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Crash Course US History #10

Thomas Jefferson & His Democracy

1. What was the election of 1800 a first for?
2. What was Gabriel’s Rebellion?
3. What changes did Virginia make in regards to its slave laws?
4. *Mystery Document:* Why is this document important?
5. What was Jefferson’s vision for his term as president?
6. Why was Chief Marshall’s decision in Marbury v. Madison so important?
7. How did Jefferson and the Republicans view the Constitution?
8. *Thought Bubble:* How did the Louisiana Purchase contradict Jefferson’s interpretation of the Constitution?
9. How did Jefferson’s embargo backfire?

ANSWER KEY

1. What was the election of 1800 a first for?

It was the first election where both parties ran candidates and actually campaigned

1. What was Gabriel’s Rebellion?

Organized by a Richmond, VA blacksmith who hoped to seize the capital, kill some of its inhabitants, and hold the rest hostage until his demands for abolition were met; the plot was discovered, Gabriel & 25 others were killed

1. What changes did Virginia make in regards to its slave laws?

It became illegal for slaves to meet in groups on Sundays unless supervised by whites, and much more difficult for whites to free their slaves

1. *Mystery Document:* Why is this document important?

As a description of Gabriel’s Rebellion, it suggested a solution for the inherent problem of rebellious slaves: set up a colony for them in Indian Territory in Georgia

1. What was Jefferson’s vision for his term as president?

Make the government smaller, lower taxes, shrink the military, make it possible for America to become a bucolic, agrarian, empire of liberty

1. Why was Chief Marshall’s decision in Marbury v. Madison so important?

The Supreme Court gave itself the power of judicial review, which allows it to uphold or invalidate federal laws

1. How did Jefferson and the Republicans view the Constitution?

Strict constructionists – the Constitution should be read as literally as possible as a way of limiting the power of the federal government

1. *Thought Bubble:* How did the Louisiana Purchase contradict Jefferson’s interpretation of the Constitution?

As a strict constructionist, he would have had to reconcile the obviously beneficial act with there being no mention in the Constitution of the president being able to purchase land in order to expand the size of the US

1. How did Jefferson’s embargo backfire?

Britain and France were too busy fighting to notice the embargo, exports dropped by 80%, not being able to import European goods spurred American manufacturing