

Name: _____

The Ultimate Guide to the Presidents: “Assume the Position” - 1789-1825

George Washington

00:00-19:45

1. What made this new office of president so different in the world?
2. The Founding Fathers established strong courts, a strong legislature, but planned for a weak executive. Why?
3. Why did the Founding Fathers create the Electoral College?
4. Why did Washington create a cabinet of advisors?
5. Why was the location of the new nation’s capital city controversial?
6. Washington wanted to leave the presidency after his first term. Why?
7. War broke out in Europe, prompting Washington to respond. What did he choose to do and why do you think he chose that action?
8. What precedent did the above proclamation set?
9. What significant precedent did Washington set upon leaving office?
10. As a general rule, how did the Founding Fathers view political parties?

John Adams

19:45-25:45

11. Adams had a great background that made him appear perfect for the presidency. What made him seem so able on paper?
12. What characteristics did he lack?
13. What did the Alien & Sedition Acts do? Why were these acts especially problematic?

Thomas Jefferson

25:45-31:15

14. Historian Libby O'Connell said, "One of the things that Jefferson brings [to the presidency] is this sense of acting out democracy." What do you think she means by this?
15. What power did the Supreme Court claim in Marbury vs. Madison? What was this power and how did it work (Be precise... try explaining it to another person to see if you really understand it)
16. In what ways did the Louisiana Purchase represent a challenge to Jefferson's principles?

James Madison

31:15-37:34

17. Describe James Madison.
18. How did Dolly Madison define the role of first lady?
19. The U.S. declared war against Britain in 1812. Why was this a huge problem for the U.S.?
20. In August of 1814, the British captured Washington, D.C. and set fire to the White House. How do you think this impacted Americans psychologically?
21. How did the War of 1812 change the way Americans viewed themselves?

James Monroe

37:34-44:10

22. In what ways was James Monroe the last of his kind?
23. What issue had the previous presidents avoided that Monroe had to finally confront? Why did he have to confront it?
24. What did Monroe claim in the Monroe Doctrine?
25. How did the post-Monroe time represent a new era for the presidency?