

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Louisiana Purchase:**

**Directions: Read each document and answer the questions in complete sentences**

### **Document A: Alexander Hamilton (Modified)**

The purchase of New Orleans is important to the peace and wealth of our country, and opens a free and valuable market to our money-making states.

This purchase will probably make it seem like Mr. Jefferson is brilliant. Any man, however, who possesses any amount of intelligence, will easily see that the purchase is the result of lucky coincidences and unexpected circumstances and not the result of any wise or thoughtful actions on the part of Jefferson's administration.

As to the large region west of the Mississippi, it is a wilderness with numerous tribes of Indians. And when we consider the present land of the United States, and that not one-sixteenth is settled, the possibility that this new purchase will be a place of actual settlement seems unlikely.

If our own citizens do eventually settle this new land, it would weaken our country and central government. On the whole, we can honestly say that this purchase is at best extremely problematic.

*Source: Alexander Hamilton wrote an editorial called "Purchase of Louisiana" for the New York Evening Post, July 1803.*

### **1) According to Hamilton, Why is the Purchase of New Orleans important?**

The purchase of New Orleans is important because:

### **2) Does Hamilton support the Louisiana Purchase?**

Hamilton is \_\_\_\_\_ the Louisiana Purchase because:

## Document B: Letter by Rufus King to Timothy Pickering, November 4, 1803

According to the Constitution, Congress may create new states. But can the President sign treaties forcing Congress to do so?

According to the Louisiana Treaty, the territory must be formed into states and admitted into the United States. Will Congress be allowed to set any rules for their entry? Since slavery is legal and exists in Louisiana, and the treaty states that we must protect the property of the people, won't we be forced to admit the new states as slave states? Doing so will worsen the problem of unequal representation from slave and free states.

### 3) Does Rufus King support the Louisiana Purchase?

Rufus King \_\_\_\_\_ the Louisiana Purchase because:

## Document 3: Thomas Jefferson's Letter to John C. Breckinridge, August 1803

**Context:** *John Breckinridge was a lawyer and politician from Jefferson's home state of Virginia. In this letter to Breckinridge, Jefferson expresses both his concerns and justifications for the Louisiana Purchase.*

This treaty must be presented to the House of Representatives and the Senate. Since both have important functions to approve it. They, I assume, will see their duty to their country in **ratifying** & paying for it, so as to acquire something, which they never again be given the chance to buy.

But I suppose they [congress] must then ask the country for an **amendment** to the Constitution, approving & confirming an act, which the nation had not previously approved. The constitution has made no law for creating new states.

...It is the case of a guardian, investing the money of his children in purchasing an important piece of land; & saying to him when of age, I did this for your [citizens of the United States] good; I pretend to no right to bind you: you may reject me, and I must get out of the fight as I can: I thought it my duty to risk myself for you...

<b>Ratifying:</b> Approving <b>Amendment:</b> Change
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### 4) Why does Jefferson want an amendment to the Constitution?

Jefferson wants an amendment to the constitution because:

### 5) Does Jefferson support the Louisiana Purchase?