

Title the next page in your  
journal this....



*Whiskey Rebellion*

You are about to watch a silent clip.  
While watching the clip, jot down  
suggestions and ideas about what  
you think is happening in your  
journals.

We'll discuss afterwards.



BY AUTHORITY.

By the President of the United States of America.

### A PROCLAMATION.

WHEREAS combinations to defeat the execution of the laws laying duties upon spirits distilled within the United States and upon stills, have from the time of the commencement of those laws existed in some of the western parts of Pennsylvania: AND WHEREAS the said combinations, proceeding in a manner subversive equally of the just authority of government and of the rights of individuals have hitherto effected their dangerous and criminal purpose; by the influence of certain irregular meetings whose proceedings have tended to encourage and uphold the spirit of opposition, by misrepresentations of the laws calculated to render them odious, by endeavours to deter those who might be so disposed from accepting offices under them, through fear of public resentment and of injury to person and property, and to compel those who had accepted such offices by actual violence to surrender or forbear the execution of them;—by circulating vindictive menaces against all those who should otherwise directly or indirectly aid in the execution of the said laws, or who, yielding to the dictates of conscience and to a sense of obligation should themselves comply therewith, by actually injuring and destroying the property of persons who were understood to have so complied;—by inflicting cruel and humiliating punishments upon private citizens for no other cause than that of appearing to be the friends of the laws;—by intercepting the public officers on the high ways, abusing, assaulting, and otherwise ill treating them:—by going to their houses in the night, gaining admittance by force, taking away their papers, and committing other outrages; employing for these unwarrantable purposes the agency of armed banditti disguised in such manner as for the most part to escape discovery:—AND WHEREAS the endeavors of the Legislature to obviate objections to the said laws, by lowering the duties and by other alterations conducive to the convenience of those whom they immediately affect (though they have given satisfaction in other quarters) and the endeavors of the executive officers to conciliate a compliance with the laws, by explanations, by forbearance, and even by particular accommodations, founded on the suggestion of local considerations have been disappointed of their effect by the machinations of persons whose industry to excite resistance has increased with every appearance of a disposition among the people to relax in their opposition and to acquiesce in the laws inasmuch that many persons in the said western parts of Pennsylvania have at length been hard-

# The Whiskey Rebellion

To raise money for the Treasury, Congress approved a tax on all liquor made and sold in the United States. Hamilton wanted this tax to raise money for the Treasury. Instead, the new tax sparked a rebellion that tested the strength of the new government.

## A Hated Tax

Like many Americans, backcountry farmers grew corn. However, corn was bulky and hard to haul over rough roads. Instead, farmers converted their corn into whiskey. Barrels of whiskey could be shipped more easily to the markets in the east.

Backcountry farmers hated the tax on whiskey. Many refused to pay it. They compared it to the taxes Britain had forced on the colonies.

In 1794, when officials in western Pennsylvania tried to collect the tax, farmers rebelled. Thousands marched in protest through the streets in Pittsburgh. They sang Revolutionary songs and tarred and feathered the tax collectors.



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# The Whiskey Rebellion

## A Show of Strength

Washington responded quickly. He called up the militia and dispatched them to Pennsylvania. When the rebels heard that thousands of troops were marching against them, they fled back to their farms. Hamilton wanted the leaders of the rebellion executed, but Washington disagreed and pardoned them. He believed that the government had shown its strength to all. Now, it was time to show mercy.

The Whiskey Rebellion tested the will of the new government. Washington's quick response proved to Americans that their new government would act firmly in times of crisis. The President also showed that those who disagreed with the government that violence would not be tolerated.

# Discussion Questions

Why was the U.S. Government collecting taxes?

How did the taxes affect Pennsylvania farmers?

What precedents (examples) did Washington establish with this rebellion?

## *Do both in your journal...*

- Write the 5W's for the Whiskey Rebellion.

- Writing reflection:

How did the Whiskey Rebellion define the authority of the Federal government?

# Venn Diagram

- With your table group, complete a Venn Diagram comparing and contrasting Shays Rebellion (*American Nation* p. 204) and the Whiskey Rebellion (*American Nation* p. 282).

