

## Document Based Question (DBQ): The Jay Treaty Carlos Leiva, Westwood Middle School

**Directions:** The following questions are based on the enclosed documents (1-5). These questions are designed to test your ability to work with historic documents. After you finish, you will write an essay based on the information you learned from the documents and your prior knowledge.

**Historical Background:** After the American Revolution, there were on-going problems between the United States and Great Britain. Great Britain did not show the respect for U.S. territory and citizens that they should show to another nation. They also did not follow some of the agreements reached in the treaty at the end of the war. President Washington sent John Jay, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to negotiate a treaty to settle the disputes.

### Document 1

The Paris Peace Treaty of 1783

As It Appears In Jackson's Oxford Journal England, October 4, 1783

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Although Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown in the Fall of 1781 marked the end of the Revolutionary War, minor battles between the British and the colonists continued for another two years. Finally, in February of 1783 George III issued his Proclamation of Cessation of Hostilities, culminating in the Peace Treaty of 1783. Signed in Paris on September 3, 1783, the agreement--- also known as the Paris Peace Treaty-- formally ended the United States War for Independence.

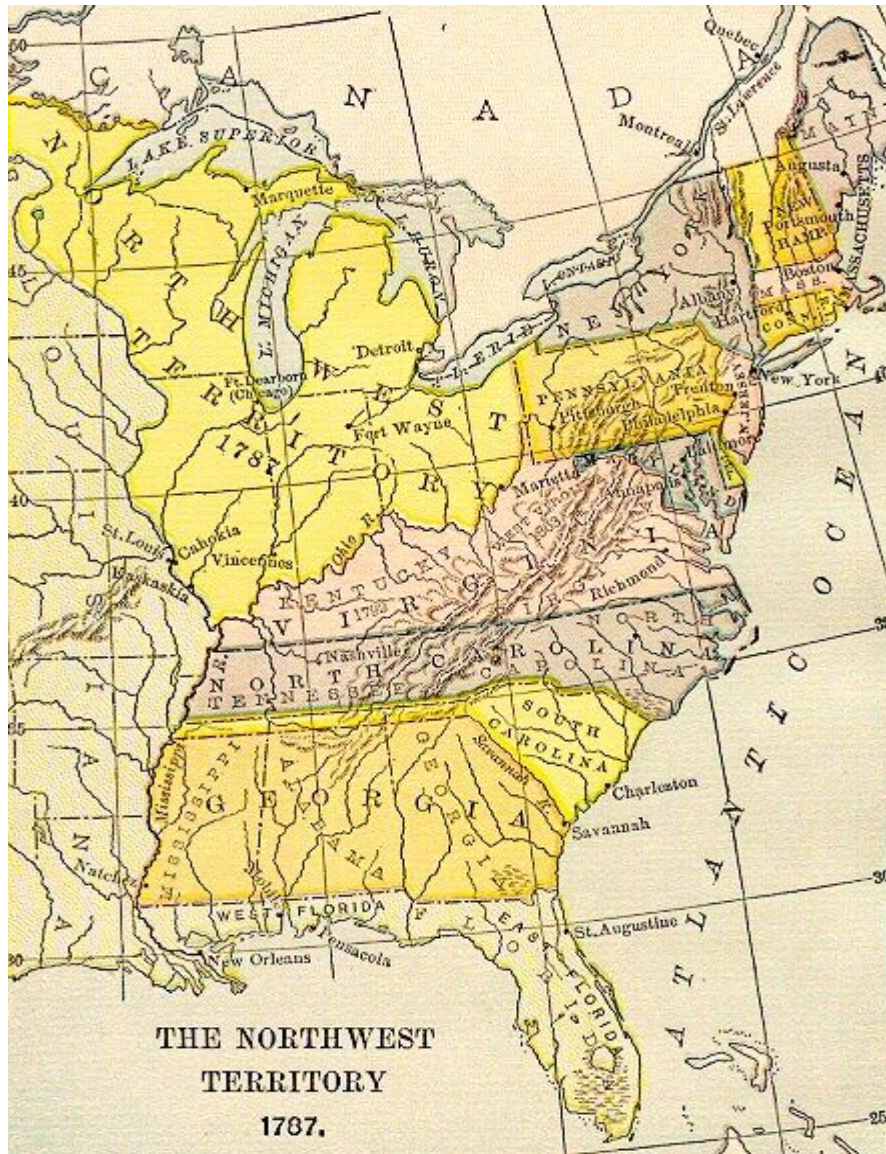
Representing the United States were John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and John Jay, all of whom signed the treaty. In addition to giving formal recognition to the U.S., the nine articles that embodied the treaty: established U.S. boundaries, specified certain fishing rights, allowed creditors of each country to be paid by citizens of the other, restored the rights and property of Loyalists, opened up the Mississippi River to citizens of both nations and provided for evacuation of all British forces.

1. What did the Peace Treaty of Paris do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why was it called the Paris Peace Treaty of 1783?

3. Who represented the United States and signed the Paris Peace Treaty of 1783?

Document 2

Map of the Northwest Territory



The Northwest Ordinance of 1787 allowed for the creation of as many as five states in the northwest portion of the Ohio Valley on lines originally laid out in 1784 by Thomas Jefferson. The

ordinance defined the boundaries of the states, excluded slavery and required that 60,000 inhabitants be present for statehood. Major General Arthur St. Clair was appointed its first Governor.

4. Who was the person that originally laid out the lines in the northwest portion of the Ohio Valley? Name 2 other significant accomplishments this person had in his lifetime.

5. Ultimately, the territory was organized into five present states. Compare this map to a modern map. Name the present five states that were created from the Northwest Territory.

### Document 3

#### The Jay Treaty, 1794

Concluded November 19, 1794; ratification advised by the senate with amendment June 24, 1795; ratified by President Washington; ratifications exchanged October 28, 1795; proclaimed February 29, 1796.

#### Articles:

I. <a href="#">Amity</a>	XV. <a href="#">Discrimination on vessels, imports, etc.</a>
II. <a href="#">Withdrawal of forces; vessels, imports, etc.</a>	XIV. <a href="#">Consuls</a>
III. <a href="#">Commerce and navigation; duties</a>	XVII. <a href="#">Capture or detention of neutrals</a>
IV. <a href="#">Survey of the Mississippi</a>	VIII. <a href="#">Contraband</a>
V. <a href="#">St. Croix River</a>	XIX. <a href="#">Officers and passengers</a>
VI. <a href="#">Indemnification by on neutrals United States</a>	XX. <a href="#">Pirates</a>
VII. <a href="#">Indemnification by Great</a>	XXI. <a href="#">Commission from foreign Britain. states</a>
VIII. <a href="#">Expenses</a>	XXII. <a href="#">Reprisals</a>

IX. <a href="#">Land tenures</a>	XXIII. <a href="#">Ships of war</a>
X. <a href="#">Private debts, etc.</a>	XXIV. <a href="#">Foreign privateers</a>
XI. <a href="#">Liberty of navigation</a>	XXV. <a href="#">Prizes and commerce</a>
XII. <a href="#">West India trade; duties. of citizens in war</a>	XXVI. <a href="#">Reciprocal treatment</a>
XIII. <a href="#">East India trade; duties</a>	XXVII. <a href="#">Extradition</a>
XIV. <a href="#">Commerce and Navigation</a>	XXVIII. <a href="#">Limitation of Article XII: ratification</a>

5. What is this chart outlining?

6. Which President approved the treaty?

7. What was the purpose of this treaty and how did it affect modern society today?

#### Document 4

His Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, being desirous, by a treaty of amity, commerce and navigation, to terminate their difference in such a manner, as, without reference to the merits of their respective complaints and pretensions, may be the best calculated to produce mutual satisfaction and good understanding; and also to regulate the commerce and navigation between their respective countries, territories and people, in such a manner as to render the same reciprocally beneficial and satisfactory; they have, respectively, named their Plenipotentiaries, and given them full powers to treat of, and conclude the said treaty, that is to say:

His Britannic Majesty has named for his Plenipotentiary, the Right Honorable William Wyndham Baron Grenville of Wotton, one of His Majesty's Privy Council, and His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs; and the President of the said United States, by and with the

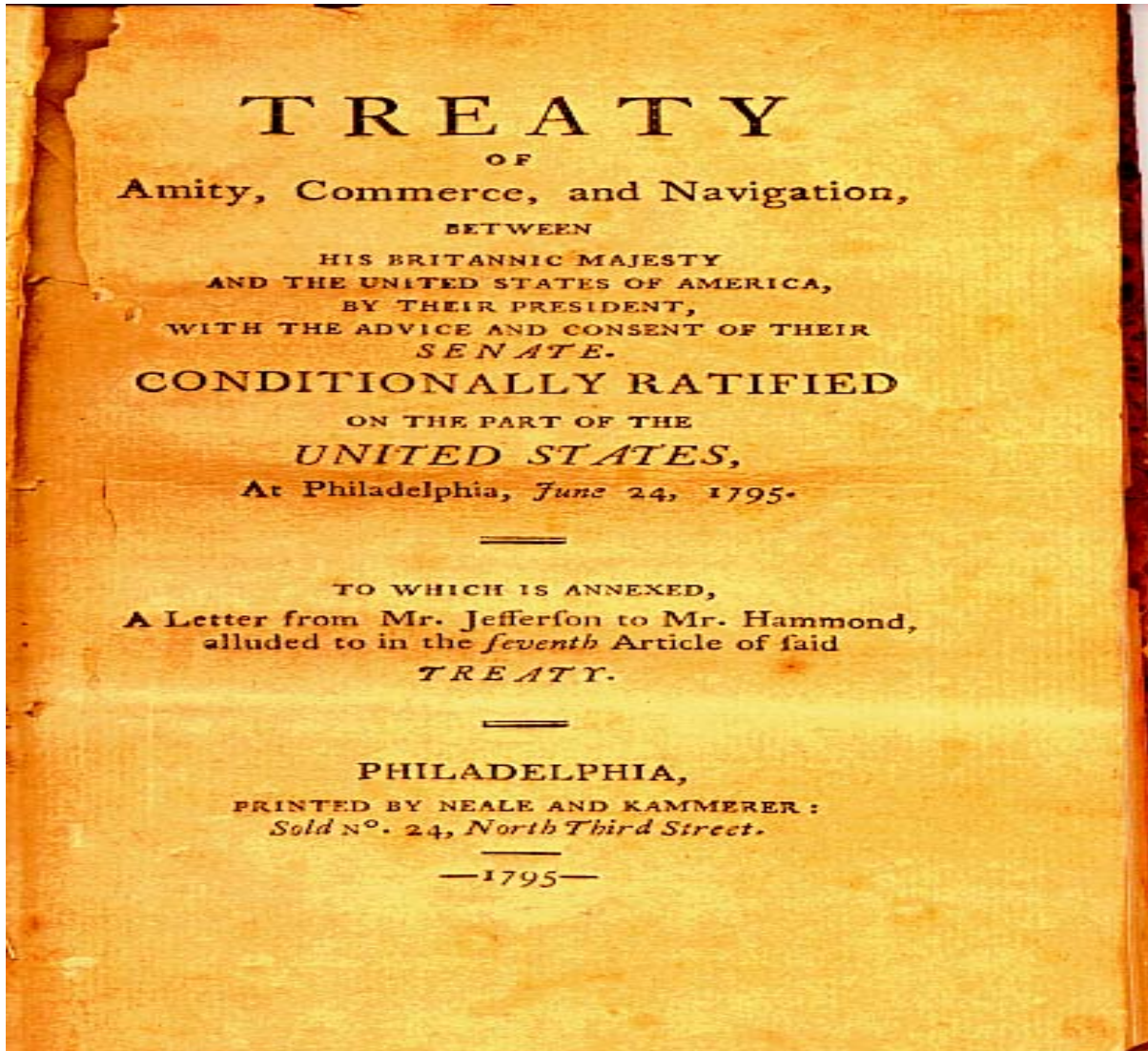
advice and consent of the Senate thereof, hath appointed for their Plenipotentiary, the Honorable John Jay, Chief Justice of the said United States, and their Envoy Extraordinary to His Majesty; Who have agreed on and concluded the these articles.

7. Vocabulary: What does "Plenipotentiary" mean? How does this relate to the Jay Treaty?

8. What did John Jay do as a Plenipotentiary (Chief Justice of the U.S.)?

### **Document 5**

#### **The Original Jay Treaty**



9. When was this treaty written, and what do you see here?

10. In what article does this treaty show that it was approved?

**Document 6**

11. Who is in this portrait below?

12. He looks very serious and concerned. What do you think he is holding in his hands?



13. Why is he dressed this way does it have any significance?

**Document 7**

**Jay's Treaty**

Treaty of Amity, Commerce, and Navigation, between His Britannic Majesty and the United States of America, by their President, Ratified June 24, 1795.

***Published by Neale and Kammerer, Philadelphia, 1795***

Although the [Treaty of Paris](#) (1783) ended the American War for Independence, the years following saw relations between America and England deteriorate precipitously. England refused to evacuate the frontier forts in the [Northwest Territory](#); in addition, she seized American ships, forcing American sailors to serve in England's war against France. The United States, for her part, passed navigation laws that were potentially damaging to Great Britain. It was apparent that a commercial war between the two countries would undermine the health of the American economy.

The American statesman, [John Jay](#), pressed into service as special envoy, went to England to negotiate disagreements between the two governments. On November 19, 1794, Jay's Treaty was signed averting the threat of war. The Treaty eliminated British control of western posts within two years, established America's claim for damages from British ship seizures, and provided America a limited right to trade in the West Indies.

Although Jay's Treaty provoked a storm of controversy (Jay was burned in effigy by mobs of outraged Americans), President Washington pressed for ratification. The treaty passed the Senate in June, 1795. Among John Jay's many accomplishments — president of Congress in 1778, minister to Spain, one of three Americans who negotiated the Paris Peace Treaty, an author of *The Federalist* and the first chief justice of the Supreme Court — none was more important than his negotiation of the Treaty with Great Britain in 1794. \

14. Name and describe some of John Jay's major accomplishments.

15. Describe the first treaty that John Jay worked on before the Northwest Territory decisions.

**Document Based Question – The Jay Treaty**  
**Carlos Leiva, Westwood Middle School**

**Directions.** Using the information in the documents provided, notes and your knowledge of history, write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, a body of several paragraphs, and a conclusion.

**Essay Question: How is the Jay Treaty significant to the success of the United States as a nation?**

**Guidelines**

**Be sure to:**

- Address all aspects of the task by accurately analyzing and interpreting the documents.
- Use information provided in the documents in the body of your essay.
- Incorporate relevant outside information in your essay.
- Be sure to organize your essay in a clear and logical way.

**Rubric**

**Assessing Historical Knowledge**

**Subjects:** Social studies **# of scales** 1

**Grade(s)** Not specified **# Scale length** 5

**Holistic Scale**

**5)** Offers accurate, comprehensive and complete analysis of the information and issues.

Provides a variety of facts to explore major and minor issues.

Extensively uses previous historical knowledge to provide an in-depth understanding of the problem and to relate it to past and future situations.

**4)** Concise, accurate analysis of the documents.

Facts provided relate the major and minor issues involved.

Recalls previous general historical knowledge to examine historical issues.

**3)** Relates only major facts to the basic issues with a fair degree of accuracy.

Analyzes information to explain at least one issue with essential support.

Uses general ideas from previous historical knowledge with a fair degree of accuracy.

**2)** Provides only basic facts with only some degree of accuracy.

Refers to information to explain at least one issue or concept in general terms.

Limited use of previous historical knowledge with only limited accuracy.

Major reliance on the information provided from text.

**1)** Repeats one or two facts without complete accuracy.

Deals only briefly and vaguely with concepts or issues.

Indicates little or no previous historical knowledge.

Relies heavily on the information provided.