The Antebellum Era (1781-1860):
The New Nation of the USA Part 1
2. Antebellum America

b. Identify and evaluate the major events and issues that promoted sectional conflicts and strained national cohesiveness in the antebellum period.

f. Compare and contrast the economic, social, and cultural differences of the North and South during the antebellum period.
Washington Leads the New Government

- The **Judiciary Act of 1789** created the **Supreme Court** of the USA and federal courts.

- Three cabinet departments were also made to assist the leader of the Executive Branch, the President.

- These were the leaders **George Washington** chose for each department: **Thomas Jefferson** (State), **Alexander Hamilton** (Treasury), and **Henry Knox** (War). These men became known as **Washington’s “Cabinet”** to assist him.
The Supreme Court today in Washington D.C.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Term</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>George Washington</td>
<td>1789–1797</td>
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<td>Vice President</td>
<td>John Adams</td>
<td>1789–1797</td>
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<td>Secretary of State</td>
<td>Thomas Jefferson</td>
<td>1790–1793</td>
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<td>Timothy Pickering</td>
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<td>Secretary of Treasury</td>
<td>Alexander Hamilton</td>
<td>1789–1795</td>
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<td>Oliver Wolcott, Jr.</td>
<td>1795–1797</td>
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<td>Secretary of War</td>
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<td>James McHenry</td>
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<td>Attorney General</td>
<td>Edmund Randolph</td>
<td>1789–1794</td>
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<td>William Bradford</td>
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<td>Charles Lee</td>
<td>1795–1797</td>
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Washington, Knox (War) Hamilton (Treasury), Jefferson (State), & Randolph (Attorney General)
Conflicts in the Cabinet

- There were different opinions within the Cabinet.

- Hamilton felt the super rich should lead a strong, federal government.

- Jefferson believed the state governments should be strong to favor common people, like farmers.
Two Economic Plans

-Alexander Hamilton had his own economic plan.

-He wanted the debts, especially from the American Revolution, paid off quickly and called for a Federal Bank to help in this area.

-James Madison argued the Constitution did not allow for the creation of a Federal Bank.
Interpreting the Constitution

-Hamilton had a *loose interpretation* of the Constitution. Madison had a *strict interpretation*.

-According to a *loose interpretation*, you can pursue actions not specifically mentioned in the Constitution, as long as the Constitution does not prohibit them.

-According to the *strict interpretation*, you can only do what the Constitution *specifically mentions* is allowed.
Political Parties Form

-Alexander Hamilton’s views of a strong federal government started the **Federalist Party** and favored the rich and was supported by many in the North.

-Thomas Jefferson’s views of strong state governments started the **Democratic-Republicans** and favored the common man and was supported by many in the South.

-This led to political parties competing for power to control political offices in the United States.
Hamilton believed in a **loose interpretation** of the Constitution and James Madison believed in a **strict interpretation** of the Constitution.
The Whiskey Rebellion

Alexander Hamilton placed a tax on whisky.

In 1794, whiskey producers in western Pennsylvania attacked tax collectors and 13,000 troops were sent to force their rebellion to cease.

While this Whiskey Rebellion was a setback for the country, the incident proved the federal government had the power to use the military to maintain order.
A tax collector is “Tarred and Feathered” in Pennsylvania in protest to the Whiskey Taxes during the Whiskey Rebellion of 1794.
THE END
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