

PRESIDENCY COMPARISON

Name _____

Class _____ Date _____

After reading [George Washington's Letter to Henry Knox about the Presidency](#) and the [Martha Washington's Letter about the Presidency \(included below in PDF\)](#), compare how both George and Martha Washington felt about General Washington becoming the first President of the United States.

Answer the following question in the space provided.

How did the Washingtons feel about the Presidency and leaving Mount Vernon?

Thesis Statement:

Provide multiple pieces of evidence from the sources that you read and analyzed to support your thesis

**SOURCE: LETTER FROM
GEORGE WASHINGTON TO
HENRY KNOX**

**SOURCE: LETTER FROM MARTHA
WASHINGTON TO JOHN DANDRIDGE**

GEORGE WASHINGTON ACCEPTING THE PRESIDENCY

1 My dear Sir, Mount Vernon April 1st 1789

2 ...I feel for those Members of the new Congress, who, hitherto, have given an unavailing
3 attendance at the theatre of business. For myself, the delay may be compared to a reprieve; for
4 in confidence I can assure *you*- with the *world* it would obtain *little credit*- that my movements
5 to the chair of Government will be accompanied with feelings not unlike those of a culprit who
6 is going to the place of his execution: so unwilling am I, in the evening of a life nearly
7 consumed in public cares, to quit a peaceful abode for an Ocean of difficulties, without that
8 competency of political skill- abilities & inclination which is necessary to manage the helm. I
9 am sensible, that I am embarking the voice of my Countrymen and a good name of my own, on
10 this voyage, but what returns will be made for them- Heaven alone can foretell. Integrity &
11 firmness is all I can promise- these, be the voyage long or short... With best wishes for Mrs.
12 Knox, & sincere friendship for yourself- I remain Your affectionate
13 Go: Washington

14 **Source:** *The Papers of George Washington Presidential Series 2, April-June 1789, pg. 2.*

VOCABULARY	
<i>reprieve</i> : to delay the punishment of	<i>abode</i> : house
<i>quit</i> : leave	<i>helm</i> : a position of control

WORKSHEET

GEORGE WASHINGTON ACCEPTING THE PRESIDENCY

1. What type of primary source is this document? Choose the *two best phrases* from the document to support your answer.

2. Where and when did George Washington create this? _____

3. The word *theatre* on line 4 has multiple meanings. How is the word commonly used? _____

What is the meaning of the word in the context of this document? _____

Circle the *best three words* on lines 3-4 that helped you to understand the meaning of the word.

4. How does Washington feel about accepting the Presidency? _____

Underline multiple pieces of evidence in the text to support your answer.

5. What reasons does he give for feeling this way? _____

6. Washington uses a sailing metaphor when discussing the Presidency. Place a checkmark next to any word that supports this statement.

7. Is this a reliable resource? Why or why not? Be ready to share your answer.

MARTHA WASHINGTON'S LETTER ABOUT THE PRESIDENCY

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 My Dear John Mount Vernon. April the 20th 1789

2 I am truly sorry to tell that the General is gone to New York, - Mr. Charles Thompson

3 came express to him, on the 14th - when, or wheather he will come home again god

4 only knows, - I think it was much too late for him to go to publick life again, but it was

5 not to be avoided, our family will be deranged as I must soon follow him.

6 I am greved at parting, and sorry to part with your sister as well as the rest of the

7 family, - I expect to set out the middle of may... - the same Horses that carred the

8 General is to return for me to carry me to New York -

9 My love and good wishes to your mother grandmother Brothers and sisters and

10 believe me Dear

11 John your most

12 affectionate

13 Aunt

14 M Washington

Background: John refers to John Dandridge

Source: "Worthy Partner" The Papers of Martha Washington, pg. 213

1. What type of source is this and when was it created? _____

2. What is the relationship between the author and the recipient? _____

3. On line 2, Mrs. Washington refers to "the General". To whom is she referring?

Underline evidence in the text to support your answer.

4. Reread this sentence from the text:

I think it was much too late for him to go to publick life again, but it was not to be avoided, our family will be deranged as I must soon follow him.

What does Mrs. Washington mean when she uses the phrase *publick life again*?

Based on the context of the sentence, what is the most precise meaning of the word *deranged*?

a. crazed

b. upset

d. in confusion

d. insane

Mrs. Washington states, "...I must soon follow him." Where is she going? Provide evidence from the text to support your answer.

Rewrite the sentence in your own words:

5. Circle the three words or phrases from the text which are the most important to understanding the author's tone of the text? Explain your choices using evidence from the text.