

Lesson 1: Washington as President

Vocabulary

electoral college a group of people who vote for President and Vice-President; these people are chosen by each state

inauguration ceremony in which a newly elected President swears loyalty to the Constitution and takes office

Cabinet a group of people who help the President run the country

political party a group of people who share a common view of what government should be and do

President Washington Takes Office

Many important people, such as Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, wanted George Washington to become President. On February 4, 1789, he was elected President by the **electoral college**. Each state chose people to be in the electoral college. Washington's **inauguration** was held on April 30. During the ceremony Washington swore his loyalty to the Constitution. President Washington divided the work of the Executive Branch into different departments. The people who led these departments were part of the President's **Cabinet**. President Washington named people to his Cabinet to give him advice and help him run the government.

Political Parties Are Born

Cabinet members had different ideas about how to run the country. Alexander Hamilton believed in a strong national government. Thomas Jefferson did not want a strong national government. Many Americans agreed with each of these men. The sides organized into two **political parties**. Hamilton's party was called the Federalists. Jefferson's party was called the Democratic-Republicans.

A New City

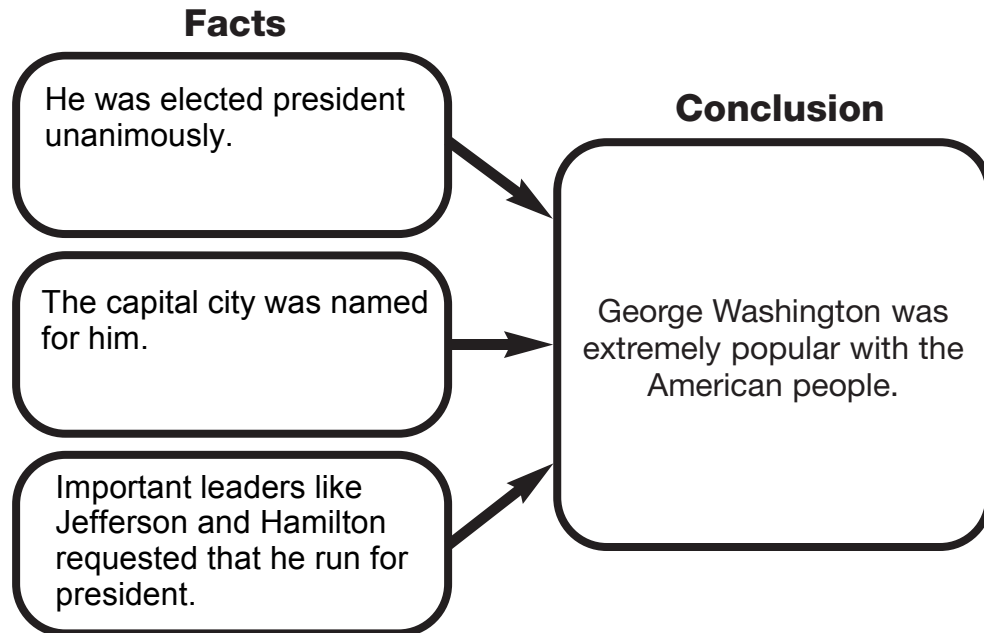
In 1790 the District of Columbia was named the capital of the United States. When George Washington died in 1799, the capital was renamed Washington, D.C. Pierre L'Enfant designed the city. L'Enfant was a French artist and engineer who fought in the American Revolution. A scientist was needed to help plan the city. Benjamin Banneker, a scientist and inventor, was chosen to help.

Living in the President's House

In 1796 John Adams became the second President of the United States. The federal government moved to Washington, D.C., in 1800. Adams and his wife, Abigail, moved into the President's House in 1800. Later, this building would be called the White House. The house and city were not yet finished when President Adams moved in.

Lesson 1: Review

1.  **Draw Conclusions** Fill in the missing facts.



2. Explain Washington's purpose in naming people to his Cabinet.

Washington's purpose was to divide the work and get good advice.

3. **Critical Thinking: Draw Conclusions** Why did different political parties emerge in American government?

Different groups, or parties, had opposing ideas about how government should operate, and each group wanted the government to operate according to its ideas.

4. Who were the leaders of the Federalist and Democratic-Republican parties?

Federalist: Hamilton

Democratic-Republican: Jefferson

5. Why was Benjamin Banneker asked to help design the new capital?

Banneker was asked to help because he had the skills and background needed to help with the task.
