

John Adams

Second President of the United States

John Adams

- Born: October 30, 1735
 - Died: July 4, 1826
 - He was 90 years old at his death.
 - President: 1797 – 1801
 - Yearly Salary as President: \$25,000.00
 - Was one of the main people to convince the Continental congress to accept the Declaration of Independence.
 - George Washington's Vice President
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President

- Was elected in 1796
 - Was the first partisan election
 - Adams stayed in his home town of Quincy rather than actively campaign for the Presidency
 - This is how election were done in this time
 - His party did the campaigning for him
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President

- Elections were not done as they are today
 - Each man running for president had a vice president
 - The men did not run as a unit
 - Man with most votes became president
 - Man with second most votes became vice president
 - Did not mean one of the pairs would be elected
 - His vice president was Thomas Jefferson
 - Jefferson was his competition.
 - He won it 71 to 68
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Policies

- In 1794 the French began to attack and capture American merchant ships
 - France wanted America to pay tribute to stop the capture
 - The tribute was demanded through 3 agents
 - Adams refused to pay the tribute
 - He said that the United States would not pay even a sixpence
 - A sixpence is worth 6 cents
 - Adams called this the XYZ Affair
 - He called it after the three French agents that he refused to call by name.
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War with France

- This was an Undeclared War
 - Led to the establishment of the Navy Department in 1798
 - Money was spent on Warships
 - 4 – 44 gun frigates were built
 - 2 – 36 gun fast frigates
 - USS Constitution was the 3rd 44 gun ship built
 - Several naval battles take place between 1798 and 1800
 - US Ships handle themselves very well
 - Hostilities end in September 1800
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Alien and Sedition Acts

- Alien – any person from another country
 - Sedition – activities aimed at weakening a government
 - War with France made American suspicious of all people from foreign lands
 - Some people wondered if people originally from France would remain loyal if there was a war with France
 - Acts were passed in 1798
 - Were not popular with many people
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Acts

- Alien Act
 - Allowed the president to imprison Aliens
 - Naturalization Act
 - Said that people had to live in the US for 14 years before they could become a citizen
 - Sedition Act
 - Made it a crime to speak, write or publish “false, scandalous and malicious” information about the government
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Repercussions

- Gives the Democratic-Republican party a means to fight the Federalist party
 - Scared many people that thought the Federal Government had too much power
 - Leads to states fighting the Federal laws
 - All three acts are declared unconstitutional
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