Name: _____

After the American victory at Yorktown in 1791 ended the American Revolution, Congress was having difficulty collecting money from the new states to pay the army. In 1792 one of President George Washington's officers, Colonel Lewis Nicola wrote Washington suggesting that the president become the king of the United States. Washington wrote back swiftly, "You could not have found a person to whom your schemes are more disagreeable." It was a firm answer: no.

But what if Washington had said yes? He was certainly widely admired and respected. And after all, there were no republics among any of the European countries which were the countries most culturally tied to the new United States. A monarchy was a familiar pattern of government, as opposed to the uncharted waters of a republic.

How do you think the United States would be different if Washington had become king? Would the size of the United States be different? What events in history might have been changed and how would they be different?

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Name: Key

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Answers: Student's choice