# THOMAS JEFFERSON

#### A PRESIDENT'S VISION

## PRIMARY SOURCE WORKSHEET

**THOMAS JEFFERSON'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON THE EMBARGO, MARCH 17, 1808.** (SEN 10A-E3) 10th Congress, Records of the United States Senate, Record Group 43, National Archives.

7/2
To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States. all
I have heretofore communicated to Congress the decrees of the
government of France of November 21. 1806 and of Sprain of Feb. 19. 1807.
with the orders of the British government of January & november 1009.
I now transmit a decree of the Emprovor of France of Dec. 17, 1807
und a similar decree of the 3. of January Last by his latholic realist. X.
altho Me decree of France has not been recieved by Spirial commu-
-aication, yet the different channels of promulgation throug which
the public are profeshed of it, with the formal testimony furnished:
by the government of Sprain in Their decree, leave us without a
doubt that such an one has been issued. These decrees and orders
taken Josether, want little of amounting to a declaration that every
Neutral vefsel found on the high seas, whatsower beher earge, &
whaksoever foreign port be that of her depas here or destination.
shall be deemed lawful priva: and they prove more I more the expre-
- diency of retaining our vefsels, our seamen, I properly within our
own harbors until the dangers to which they are exposed can be re-
-moved or lessened.
・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・ ・
The Lefterson
the Decree comments by they were transmitted
* The Denne comments by the March. 17. 1808.  * See melsage of Dev. 23. 1808 y for these Decrees transmitted to the Linete.

# THOMAS JEFFERSON

#### A PRESIDENT'S VISION

## **QUESTIONS**

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

- 1. To whom did Jefferson send this message, and why?
- 2. Which European countries are mentioned in this message?
- 3. What actions are the Europeans taking?
- 4. What response does Jefferson propose?
- 5. Is Jefferson asking Congress to take action?
- 6. After reading this letter, which branch of government would you assume should take the lead in responding to this situation?

