

STANDARD USI.7c

The student will apply social science skills to understand the challenges faced by the new nation by
c) describing the major accomplishments of the first five presidents of the United States.

Essential Understandings

Congress and the first five presidents made decisions establishing a strong government that helped the nation grow in size and power.

Essential Knowledge

All of the first five presidents were Virginians except John Adams.

Accomplishments during the first five presidents

- George Washington
 - The federal court system was established.
 - The Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution of the United States of America.
 - Plans were created for development of the national capital in Washington, D.C. Benjamin Banneker, an African American astronomer and surveyor, helped complete the design for the city.
- John Adams
 - A two-party system emerged during his administration.
- Thomas Jefferson
 - He bought Louisiana from France (the Louisiana Purchase).
 - The Lewis and Clark Expedition, which included enslaved peoples Sacagawea and York explored land west of the Mississippi River;
- James Madison
 - The War of 1812 caused European nations to gain respect for the United States.
- James Monroe
 - He introduced the Monroe Doctrine warning European nations not to interfere in the Western Hemisphere.