

Did You Know?

Political parties and their issues were different way back then.

- **Federalists:** The Federalist Party supported a balanced distribution of power between the federal government and the states. They believed in states' rights. Federalists supported the Constitution with, not without, the Bill of Rights.
- **Republicans:** These were also called anti-federalists. The Republicans believed in concentration of power and authority in federal government, rather than in states' rights.
- **Democratic-Republicans:** This party formed in 1818 and was in favor of strict interpretation of the original Constitution. The Democratic-Republicans supported states' rights and the restriction of powers of federal government.

During this time in U.S. History, American literature was born!

- **Washington Irving** wrote *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow* and *Rip Van Winkle*, the first literature that was distinctly American. Irving was the first U.S. writer to make a living from writing.
- **James Fenimore Cooper** wrote the books that made up the Leatherstocking Tales, which were detailed stories about life on the American frontier.

Exercise

1. What is a republic? _____

2. During the Early Republic, how did the U.S. want to be perceived or seen by other nations?

3. List the three regions of the United States during the Early Republic and give one characteristic of each. _____

4. What was the importance of the steamboat? _____
5. Why was Webster's dictionary important? _____

