

TO BUY OR NOT TO BUY

Student Objectives:

1. The student will understand how Thomas Jefferson's domestic policy decisions affected the nation in the 1800's.
2. The student will communicate in written form using terminology, grammar, sentence structure and punctuation correctly.
3. The student will use problem solving and decision making skills.

TEKS: 8.6 B & C; 8.6 E

Materials: Decision Trees, Text, supplemental information on Jefferson's presidency and/or Louisiana Purchase, writing process information

Vocabulary: Domestic policy, strict interpretation of the Constitution, Napoleon, French West Indies, New Orleans, hostilities

Teaching Strategy:

1. Engage the class in a discussion of the events leading up to Napoleon's offer to sell the Louisiana Territory to Thomas Jefferson.
2. Give each student individually or in pairs, a decision tree to research the pros/cons of Jefferson's decision to purchase the Louisiana Territory. Discuss the benefits for the nation and the reason for the hesitancy on Jefferson's part. (use and definition of presidential power)
Students can use text and supplemental material to analyze the decision.
3. Students then write a thesis paper to convince the reader that Jefferson made the right or wrong decision. Have students examine the long term consequences of each decision.
4. Thesis question-"Did Thomas Jefferson use his presidential power correctly in deciding to buy the Louisiana Territory?"
Thesis-
 - Take a position in regards to the question
 - Answer the question
 - Present support

Reference the Pre-AP College Board Vertical Teams book or link to college Board website. (Writing assistance)

<http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/boost-your-skills/122.html>

SpEd/ESOL- Have students make the Decision Tree into a visual
Pre-AP/GT- Create a political cartoon as a rebuttal to Jefferson's decision.