John Adams “Independence” Video Guide

Foundations of Government

Directions: Answer the following questions while watching the episode “Independence” from John Adams. Complete sentences are NOT required 😊

1. As Representative John Dickinson passes resolutions of peace; John Adams and his cousin, Sam, react with disgust. Why was John Adams so frustrated with the 1st Continental Congress?

2. What do the other delegates think of John Adams’s personality?

3. What is the result of the Battle of Concord?

4. Knowing John’s personality, what does Abigail warn him against doing?

5. Dr. Benjamin Franklin makes a grand entrance to the Philadelphia Convention. His joke is that Massachusetts disgraced their country by violating what fundamental rule of warfare?

6. According to John Dickinson, “One colony (Massachusetts) cannot be allowed to take its sister colonies headlong into the maelstrom of ________.”

7. John Adams responds that “The time for negotiation is ____________.”

8. John Dickinson threatens that if the men from New England continue to oppose reconciliation, what will the other colonies be forced to do?
9. What does John Adams compare John Dickinson to?
10. What does Ben Franklin mean when he tells John Adams to “go gently”?

11. Why is Colonel George Washington in mourning?

12. George Washington offers to raise an army at his own expense. When John Adams thanks him for his generosity; Washington replies, “Not generosity, ________________.”

13. Describe the Battle of Bunker Hill from Abigail and the children’s perspective. (What did they see?)

14. John Adams moves that the Congress adopt the Massachusetts militia. In order to bypass the opposition, which able man does he recommend to lead this new “Continental Army”?

15. Why does Abigail suggest to John Adams that a woman should be sent to Congress?

16. Describe the condition of Colonel George Washington’s army.

17. Summarize King George III’s response to the colonists’ “Olive Branch” petition.

18. What does John Adams mean when he says that, “All 13 clocks must strike at the same second?”
Video Guide – Day 2  Directions: Answer the following questions while watching the episode “Independence” from John Adams. Complete sentences are NOT required 😊

19. Describe the argument between the 2 groups in Congress.

20. To Mr. Dickinson’s statement, “Only the voice of the ______________ can proclaim independence!” John Adams replies, “No, the ______________ wait for us to lead the way!” Which do you agree with and why?

21. What fears do some of the delegates have about a possible alliance with France?

22. By midnight, describe the state of delegates. (How do they look/sound?)

23. What is the outcome of the first call for a vote on Mr. Lee’s resolution for independence?


25. With John gone and the “bloody pox” (small pox) ravaging the countryside, Abigail engages in the new and risky business of inoculating herself and her children. Do you agree or disagree with her decision? Explain.

26. Though John Adams responds very positively to Thomas Jefferson’s first draft of the Declaration of Independence, Ben Franklin has some criticism. What would Ben prefer that Jefferson leave out of the Declaration? ____________________________

   (Part II) How does Jefferson respond to Franklin’s criticism of his work?
27. In Mr. Dickinson’s impassioned speech against independence, he gives several arguments. List 3 of them.

28. List 3 arguments from Mr. Adams’s equally passionate speech for independence.

29. When Sam tells John, “The majority is ours cousin!” John Adams responds, “No, it must be __________________________.”

30. South Carolina will agree to independence IF:

31. New York will agree to independence IF:

32. What do John and Ben convince Mr. Dickinson to do on the day of the vote?

33. What is the impact of inoculation on the Adams family?

34. Record the final vote:
   - New Hampshire: _________
   - Delaware: _________
   - Rhode Island: _________
   - Virginia: _________
   - Massachusetts: _________
   - Maryland: _________
   - New York: _________
   - North Carolina: _________
   - Connecticut: _________
   - South Carolina: _________
   - New Jersey: _________
   - Georgia: _________
   - Pennsylvania: _________

35. How do the delegates react after the vote is taken and independence is made?

36. Instead of God save the King! The cry becomes, “God save __________________________.”