

THE FIRST FIVE PRESIDENTS

Focus Question: How did each of these presidents interpret the Constitution and work to establish and grow the American government in the early republic?

In a letter written to Thomas Jefferson in June 1789 during the first year of George Washington's presidency, James Madison states, "We are in a wilderness without a single footstep to guide us. Our successors will have an easier task, and by degrees the way will become smooth, short, and certain."

- What do you think Madison meant by these words?

Directions: While watching the video, take notes on each president to describe their term length, political party, and the state they were born. Then add three additional pieces of evidence that you find important or interesting about each president. The video can be found here: <https://youtu.be/BbihjRa-DJM>

1. George Washington <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term: (1789 – 1797)• Political Party: Federalist• State: Virginia	
2. John Adams <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term:• Political Party:• State:	
3. Thomas Jefferson <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term:• Political Party:• State:	
4. James Madison <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term:• Political Party:• State:	
5. James Monroe <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Term:• Political Party:• State:	