
PEOPLE TO KNOW

BIOGRAPHIES FOR CHAPTER SIX TO NINE

As you read, consider three things:

1. Who were these people: lawyers, adventurers, generals, priests, monarchs, business people, etc.
2. What did these people do that was important in their time?
3. How did these people affect others in their time and possibly today?

Alexander Hamilton

President Washington appointed Alexander Hamilton (1755/57-1804) the first Secretary of the Treasury. First, Hamilton wanted the federal government take over all Revolutionary War debts from the states. In exchanged for Southern support, Hamilton agreed to have the national capital to be called Washington D.C. built in the South. Second, he got a bill passed that created a national bank to allow the United States government to make loans to support business growth.

Supporters of Hamilton became known as Federalists. Opponents thought Hamilton's ideas were unconstitutional. These people, Thomas Jefferson and James Madison included, became known as Democratic-Republicans. The Federalists and Democratic-Republicans became the first two political parties in America.

John Jay

John Jay (1745-1829) was an active politician. He became the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. By 1794, war with Britain seemed probable. Britain blocked American goods from British ports, refused to abandon forts on United States land, and attacked American ships to take cargo and impress (force) American sailors into the British navy.

President Washington sent Jay to Britain to negotiate a treaty. The resulting Jay's Treaty had most issues sent to arbitration. That is, allowing a neutral third party to decide issues. It did, however, avoid a war that America could not afford to fight. Although the agreement was unpopular with many Americans, Washington signed the treaty in 1795.

John Marshall

John Marshall (1745-1829) was elected to Congress as a Federalist in 1799. In 1800, President John Adams appointed Marshall Secretary of State, and in 1801 Adams appointed him chief justice of the Supreme Court.

Marshall fully supported a powerful national government and believed strongly in John Locke's ideas that government existed to protect life, liberty, and property. In *Marbury v. Madison*, Marshall ruled that the Supreme Court had the right to declare a law unconstitutional. In *McCulloch v. Maryland*, Marshall denied the right of states to tax federal institutions thus reinforcing the superiority of the federal government over states. Under Marshall's leadership, the Supreme Court became a powerful branch of government able to interpret the meaning of the Constitution.

Sacagawea

Sacagawea (1788-1812?) was born into the Shoshone nation in present-day Idaho. When about twelve, she and several others were taken in battle by the Hidatsa and brought to present-day North Dakota. French fur trapper Toussaint Charbonneau married her about a year later.

In 1804, Sacagawea and her husband joined the Corps of Discovery led by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. Sacagawea acted as an

interpreter with several tribes, including the Shoshone as the expedition traveled west toward the Pacific Ocean. Her help gained valuable horses and guides from the Shoshone. On the return trip, she guided the Corps safely through the Rocky Mountains. Her presence as a woman in the party, showed the expedition's peaceful intentions with the Native Americans they met along the way.