**Directions:** Read Washington’s Farewell Address to the United States. Then answer the questions below in complete sentences.

**George Washington’s Farewell Address**

The acceptance and continuation of serving the office to which you voters have twice called me has been a great honor; remaining president only out of a respect for what appeared to be your desire. I constantly hoped that it would have been much earlier in my power, so I could return to that retirement from which I had been reluctantly taken from. The strength of my inclination to do this, previous to the last election, had even led to the preparation of an address to declare it to you; but mature reflection on the then critical stance of our affairs with foreign nations, and the unanimous advice of persons entitled to my confidence, encouraged me to abandon the idea…

The North, in an unrestrained contact with the South, protected by the equal laws of a common government, has additional resources of maritime and commercial enterprise and precious materials of manufacturing industry. The South, in the same contact, benefiting by the agency of the North, sees its agriculture grow and its commerce expand…

The alternate domination of one faction over another, sharpened by the spirit of revenge, natural to party dissension, which in different ages and countries has perpetrated the most horrid atrocities, is itself a frightful tyranny. But this leads at length to a more formal and permanent tyranny. The problems that result from the minds of men to seek security in the absolute power of an individual leads to the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty…

The common and continual mischiefs of the spirit of political parties are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it. It serves always to distract the public councils and enfeeble the public administration. It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, incites occasionally riot and insurrection. It opens the door to foreign influence and corruption, which finds a facilitated access to the government itself through the channels of party passions. Thus the policy and the will of one country are subjected to the policy and will of another…

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible. So far as we have already formed engagements, let them be fulfilled with perfect good faith. Here let us stop. Europe has a set of primary interests, in which we have none; or a very remote relation. Hence, therefore, it must be unwise in us to implicate ourselves by artificial ties in her politics and collisions of her friendships or hostilities…

**Questions**

1. Define the following words based on the context clues in the reading.

Tyranny

Unrestrained

Perpetrated

Enfeeble

Engagements

Incites

Agitates

2. What does Washington say in terms of his retirement in the first paragraph? Use textual evidence to support your reasoning!

3. What do you think factions are based on the third paragraph?

4. What is Washington’s opinion of factions? Use textual evidence to support your reasoning!

5. Washington takes a very clear stance on relations with foreign countries. What is his opinion regarding other countries?

6. Prediction! After Washington gives this speech, how do you think he will spend his following two years of life (ex. Does he continue in politics, does he help future presidents, does he do nothing, etc.)? Take your best guess, but be sure to explain *why* you feel this way!