

## COMPARING Political Parties

### FEDERALISTS

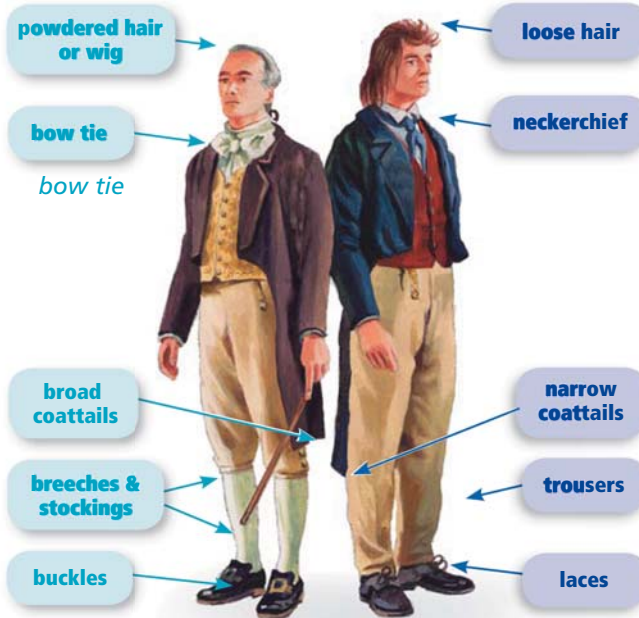
**LEADERS:**  
Hamilton, Adams

**SUPPORTERS:**  
lawyers, merchants,  
manufacturers, clergy

**BELIEFS:**

- strong national government
- loose construction of the Constitution
- favored national bank
- economy based on trade

Events in France not only affected politics in the United States, they influenced styles of clothing as well. Political differences could often be detected by observing different styles of dress and appearance.



### DEMOCRATIC-REPUBLICANS

**LEADERS:**  
Jefferson, Madison

**SUPPORTERS:**  
farmers, urban workers

**BELIEFS:**

- limited national government
- strict construction of the Constitution
- opposed national bank
- agricultural economy

**CRITICAL THINKING Compare and Contrast** Why might the Federalists be considered more supportive of business than the Democratic-Republicans?

## John Adams's Administration

**KEY QUESTION** What issues divided Americans during Adams' presidency?

In 1796, the United States held its first elections in which political parties competed. The Federalists picked vice-president **John Adams** as their candidate for president. The Democratic-Republicans chose Jefferson.

In the Electoral College, Adams received 71 votes and Jefferson 68. The Constitution stated that the runner-up should become vice-president. Therefore, the country had a Federalist president and a Democratic-Republican vice-president. Adams became president in 1797. His chief rival, Jefferson, was his vice-president.

**Problems with France** When Washington left office in 1797, relations between France and the United States were tense. With Britain and France still at war, the French began seizing and harassing U.S. ships. Within the year, France had looted more than 300 U.S. ships.

Some Federalists called for war with France, but Adams hoped talks would restore calm. He sent Charles Pinckney, Elbridge Gerry, and John