THE INAUGURATION OF
GEORGE WASHINGTON, 1789

NAME_____

DATE _____

1 The Constitution of the United States was ratified by the states in June 1788. In February of
2 the following year, the new nation's Electoral College selected George Washington to be its first President. On
3 April 16, 1789 Washington began the journey from his home at Mount Vernon to
4 New York City, then the nation's capital, where he would be inaugurated. Washington was
5 reluctant to leave the serenity of his home and uncertain about his new position. His journal
6 entry for that day noted:

7   *"About 10 o'clock I bade **adieu** to Mount Vernon, to private life, and to domestic **felicity**,*
8   *and with a mind oppressed with more anxious and painful sensations that I have*
9   *words to express, set out for New York in company with Mr. Thompson, and*
10   *Colonel Humphries, with the best dispositions to render service to my country in*
11   *obedience to its call, but with less hope of answering its expectations."*
12
13 *"The Inauguration of George Washington, 1789," EyeWitness to History, www.eyewitnesstohistory.com*
14 *(2005).*

VOCABULARY	
adieu- goodbye	*felicity*- happiness

1. Read the sentences below that include the word *domestic:*

    Over time, dogs were domesticated to be good house pets. Washing the dishes, making the beds and doing the laundry are domestic chores. The United States is asking consumers to support our national economy by buying more domestic products. Immigration and taxes are two controversial domestic issues.

    After having read all of the sentences, what do you believe the word *domestic* means in the context of this document?_____

2. The word *bade* on line 10 has multiple meanings. What is the meaning of the word in this context?
    A. issued a command   B. invited
    C. said   D. made an offer

3. How do the words serenity, home, domestic, and felicity help you to better understand the author's use of the phrase *reluctant to leave* on line 8?

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    _____

    _____

4. What 4 words from the text are most important to understanding the author's mood/tone of the text? Explain your choices using evidence from the text.

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5. George Washington's journal entry was one sentence long. What two things does he describe doing in this entry?

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