

## The Jefferson Era

### Lesson 1 A New Party in Power, *Continued*

#### The Election of 1800

These were the choices in the election of 1800:

Party	President	Vice President
Federalists	John Adams	Charles Pinckney
Republicans	Thomas Jefferson	Aaron Burr

In 1800, presidential campaigns were not like they are today. The candidates did not travel around the country to ask people to vote for them. Instead, letters were sent to important people and newspapers to give the candidates' views.

Still, in 1800, the two sides fought hard to win. Federalists said Jefferson was "godless." Republicans said Federalists would bring back a monarchy.

In the United States, it is the Electoral College that elects the president. Today, the system is much like it was in 1800.

#### The Election Process in 1800

1. People choose electors. The electors meet in the Electoral College to elect the president.
2. Electors vote for two people. They do not say which vote is for president and which is for vice president.
3. The person with the most votes becomes president. The person with the next highest number of votes becomes vice president.
4. If there is a tie, the House of Representatives votes.

When the electors voted in 1800, there was a tie. Jefferson and Burr received the same number of votes, so the vote moved to the House of Representatives. The House voted 35 times. Each time the vote was a tie. Finally, one Federalist changed his vote. Jefferson won.

Congress did not want another tie, so in 1803 they changed the Constitution. Congress and the states passed the Twelfth Amendment. This amendment says electors vote once for president and once for vice president.

Jefferson was inaugurated—became president—in 1801. For his inauguration, Jefferson wore plain clothes. He walked to the Senate, where he took the oath of office. Adams was not there.

#### Listing

1. Who were the presidential candidates in 1800?

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Who were the vice presidential candidates in 1800?

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#### Mark the Text

2. The Twelfth Amendment changed how the president was elected. Underline the sentence that tells how the amendment changed the election process.

#### Reading Check

3. How did political campaigns in 1800 differ from today?

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How did Jefferson's inauguration differ from inaugurations today?

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