

Summary: The Nation Grows

President Jefferson

President Jefferson believed in strong state governments and wanted to help farmers, unlike President Adams before him who supported a strong national government and laws that would help manufacturers. The farmers wanted to ship their products down the Mississippi River to Louisiana. This land belonged to France. So President Jefferson sent representatives to meet with the French ruler, Napoleon Bonaparte. They asked Napoleon if Americans could keep trading through New Orleans. Napoleon needed money for a war. He sold Louisiana to the United States. The Louisiana Purchase doubled the size of the country.

Exploring the West

Jefferson sent soldiers to explore Louisiana. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led the group. It was called the Corps of Discovery. Jefferson wanted them to study the land, plants, animals, and climates of the West. He also wanted the corps to learn about the cultures of the western American Indians and to look for a water route to the Pacific. They learned about the land and the people, and proved it was possible to cross the Rocky Mountains. The Corps of Discovery led the way in westward expansion so pioneers could settle in the west.

War of 1812

On June 18, 1812, Congress declared war against Britain. They hoped to stop the British from capturing American sailors and to stop them selling weapons to American Indians. The British attacked Washington, D.C. and moved on to Baltimore. Seeing the American flag over Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor inspired Francis Scott Key to write a poem that became “The Star-Spangled Banner.”

A New Sense of Pride

During the period after the War of 1812, people had a new sense of prosperity and nationalism. Pride in the country created more interest in the national flag. The law passed in 1818 said that all American flags would have 13 stripes and one star per state.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

Louisiana Purchase

noun, the purchase that doubled the size of the country, adding about 828,000 square miles, or 530 million acres

corps *noun*, a team of people who work together

prosperity *adjective*, economic success and security

westward expansion *noun*, exploring the West so pioneers could settle there

nationalism *noun*, a devotion to one's country



After You Read

REVIEW Why did Jefferson send representatives to France? Circle what the representatives asked Napoleon Bonaparte.

REVIEW What tasks did Lewis and Clark complete on their expedition? Highlight the sentence that tells what the Corps of Discovery expedition learned.

REVIEW What inspired Francis Scott Key to write “The Star-Spangled Banner”? Underline the sentence that describes what he saw at Fort McHenry.

REVIEW How did the law passed in 1818 change the appearance of the national flag? Draw a box around the sentence that tells the answer.