

Washington's Farewell Address Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions in full and complete sentences. You must use the original text of George Washington's Farewell Address. You can find this text on the class website.

1. During the ratification of the Constitution debate, federalists supported a stronger central government with the Constitution. Anti-federalist insisted on maintaining strong state sovereignty. Does Washington encourage strong state sovereignty, or a stronger central government?
2. Did Washington believe the Federal government, or the individual states could best deal with foreign governments. Explain your answer.
3. What is Washington's opinion of political parties? Explain. What does he mean by saying the "spirit of parities, is inseparable from our nature?"
4. Thomas Jefferson longed for a revolution to take place every fourteen years. He relayed, "The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants. It is its natural manure." Would Washington agree or disagree with Jefferson? What was Washington's opinion of political stability?
5. Explain why Washington does not want a big national debt. Would he favor a large national government on today's standards, call it an abomination, or look at it with indifference? Explain.