THOMAS JEFFERSON

A PRESIDENT'S VISION

PRIMARY SOURCE WORKSHEET

DELAWARE MEMORIAL EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE EMBARGO ACT OF 1807.

(HR 10A-F10.1) 10th Congress, Records of the United States House of Representatives, Record Group 233, National Archives.

The state of the s
To the Honorable the Senate & House of Representatives
of the United States, in Congress assembled
THE MEMORIAL of the subscribers, Citizens of the State of Delaware, residing in the Borough of Wilmington and its vicinityRespectfully represents, That your memorialists have hitherto submitted to the operation of the Embargo-law, and its various supplementsin silence; notwithstending the many privations and distresses it has occasioned: in this they were flattered by the delusive hope, that it would be the means to avoid some evils, with which our country was threatened; and of placing our commercial relations, with the two great beliggerant powers, it has been and respectable foundation. More than 12 months have now elapsed since the enactment of that law, and your memoralists have yet to learn, the precise nature of the objects intended to be effected by it;—it still leaves a wide field open for conjecture. By one of the great beliggerant powers, it has been considered with stracastic indifference, almost bordering on contempt. ——By the other it has been hailed, as a generous sacrifice of our convenience, in order to carry on the war;—which consists in repelling the English commerce, from all parts. But your memorialists waving discussion as to the effect of that law and its various supplements, on foreign nations, and as to the motives and intentions of its enactment; respectfully beg leave to state, that they well know that it has teemed with imnumerable evils to our country,—it has paralised the hand of industry—has damped, and almost extinguished, the generous ardor of honest adventure, to which the commerce and agriculture of our country owe much of their prosperity,—it has driven thousands of the bracessity of receiving the dole of charity.—But to countrebalance all this, we are thousands of the miserable necessity of receiving the dole of charity.—But to countrebalance all this, we are thousands of the miserable necessity of receiving the dole of charity.—But the supplements and auxiliary, are program. With an host of evils, abhorrent to the feelings of all who know and value the blessings o
—the cannectury of entorening laws contrary to the names, manners and interest of the people, without violating those sacred rights, for which our fathers fought, toild and bled,—and thereupon remove those evils, and avert the dangers which threaten our beloved country; by a repeal of the said act and its supplements—or otherwise, as your wisdom may direct.—
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And Europenter addambolin
John shalley Shilips offer
Tho: MM Martha at Runava Gouleto Thos was
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nith storce Samuel Todas John Beeron
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Willoling John stilly Thomas Bably
William Hanbey Goorge fartings Hill 18

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QUESTIONS

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. Who were the petitioners who signed this document?
- 2. What legislative process does this document illustrate?
- 3. What constitutional right do the petitioners cite?
- 4. How long had the embargo legislation been in effect at the time of the petition?
- 5. How do the petitioners characterize the foreign and domestic impact of the legislation?
- 6. What specific consequences do the petitioners describe?
- 7. In what ways do they consider the embargo a threat to their rights?
- 8. The petition was printed, but the signatures are handwritten. Why is this significant?

