



Letters to the President

Teacher's Copy - Answer Key

5. **What is the date on Noah Webster's letter and where is he when he writes it? How long did it take Noah to respond to George Washington's letter?**

September 2, 1790. He is in Hartford. It took him 4 days to respond. Not bad!

6. **In his letter, Noah Webster refers to George Washington as "Your Excellency," a sign of respect. What other phrases does he use in his letter to show respect for the President?**

"so experienced and judicious a cultivator of the earth as your Excellency"

"your high and important office"

"elevated and esteemed character"

"your better judgment"

"I have the honor to be with great attachment and respect"

7. **Why does Noah Webster want his ideas about agriculture to remain a secret? Is he popular with everyone?**

Noah Webster is afraid that if he publishes his ideas under his own name, people will not take him seriously. Although he has published much in his young age, some people do not like him or agree with his ideas.

8. **At the end of his letter, Noah Webster says "I neither deserve or expect it." What is he talking about? (Hint: Read the previous line of his letter.)**

"I have only to request that no personal attention to me may ever take your mind from public concern." Noah Webster realizes that George Washington is an important person and does not wish to distract him from his official duties.

- Bonus: How old is Noah Webster when he writes this letter? What do you think about a man of his age writing to the President of the United States?**

Noah Webster is 31 years old - he would be turning 32 on October 16, 1790. He shows a lot of guts writing to someone as important as the President of the United States. Noah Webster must have had a high opinion of himself to write to the President and ask him his opinion about Noah's ideas.