The Age of Jefferson

America during the Presidency of Thomas Jefferson
1801 - 1809
Background

• Writer of Declaration of Independence
• Amateur Scientist
• Election of 1800
  – Wins as Democratic Republican
    • Wanted to cut debt
    • Guard rights in constitution
The Jeffersonian Government

- Problem: Debt

Solutions
- Limit growth of military
- Sell federal lands in west
- Reduce Bureaucracy
- Increase foreign trade
John Marshall and the Supreme Court

- John Marshall – Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- Marbury vs. Madison – Supreme Court could rule on constitutionality of federal laws
- Established precedent of Judicial Review
The Barbary War
1801-1805

- America forced to pay tribute to Barbary states for safe passage.
- Navy blockaded port of Tripoli
- Part of America’s struggle to be taken seriously as a nation
Louisiana Purchase

• April 30th, 1803
  – US purchases Louisiana Territory from France
  – 800,000 sq miles
  – $15 Million
    ($211 million today)
• Doubled size of USA
• Technically not in power of President
Exploring the New Land

Lewis and Clark Expedition (1804-1806)
- Map rivers and investigate resources
- Collect scientific data
- Declare US power over Native tribes
- Find route to Pacific
The Corps of Discover

- Lead by co-captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark
  - About 30 Enlisted men and a couple others
    - Clark’s servant York
    - Lewis’ dog Seaman
• Sacagawea
  – Shoshone woman who lived with Hidatsa
  – Served as interpreter for expedition
  – Traveled whole time with baby Jean Baptiste on her back
  – Had knowledge of how to survive off the land and could act as a guide
Jefferson Late in Life

- Second term spent trying to keep America out of war
- Public Service
  - Sold his books to congress
  - Founded University of Virginia
Legacy of Thomas Jefferson

“HERE WAS BURIED THOMAS JEFFERSON AUTHOR OF THE DECLARATION OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATUTE OF VIRGINIA FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND FATHER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.”

BORN APRIL 2. 1743. O.S. DIED JULY 4. 1826.