

## THOMAS JEFFERSON

In the **election of 1800** John Adams ran as the Federalist Party candidate against Thomas Jefferson who was the Democratic-Republican Party candidate. The outcome of this election is important. Jefferson won with more electoral votes than Adams did, but he received the same number of electoral votes as the Democratic-Republican vice-presidential candidate, Aaron Burr. Burr probably should have said that he would be Vice-President, as that is what he was running for with Jefferson. Instead he decided that maybe he would like to be the President after all. Being President was a much more powerful job. The Constitution said that if there was a tie in the Electoral College, the election had to be decided by the House of Representatives. After several other tie votes in the House of Representatives, Jefferson was elected President and Burr became Vice-President. After this election the **12th Amendment** was added to the Constitution. It said that 2 separate ballots would be cast in the electoral college-one for President and one for Vice-President. This would avoid ties in future elections.

Thomas Jefferson moved into the White House in 1801. One very difficult task that Jefferson had to deal with early in his presidency had to do with an event that led to a very important Supreme Court case. Before John Adams left office he had appointed several men to be federal judges. He did this in the last hours of his term in office so they became known as the midnight judges. According to the Constitution these men could not take their positions until their official papers had been signed and delivered to them. This is the job of the Secretary of State. When Jefferson's Secretary of State, James Madison, arrived at his office on his first day there he found some of these papers that had not been signed or delivered. Jefferson told him to ignore them. After all most of these judges Adams had appointed were Federalists and Jefferson was a Democratic-Republican. One of these appointees really wanted to be a judge. His name was William Marbury. He took his case to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, John Marshall. Marbury showed Marshall that the Judiciary Act of 1789 said the Supreme Court had the authority to require delivery of federal job commissions. In the case called **Marbury v. Madison**, the court said that it did not have the authority to do this. Forcing delivery of commission papers is not a power of the Supreme Court according to Justice Marshall because that power is not mentioned in the Constitution. This set up a power called **judicial review** which says the Supreme Court may declare an act of Congress (the Judiciary Act of 1789) unconstitutional. This idea continues today and is one way the judicial branch can check the power of the legislative branch.

Another important accomplishment of Jefferson was the **Louisiana Purchase** in 1803. Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France for \$15 million thus doubling the size of the United States. It was a huge piece of land that went from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. Jefferson was anxious to have this new land explored so he hired Meriwether Lewis and William Clark to do this. You will study the Lewis and Clark exploration of the Louisiana Territory in our next lesson.

**After reading the selection on Thomas Jefferson, answer the following question. You are to write out the question on loose-leaf paper, skip a space, and then answer the question.**

1. Who won the election of 1800?
2. What happened in this election that caused a delay in choosing the President?
3. Why is such a tie not likely to happen again?
4. Who were the midnight judges? To which political party did most of them belong?
5. Why did Jefferson advise Madison to ignore the commission papers of the midnight judges?
6. Which Supreme Court case settled the case of the midnight judges?
7. Who was William Marbury?
8. Who was John Marshall?
9. What important accomplishment did Jefferson make for the United States in 1803?
10. From whom did Jefferson make this purchase? How much money did it cost?