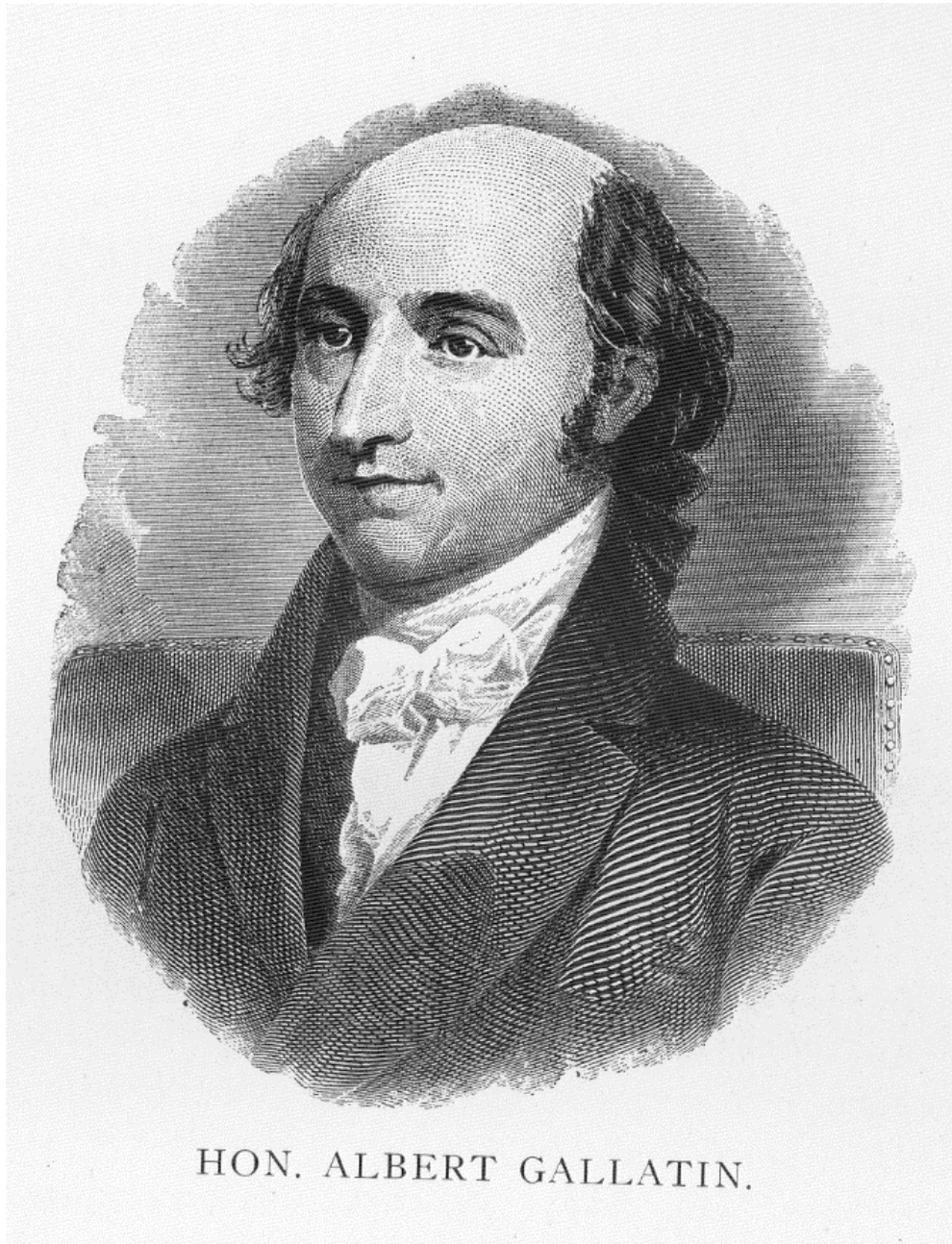


Albert Gallatin: A Most Astonishing Man

Friendship Hill National Historic Site

Teacher's Guide



Lesson: Gallatin and the Louisiana Purchase

Teacher Instructions

In this lesson the students will use a student reading to learn about the Louisiana Purchase. Then using an activity sheet the students will write why the Louisiana Purchase would benefit the United States and how they would act if they were in the dilemma that the minister to France was in when he was offered the Louisiana Territory.

GUIDING QUESTION:

Was the Louisiana Purchase a good buy?

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this lesson the students will be able to:

- List two ways buying the Louisiana Territory benefited the United States
- Justify why the minister to France made the purchase

MATERIALS

- Copies of the handouts

PROCEDURES:

1. Read the teacher background information on Albert Gallatin
2. Introduce the guiding question to students.
3. Hand out copies of the student reading and the activity sheet.
4. Have the students complete the sheets.
5. Review the guiding question.

STANDARDS

- Pennsylvania Standard Area - 8.1: Historical Analysis and Skills Development
 - Standard - 8.1.5.A, 8.1.6.A, 8.1.7.A, 8.1.8.A
- Pennsylvania Standard Area - 8.3: United States History
 - Standard - 8.2.5.A, 8.2.6.C, 8.2.7.D, 8.2.8.D
 - Standard - 8.3.5.C, 8.3.6.C, 8.3.7.C, 8.3.8.C
 - Standard - 8.3.5.D, 8.3.6.D, 8.3.7.D, 8.3.8.D

SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING LEARNERS

You can read the material out loud to the students or go over the material as a class.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

President Jefferson could not quickly communicate with his minister to France. Today we have nearly instant communication with phones, texts and emails. Make a list of some things that might go wrong in your life if you didn't have instant communication.

ASSESSMENT

1. Reasons why the purchase of the Louisiana Territory would be good for the United States
 - It would eliminate having France as a neighbor. France was very strong and threatening.
 - It would open the port of New Orleans
 - The angry Americans would not go to war with France over the use of New Orleans
 - It would double the size of the United States, and provide opportunities for expansion.
2. Why to buy or not buy the Louisiana Territory
 - The students should address their feelings about exceeding the limit they were given to spend and why they decided to take that action.

FOOTNOTES

- The James Madison quote can be found on the Library of Congress website at <https://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/ourdocs/louisiana.html>. It is from a letter written to Robert Livingston dated July 29, 1803

Student Handout: Gallatin and the Louisiana Purchase

Student Reading

The Democratic-Republicans (the new name for the Anti-Federalist) came into power with the election of Thomas Jefferson as the third President of the United States in the spring of 1801. Gallatin was appointed Secretary of the Treasury. This made him a member of Jefferson's **cabinet**, which was what his circle of close advisors was called.

When Jefferson took office Spain owned the area called the Louisiana Territory. This large area a land lay west of the Mississippi River and included the port city of New Orleans. Americans had the right to use the Mississippi River and store goods in New Orleans, as the items waited to be transferred to larger ocean-going ships.

Things changed In October of 1802 when Spain made a treaty to give the Louisiana Territory to France. This was bad for Americans since France was a much more powerful and threatening country to have next to them than Spain was. At the same time, Spain no longer allowed Americans to store goods in New Orleans. This was very harmful to the Americans who used the Mississippi River to get their goods to market. Americans were so upset some wanted to go to war and capture New Orleans.

President Jefferson sent a minister to France to see if the United States could buy New Orleans and some of the land around it. The minister was allowed to spend up to \$10 million.

When the minister arrived in France in April 1803, he learned the French were willing to sell all of the Louisiana Territory, including New Orleans. The territory would double the size of the United States. It would cost \$15 million, more than he was allowed to spend. To write to President Jefferson and get a response would take three months. He couldn't wait that long and decided to agree to buy it.

The United States government did not have the money to pay France, so Gallatin had to figure out how to make the payment. However, Gallatin was delighted to get the Louisiana Territory by making a purchase instead of through war. He had the United States pay for the Louisiana Purchase without raising taxes!



Student Handout: Gallatin and the Louisiana Purchase

Activity Worksheet

1. One of President Jefferson's cabinet members, James Madison, wrote that the purchase of the Louisiana Territory would "do much good as well as to prevent much evil."

Directions: Write two reasons why the purchase of the Louisiana Territory would be good for the United States. Make sure you write your answers in complete sentences.

2.) Imagine you are America's minister to France in 1803. You are only authorized to spend up to \$10 million to buy New Orleans and its surrounding land from France. Then France offers you all of the Louisiana Territory for \$15 million. This is 20 times bigger than what you were sent to buy! You can't wait for three months to get permission to spend more money. You decide to buy it.

Directions: Write a journal entry, as if you were the minister to France. Include your feelings about exceeding the amount you were allowed to spend and at least one explanation of why you decided to go ahead with the purchase anyway. Your journal entry should be written in complete sentences.