

Chapter 11 Section 2

How did the United States acquire the Louisiana Territory?

1). Where is the Louisiana Territory?

It is a large chunk of land located between the Mississippi River to the east and the Rocky Mountains to the west. It was owned by the French.

2). Why did we want to buy it?

We wanted access to the Mississippi River and the port city of New Orleans. When the United States made an offer to buy these two places the French offered all of Louisiana to America.

3). What was the constitutional issue for President Jefferson?

Jefferson wanted to purchase this land, but it's not in the Constitution. He could have amended the Constitution, but that might take too long and France might change their mind about selling Louisiana. Jefferson refused to consider using the elastic clause.

4). How did Jefferson purchase Louisiana?

Jefferson used his power to negotiate a treaty which included the sale of Louisiana. The Senate confirmed this treaty. This established the precedent for acquiring new lands for future presidents.

5). Did Jefferson contradict his strict interpretation of the Constitution?

Yes, he did contradict himself because his criticism of the creation of the national bank should have been the same as using his power of creating treaties.