

1. What were five issues that divided the first political parties in the United States?
2. What two forces did many 19th and 20th century historians say drove the Founding Fathers?
3. What have many historians ignored concerning the Founding Fathers until recently?
4. What does historian Gordon Wood argue that American leaders knew during the Revolution?
5. What does Wood contend that the leaders were trying to “root out”?
6. What made many people ignore the national leaders and the national good in the early United States?
7. What did the factional differences of America’s leadership evolve into?
8. As political parties developed, what three things did many leaders continue to deny?
9. What does historian Joanne Freeman say politicians used to pursue their highly partisan goals?
10. According to Freeman, in what ways did politicians use a “code of honor” for political gains?
11. How did George Washington’s character distinguish him from other politicians of his time?
12. How did Thomas Jefferson begin to differentiate himself politically from George Washington?
13. What “dangerous and devious” qualities is Jefferson said to have possessed?
14. Who was Jefferson’s primary political rival? What was his position in the government?
15. How did Jefferson advance his own political ambitions?
16. Give an example of how John Adams, as President, took unpopular but principled actions?
17. What two big mistakes did Adams make as President that hurt him politically?
18. Who was Adams’ Vice-President?
19. How did Jefferson try to undermine Adams’ presidency?
20. What was the central idea in Jefferson’s “Kentucky Resolutions”?
21. What two issues divided the nation in 1790 which Jefferson, Hamilton, and Madison resolved?
22. Why did Jefferson want the capital of the United States in a more southern location?
23. What petition did Benjamin Franklin send to Congress in 1790?
24. What was Alexander Hamilton’s “minor career”?
25. Why did Hamilton duel Aaron Burr? Why did he despise Burr?
26. What was your prior knowledge about these founding leaders before reading this article?
27. For each of the presidents noted in this article, what characteristic(s) surprised you the most and why?
28. What aspects of our founding leaders do you see evident in our modern politicians and/or politics?