



Section 4

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Comparing; Contrasting*

Although Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton both made significant contributions to shaping the future of the United States, they were total opposites in many ways. After reading the passage below, fill out the chart. First, list five categories that you'd like to use in contrasting them. Two have been listed for you. Then, list differences between the two men for the categories. (See Skillbuilder Handbook, p. R8.)

Thomas Jefferson Known as the author of the Declaration of Independence and third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson was also a noted diplomat and thinker. He was born on his family's farm and led the life of a country boy.

When Jefferson was 14 years old, his father died, and the boy inherited the family farm. At the age of 16 he began attending the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. After college he studied law and began to practice law in 1767. He served in Virginia government and was chosen as a delegate to the Second Continental Congress. In 1776 he drafted the Declaration of Independence.

Instead of fighting in the Revolutionary War, Jefferson worked for social reform in Virginia. Following the war, he resumed his participation in the national government, eventually becoming president, with Aaron Burr as his vice-president.

After two terms as president, Jefferson retired from political life. He died quietly at his home on July 4, 1826.

Alexander Hamilton Born in the West Indies, Alexander Hamilton was the son of a Scottish merchant there. He spent some of his youth working for a trading company on the island of St. Croix, then traveled to North America and attended King's College, which later became Columbia University. He served as a captain during the Revolutionary War.

In 1782, Alexander Hamilton began to practice law in New York and became a delegate to the Congress of the Confederation under the Articles of Confederation. He was appointed secretary of the treasury in 1789. In 1795, after increased Congressional opposition to his ideas, Hamilton resigned as treasury secretary, but he remained active in politics.

In the presidential election of 1800, Hamilton supported Thomas Jefferson because, although he distrusted Jefferson, he disliked Jefferson's opponent, Aaron Burr, even more. Jefferson won the election and Burr became vice-president. In 1804, Hamilton's public criticism of Burr resulted in a duel between the two men. On July 11, 1804, they fought. Hamilton was shot and died from his wound the next day.

Category	Jefferson	Hamilton
1. Place of birth		
2. Youth		
3.		
4.		
5.		