

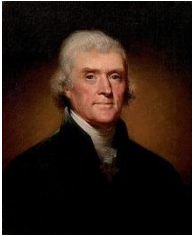
Module: American Civilization



Level: 3rd year

Teacher: **MRS. HADDAD MIMOUNA**

Course: Thomas Jefferson's Presidency



Thomas Jefferson is often noted as one of the best presidents in history. In this lesson, you will learn about some of his greatest achievements as president.

1. Who is Thomas Jefferson?

- a. Born on April 13, 1743 and died on July 4, 1826.
- b. One of the founding fathers of America.
- c. First *U.S. Secretary of State* (1790 – 1793) under President George Washington and *U.S. Vice President* (1797–1801) under President John Adams.
- d. He served as the third [president of the United States](#) from 1801 to 1809.
- e. He was a Democratic-Republican.

2. What did Jefferson accomplish as president?

a. *The Louisiana Purchase*: One of his greatest accomplishments was the *Louisiana Purchase*. President **Thomas Jefferson** first tried to purchase (buy) just New Orleans. Napoleon ignored him until Jefferson threatened to join forces with Great Britain, France's worst enemy. Napoleon also needed money to pay for the many wars he was fighting. For these reasons, he offered to sell the entire Louisiana Territory. The price was about \$15 million. This amounted to only three cents per acre. The Louisiana Purchase extended United States sovereignty across the Mississippi River, nearly doubling the nominal size of the country. The Louisiana Purchase added 828,000 square miles (2,144,520 square kilometers) to the United States. The purchase included land from fifteen present [U.S. states](#) and two [Canadian provinces](#). These states

were **Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota,** and **Wyoming.**

For better understanding watch this video: **The Making of a Nation: Louisiana Purchase**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L7PpqvuUSoA>

Historical Background about Louisiana

*A French explorer named **La Salle** had claimed Louisiana for France in 1682. He named the territory after the French king Louis XIV. It originally included land on both sides of the Mississippi River.

*In 1762 France gave the part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi to Spain. The rest they gave to **Great Britain**. It became part of the United States after the **American Revolution**.

*In the late 1700s settlers from the eastern part of the United States started moving into the area. Spain allowed them to use the Mississippi River and the port city of **New Orleans**, near the river's mouth.

*In 1801 the powerful French leader **Napoleon** got the territory back. This worried the U.S. settlers. They were afraid that France might try to interfere with traffic on the river.

*Before the Louisiana Purchase, the **United States** was much smaller than it is today. However; the purchase doubled the size of the United States.

*b. Exploring the West: **Lewis and Clark Expedition*** : Thomas Jefferson accomplished what may be his most enduring legacy as president: the successful completion of the **Lewis and Clark Expedition**. The president hired his secretary, **Meriwether Lewis**, and Lewis' friend, **William Clark**, to lead the expedition. The **Lewis and Clark Expedition** set out to explore the new territory. The expedition lasted from August 31, 1803 to September 25, 1806, also known as the **Corps of Discovery Expedition**, which was the first expedition to cross the western portion of the United States. This expedition provided much information about the land, plants, animals, and people of the western lands.

3. The Essex Junto and the Burr Conspiracy:

The **Essex Junto** was a powerful group of New England Federalist Party lawyers, merchants, and politicians, so named because many of them were from Essex County, Massachusetts. They thought

Jefferson had overreached the power of the presidency with the Louisiana Purchase. So, they hatched a plot to secede from the United States. The key to their success would depend on getting New York to agree. Thankfully, one of President Jefferson's staunchest political opponents - Alexander Hamilton - foiled the plot. The conspiracy had approached Vice President **Aaron Burr** and promised to help him win the governorship of New York if he'd make sure the state immediately seceded from the Union. Burr actually agreed, but his old enemy, Hamilton, worked to secure his loss in that gubernatorial election. Without Burr and New York, the secession movement died. Burr was so angry he challenged Hamilton to a duel and killed him. Though murder charges against him were actually dropped, Burr's political career in the U.S. was, of course, over. Upon leaving office, he went west and began planning what's known as the **Burr Conspiracy**. At that time, a lot of Americans thought that war with Spain was inevitable. Burr developed a plot to seize Spanish land in present-day Texas during the conflict and then create his own kingdom. Some evidence suggested that Burr was plotting to seize all of the Louisiana Territory, and Jefferson had him arrested for treason. Despite heavy pressure from Jefferson, the Supreme Court acquitted Burr on a couple of technicalities and a lack of hard evidence. The trial was a political and personal embarrassment for President Jefferson.

Thomas Jefferson famous quotes:

“Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you.”

“There is nothing more unequal than the equal treatment of unequal people.”

“When injustice becomes law, resistance becomes duty.”

