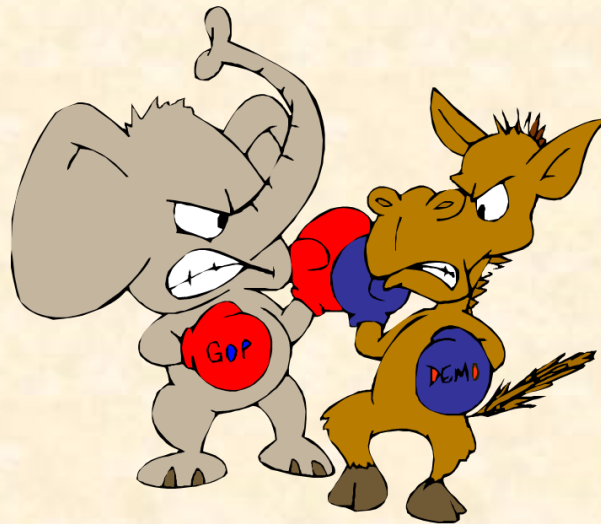# The First American Political Parties

What is a political party?

- A political party is made up of people who have similar beliefs about how government should be run.

- These people work together to influence government actions, elect candidates who support their beliefs and try to guide the growth of the country.

Fears about Political Parties

- Most Americans in the 1800's feared political parties would bicker and fight over partisan issues just as those in Britain had.

- Americans feared party officials would use their political power for their own personal gain.

- Despite these fears, the constant disagreements and squabbles between Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson led people to take sides in government and led to the creation of two political parties.

Democratic-Republican Party

Thomas Jefferson

James Madison

George Clinton
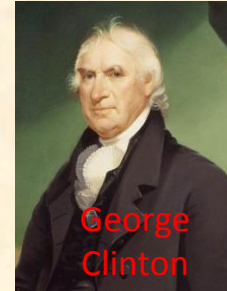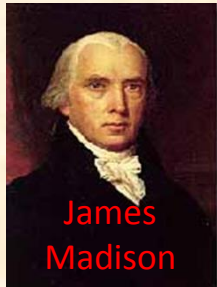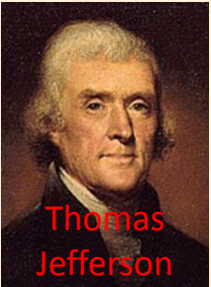
Aaron Burr

- Thomas Jefferson and James Madison founded the Democratic-Republican Party.
- George Clinton (Governor of New York) and Aaron Burr (Attorney General of New York) agreed to join the Democratic-Republican Party.
- Who joined and supported the Democratic-Republican Party?
  - Farmers
  - Craft workers
  - Some wealthy planters

Federalist Party
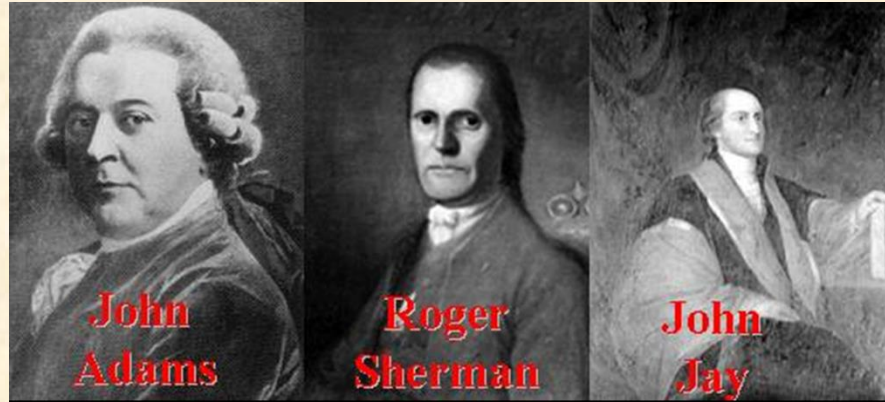
- Alexander Hamilton founded the Federalist Party.
- John Adams, Roger Sherman, and John Jay joined the Federalist Party

- Who joined and supported the Federalist Party?
  - Merchants
  - Southern planters

Federalists	Democratic Republicans
Alexander Hamilton	**Thomas Jefferson**
Emphasis on manufacturing, shipping, trading	Emphasis on agriculture (farming)
Strong central government	Strong state governments
Loose interpretation of Constitution	Strict interpretation of Constitution
Pro-British	Pro-French
Favored National Bank	Opposed National Bank
Favored protective tariffs	Opposed protective tariffs
Wealthy and well educated should lead nation	All types of people should have political power