



**2006 Shaping the World: Conversation on Democracy
Thomas Jefferson Talks With Napoleon Bonaparte**

Section I - Family, Education & Career



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Read Jefferson's October 16, 1815 letter (transcription below) to Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin. What two subjects does Jefferson write about?

Can you determine what country Gallatin recently returned from?

Briefly outline Jefferson's thoughts on these subjects.

Transcript of Jefferson's Letter to Albert Gallatin, October 16, 1815
To Secretary of the Treasury Albert Gallatin.
Monticello, October 16, 1815.

DEAR SIR,—A long absence from home must apologize for my so late acknowledgment of your welcome favor of September 6th. Our storm of the 4th of that month gave me great uneasiness for you ; for I was certain you must be on the coast, and your actual arrival was unknown to me. It was such a wind as I have not witnessed since the year 1769. It did, however, little damage with us, only prostrating our corn, and tearing tobacco, without essential injury to either. It could have been nothing compared with that of the 23d, off the coast of New England, of which we had not a breath, but on the contrary, fine, fair weather. Is this the judgment of God between us ? I congratulate you sincerely on your safe return to your own country, and without knowing your own wishes, mine are that you would never leave it again. I know you would be useful to us at Paris, and so you would anywhere ; but nowhere so useful as here. We are undone, my dear Sir, if this banking mania be not suppressed. Aut Carthago, aut Roma delenda est. The war, had it proceeded, would have upset our government; and a new one, whenever tried, will do it. And so it must be while our money, the nerve of war, is much or little, real or imaginary, as our bitterest enemies choose to make it. Put down the banks, and if this country could not be carried through the longest war against her most powerful enemy, without ever knowing the want of a dollar, without dependence on the traitorous classes of her citizens, without bearing hard on the resources of the people, or loading the public with an indefinite burden of debt, I know nothing of my countrymen. Not by any novel project, not by any charlatanerie, but by ordinary and well-experienced means ; by the total prohibition of all private paper at all times, by reasonable taxes in war aided by the necessary emissions of public paper of circulating size, this bottomed on special taxes, redeemable annually as this special tax comes in, and finally within a moderate period,—even with the flood of private paper by which we were deluged, would the treasury have ventured its credit in bills of circulating size, as of five or ten dollars, etc., they would have been greedily received by the people in preference to bank paper. But unhappily the towns of America were considered as the nation of America, the dispositions of the inhabitants of the former as those of the latter, and the treasury, for want of confidence in the country, delivered itself bound

hand and foot to bold and bankrupt adventurers and pretenders to be money-holders, whom it could have crushed at any moment. Even the last half-bold, half-timid threat of the treasury, showed at once that these jugglers were at the feet of government. For it never was, and is not, any confidence in their frothy bubbles, but the want of all other medium, which induced, or now induces, the country people to take their paper; and at this moment, when nothing else is to be had, no man will receive it but to pass it away instantly, none for distant purposes. We are now without any common measure of the value of property, and private fortunes are up or down at the will of the worst of our citizens. Yet there is no hope of relief from the legislatures who have immediate control over this subject. As little seems to be known of the principles of political economy as if nothing had ever been written or practised on the subject, or as was known in old times, when the Jews had their rulers under the hammer. It is an evil, therefore, which we must make up our minds to meet and to endure as those of hurricanes, earth, quakes and other casualties : let us turn over there fore another leaf.

I grieve for France ; although it cannot be denied that by the afflictions with which she wantonly and wickedly overwhelmed other nations, she has merited severe reprisals. For it is no excuse to lay the enormities to the wretch who led to them, and who has been the author of more misery and suffering to the world, than any being who ever lived before him. After destroying the liberties of his country, he has exhausted all its resources, physical and moral, to indulge his own maniac ambition, his own tyrannical and overbearing spirit. His sufferings cannot be too great. But theirs I sincerely deplore, and what is to be their term ? The will of the allies ? There is no more moderation, forbearance, or even honesty in theirs, than in that of Bonaparte. They have proved that their object, like his, is plunder. They, like him, are shuffling nations together, or into their own hands, as if all were right which they feel a power to do. In the exhausted state in which Bonaparte has left France, I see no period to her sufferings, until this combination of robbers fall together by the ears. The French may then rise up and choose their side. And I trust they will finally establish for themselves a government of rational and well-tempered liberty. So much science cannot be lost ; so much light shed over them can never fail to produce to them some good, in the end. Till then, we may ourselves fervently pray, with the liturgy a little parodied, " Give peace till that time, oh Lord, because there is none other that will fight for us but only thee, oh God." It is rare that I indulge in these poetical effusions ; but your former and latter relations with both subjects have associated you with them in my mind, and led me beyond the limits of attention I ordinarily give to them. Whether you go or stay with us, you have always the prayers of yours affectionately.
P.S. The two letters you enclosed me were from Warden and De Lormerie, and neither from La Fayette, as you supposed.

Create a time line of Jefferson's life highlighting significant events and dates. Reference [Jefferson's biography](#) as well as your own research.

Create a time line of Napoleon's life highlighting significant events and dates. Reference [Napoleon's biography](#) as well as your own research.

Using these timelines of Jefferson and Napoleon, are there any likely periods of time that the two men would have had the opportunity to meet? List those dates. On what occasions might they have met?

Using these images of typical French and American scenes from the Napoleon and Jefferson years, write a description of France and a description of America. Do additional research and include in your description land regions, agricultural products, and other physical features of each country.

France



Click images to view larger version

America



Create a diorama of a French city.

Create a diorama of an French countryside.

Create a diorama of an American city.

Create a diorama of an American countryside.

France was (and is) the largest country of Western Europe. It ranks second to Russia in land area. Visit a website on France or use the encyclopedia to determine France's land area in square miles.

What was the land area in square miles of the United States in 1800?

What was the land area in square miles of the United States in 1803 with the addition of the Louisiana Purchase?

France was what % of the United States land area in 1800?

France was what % of the United States land area in 1803 with the addition of the Louisiana territory?

France is what % of the United States land area today excluding Alaska and Hawaii?

Using the census chart below, determine the population of France in 1801. How does that compare to the population of the United States in 1800? Which country has the most population? What is the percentage difference? Using the chart, compare other census years. What observations can you make based on the population of each country?

France Population		United States Population	
1801	27,349,003	1800	5,308,483
1821	30,461,875	1820	9,638,453
1831	32,569,000	1830	12,866,020
1841	34,230,178	1840	17,069,453
1851	36,452,451	1850	23,191,876
1901	40,681,415	1900	75,994,575
1911	41,479,006	1910	91,972,266
1921	39,209,518	1920	105,710,620
1962	46,528,000	1960	179,323,175
1975	52,655,802	1975	203,235,298
1982	54,257,300	1980	226,545,805
2006	60,656,178+	2006	300,000,000+

Create charts to illustrate the above population information, comparing the United States to France

Current Events: America's 300 Million Population Milestone

- [America at 300 Million](#)
- [Lynchburg Joins New Population of over 300 Million](#)
- [USA Today Population Counter & Story on USA's soaring population](#)

Choose one of the following individuals to research and make an oral presentation to the class. Include in your report the individual's relationship with Thomas Jefferson.



George Wythe



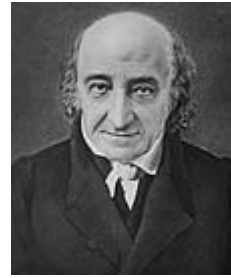
Peyton Randolph



Peter Jefferson



William Small



Albert Gallatin

Label a map of Europe with the following:

Corsica, Great Britain, France, Paris, Italy, Russia, Spain, Holland, Naples, Atlantic Ocean, English Channel, Mediterranean Sea, Strait of Gibraltar



Once Napoleon began his rule as Emperor, he established a family coat of arms. Using the image of the coat of arms below, find the following symbols:

Eagle
Imperial Mantle
Bee
Hand of Justice
Imperial Crown
Sceptre
Chain of the Legion d'Honneur
(legion of honor)



Discuss in class what each symbol might have meant to Napoleon.

Students should design a family coat of arms using symbols that are appropriate to their lives. Students should write a description of their coat of arms explaining the symbols they selected.

Using the images below of Napoleon's family, create a family tree (include full names and dates of birth/death).



Joseph



Elisa



Napoleon



Marie-Louise



Napoleon II



Letizia



Lucien



Caroline



Charles



Louis



Pauline



Jerome



Josephine

Using the images of Napoleon's family, place them on the map below to indicate which country/region they had title to. Which titles did Napoleon bestow on family members?

