 16, Hamilton entered King's College, which would later be renamed Columbia. In 1774, as the Colonies swept toward revolution, he left school to begin a career in politics. That year he wrote "A Full Vindication of the Measures of Congress," which defended the First Continental Congress' proposal to embargo trade with Great Britain.

In 1776, after the Revolutionary War began, Hamilton received a captain's commission in the Continental Army. He raised an artillery company of his own and proved his bravery at the Battles of Long Island, White Plains, and Trenton.

George Washington was among those who recognized Hamilton's leadership capabilities. In 1777 Hamilton accepted a position on Washington's staff. At the time of Hamilton's appointment, the Army was plagued by poor organization and a lack of financing. The prescient Hamilton, realizing that these problems would also plague the liberated colonies unless they were solved, began to search for solutions.

Alexander Hamilton served admirably throughout the war. During this time he found love in the person of Elizabeth Schuyler, daughter of a powerful New York landholder and military officer, Philip Schuyler. Alexander and Elizabeth married in 1780. For the most part, their marriage was a happy one, but later it would suffer from Hamilton's infidelity.

Following the war, Hamilton passed the New York bar and set up practice in New York City. Among his first clients were Loyalists, people who kept their allegiance to the King of England during the war. At the war's end, many New York rebels returned to find their homes and businesses occupied by Loyalists. Under the Trespass Act, these people could sue Loyalists for compensation for the use of and damage to their property. Hamilton's powerful defense of Loyalists helped establish principles of due process and ensure the Trespass Act's repeal.

In 1787 delegates met in Philadelphia to repair the weak Articles of Confederation, which were failing to hold the union together. Hamilton, a New York delegate, believed that the solution to the problem involved creating a stronger central government and providing a steady revenue stream for this government.

Although Hamilton had little influence on the writing of the Constitution, he was a driving force for its ratification. Along with John Jay and James Madison, Hamilton wrote "The Federalist," a series of essays that defended the yet-to-be-approved Constitution. Hamilton composed more than two-thirds of the 85 essays, which were published in New York newspapers in 1787-88. Later in 1788, Hamilton attended the New York ratification convention. Using his considerable skill as an orator, he turned back an overwhelming Anti-Federalist tide to win ratification.

Upon his election in 1789, George Washington chose Alexander Hamilton as the nation's first Treasury secretary. Hamilton crafted a monetary policy that undoubtedly saved the nation from ruin. Among the features of the Hamilton plan were the payment of federal war bonds, the assumption of state debts by the federal government, and the creation of a mechanism for collecting taxes.

During his tenure as Treasury secretary, Hamilton clashed repeatedly with another cabinet member, Thomas Jefferson. Hamilton favored a powerful central government while Jefferson feared it; Hamilton favored closer

relations with Britain, and Jefferson, with France. The men would both resign their Cabinet posts before the end of Washington's first term. They would remain lifelong political enemies.

Hamilton might have risen to the presidency if not for a scandal in 1797. A pamphlet published that year revealed Hamilton's affair with a woman named Maria Reynolds and linked him to a scheme by Reynolds' husband to illegally manipulate federal securities. To prove his innocence, Hamilton resorted to publishing love letters he had written to Maria Reynolds. This cleared Hamilton of financial impropriety, but badly damaged his reputation. The scandal did not stop George Washington from appointing Hamilton acting commander of the U.S. Army in 1798 when the country was on the brink of war with France.

In 1800 Hamilton's old enemy, Aaron Burr, obtained and published a confidential document Hamilton had written that was highly critical of Federalist John Adams, then president. Publication of the article created a rift in the Federalist party, helping Republicans Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr to win the race for presidency. But since the two men tied in electoral votes, it was up to Congress to decide the outcome. Hamilton lobbied Congressional federalists to vote for Jefferson, to little effect. Still, Congress chose Jefferson as president. Burr assumed the vice presidency.

In the New York gubernatorial race of 1804, Hamilton again clashed with Aaron Burr. Burr ran as an independent. Hamilton feared that Burr would eclipse him in the Federalist leadership. He spoke out against the vice president, and New York Republicans George and DeWitt Clinton led a brutal media campaign against Burr. The Clintons, not Hamilton, were responsible for Burr's defeat.

Still, after reading in a newspaper that Hamilton had expressed a "despicable opinion" about him during the campaign, Burr challenged Hamilton to a duel. They met on the dueling grounds at Weehawken, New Jersey on July 11, 1804. Both men fired their pistols; only Hamilton was hit. He died of his wounds the next day.

**Lesson One**  
**Jefferson and Hamilton on Industry**

Jefferson (1787)

I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries; as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America. when they get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, they will become corrupt as in Europe.

Source: <http://tjrs.monticello.org/letter/1300>

Hamilton (1791)

It has been maintained that agriculture is, not only, the most productive but the only productive species of industry. The reality of this suggestion, in either respect, has, however, not been verified by any accurate detail of facts and calculations; and the general arguments, which are adduced to prove it, are rather subtil [sic] and paradoxical, than solid or convincing.

Source: Hamilton's Report on the Subject of Manufactures, 1791

## **Lesson One**

### **Jefferson and Washington**

Source: <http://www.mountvernon.org/digital-encyclopedia/article/thomas-jefferson/>

Martha Washington often recalled the two saddest days of her life. The first was December 14, 1799 when her husband died. The second was in January 1801 when Thomas Jefferson visited Mount Vernon. As a close friend explained, "She assured a party of gentlemen, of which I was one. . .that next to the loss of her husband" Jefferson's visit was the "most painful occurrence of her life."<sup>1</sup>

She had come to dislike Jefferson for his frequent attacks on President George Washington as a monarchist bent on destroying the rule of the people and a senile follower of the policies of Alexander Hamilton. Jefferson even refused to attend memorial services for the President, saying in private that the "republican spirit" in the nation might revive now that Washington was dead and the Federalists could no longer hide behind his heroic image.<sup>2</sup>

Such animosity had not always existed between the two men. Instead they were once friends who had much in common. Born in 1743, Jefferson, like Washington, was a tall redhead from the middling planter class. After attending William and Mary and studying law, he served in the House of Burgesses. He, too, raised his status by marrying a wealthy widow, Martha Wayles Skelton.

Jefferson considered himself a farmer and spent his life improving his plantations, especially Monticello, just as Washington cared for Mount Vernon. But it was in his devotion to the cause of the American Revolution that Jefferson most resembled Washington. As a member of the Continental Congress, Jefferson was recognized for his brilliant writing, expressed most clearly in the Declaration of Independence. He later served in Virginia's assembly, where he ended primogeniture, entail, and established religion, and then later became Governor. Back in the Confederation Congress, he helped draft legislation that opened the west for settlement. In 1784, he was appointed ambassador to France.

Jefferson returned to the United States in November 1789 to serve as Washington's Secretary of State. His troubles with Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton began almost immediately. He questioned Hamilton's plan for funding and considered the Bank of the United States unconstitutional. As the French Revolution grew more violent, Jefferson continued to support an alliance with France against Hamilton who favored closer ties with Great Britain. He even came to believe that Hamilton and his Federalists were bent on restoring a monarchy in the United States and that Washington had fallen completely under their spell.

In 1793, Jefferson resigned from Washington's cabinet. Soon the leader of the Democratic-Republican Party, he became Vice President in 1796 and President in 1801. In his inaugural address, he called Washington "our first and greatest revolutionary character, whose preeminent services had entitled him to the first place in his country's love." Back at Mount

Vernon, Martha Washington dismissed Jefferson's "sarcastic" remarks, claiming his election was the "greatest misfortune our nation has ever experienced."<sup>3</sup> Jefferson served for two terms, with the 1803 Louisiana Purchase being his greatest accomplishment, before retiring to Virginia where he died in 1826.

Mary Stockwell, Ph.D.

Notes:

1. Quoted in Ron Chernow, *Washington: A Life* (New York: Penguin Press, 2010), 816.
2. Dumas Malone, *Jefferson and the Ordeal of Liberty* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1962), 443.
3. Quoted in Chernow, 816.

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Chernow, Ron. *Washington: A Life*. New York: Penguin Press, 2010.

Malone, Dumas. *Jefferson and the Ordeal of Liberty*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1962.

Jefferson: Writings. Ed. Merrill D. Peterson. New York: Library of America, 1984.

## Lesson One Hamilton's Relationship with Washington

Source: [http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/hamilton/peopleevents/e\\_washington.html](http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/hamilton/peopleevents/e_washington.html)

Though they worked in close proximity for years, Alexander Hamilton and George Washington never became close friends; different positions and different personalities prevented it. However, they gave each other things that were perhaps more valuable. In Hamilton, Washington found a brilliant administrator who could help bring order to an unruly army, and later an entire government. Hamilton, in turn, received a shield, a patron who through his rank was able to provide protection from the critics that Hamilton's temperament and policies invariably created.

From his youth, Hamilton had sought glory; as a frustrated 14-year-old clerk in the Caribbean, he had written, "I wish there was a War." Within two years of his 1773 arrival in America, war had indeed broken out, and Hamilton quickly joined the effort. Hamilton became the captain of an artillery company created by New York's provincial congress. He may have first attracted the attention of Continental Army Commander Washington during the retreat from New York. After Hamilton served in the battles of Trenton and Princeton, Washington promoted him to lieutenant colonel and made him aide-de-camp, one of a small circle of staff known as Washington's "family." The aides lived and worked together, developing an easy comradeship and telling nicknames; Hamilton was dubbed "the little Lion."

Washington would come to be a father figure to all Americans, but he did not act the part of parent to his staff, preferring to keep a dignified distance. He did, though, seem to show Hamilton special attention. For his part, Hamilton disliked being in a position of "personal dependence" on another man. Their contrasting temperaments prevented any close friendship from developing between the 22-year-old aide and the General, twice his age, whom Hamilton always addressed as "Your Excellency." Washington was prudent and reserved, with excellent judgment. He sought conciliation and accepted compromise. Hamilton was brilliant and decisive, but prone to rashness. When he believed himself right (which was nearly all of the time), he gave no quarter and could not keep quiet. Washington recognized Hamilton's talents and made use of them; as the General told Congress, he needed "persons who can think for me, as well as execute orders." Hamilton could seamlessly interpret Washington's commands, put them into words, and fill in the necessary blanks. And he could do it quickly; Washington's staff sometimes sent out 100 letters a day. The General, who had already achieved the sort of acclaim and stature that his young aide was desperate to acquire, also limited Hamilton's trajectory, refusing his many requests for a field command. That would lead to a rift between them.

After nearly four years as another sort of clerk, Hamilton was desperate to break free of Washington's "family." The incident that gave him that chance is almost comical in hindsight; during a meeting in February 1781, Hamilton left Washington's side to deliver a letter, only to be delayed by the Marquis de Lafayette on his way back. He arrived to find Washington glaring

down at him from the top of a staircase, declaring that Hamilton treated him with "disrespect." Since you have told me so, Hamilton replied, "we must part," and he resigned his post, refusing Washington's prompt attempts to smooth over the breach. Letters written in the aftermath show an injured young man's venom; for "three years past I have felt no friendship for [him] and have professed none." But Washington still commanded the army that held the surest path to Hamilton's glory, and Hamilton firmly believed in the American cause, so he soon returned to duty, eventually receiving the field assignment he so desperately wanted and leading a successful assault on the British position at the decisive battle of Yorktown. Hamilton left active service a mere two months later, and for a few years his correspondence with Washington became sporadic. But Hamilton's legal and financial achievements in the 1780s, as well as his key role in the authorship of *The Federalist*, did not escape notice, and after becoming the nation's first president in 1789, Washington tapped Hamilton to be his Treasury Secretary.

This time, perhaps because Hamilton occupied a less subordinate position and Washington made no claim to extensive economic knowledge, their collaboration truly flourished. With Washington's support, Hamilton acted as de facto prime minister for the new government, running both the Treasury and Customs Service and convincing the president to approve ideas, like a national bank, that were bitterly opposed by other Cabinet members. The president's popularity provided Hamilton with cover from critics who otherwise might have been able to sabotage his policies. Even after he left government service, Hamilton continued to work with Washington, drafting much of Washington's celebrated farewell address. An esteem grew between the men, even if it never rose to great personal warmth. During the height of popular scandal over the 1797 public disclosure of Hamilton's affair with Maria Reynolds, Washington sent his former aide wine and his expression of "sincere regard and friendship." A year later, when Washington was made head of the U.S. Army during a period of growing tension with France, the general conditioned his acceptance on Hamilton's being appointed second-in-command. Washington's death in late 1799 left Hamilton increasingly alone and vulnerable to political attacks; "he was an aegis very essential to me," Hamilton candidly wrote, and he would suffer without the great man's protection.