

John Adams – “Independence” Questions

Name: _____

Per. ____ Date _____ Row ____

These questions are very detailed and specific. You should read over the questions before the episode begins in order to be prepared to answer them as the topics come up during the episode or afterwards.

- a. What images are being shown in the opening credits?
1. How does John Adams feel about the work of the First Continental Congress?
2. a. How does Benjamin Franklin feel about what happened at Concord?

b. How does he feel about the British government?
3. a. What does Adams say when he returns to the Congress in Philadelphia?

b. Is what he says popular? What does the Congress eventually vote to do?
4. a. Why does Adams go to talk to Benjamin Franklin after the Congress?

b. What does Franklin say to him?

c. What advice does Franklin give Adams?
5. a. Who is Colonel Washington mourning for?

b. What does he offer to do in support of Adams' cause?

c. What does Adams think of Washington?
6. a. What does Abigail Adams see in the early morning?

- b. What do Abigail and the children do later that day?
7. a. What does John Adams propose the next day at the Congress?
- b. Why is this such a big deal?
 - c. Who does he nominate and for what special job?
8. a. What does Abigail Adams mean when she asks, “Am I not living politics?”
- b. What example does she give?
9. a. What is the state of the troops under Washington’s command when Adams visits him?
- b. What idea does Adams bring up to Washington?
 - c. What is Washington’s response?
10. a. When Adams comes home, what is Abigail doing? Why?
11. a. Whose document arrives at the Congress?
- b. What does it say?
 - c. How do the delegates respond to what it says?
12. a. What are Abigail and the children doing near the hearth?
- b. Who/what interrupts them? What do they have with them?

13. a. What happens as the Congress begins again?
 - b. How do the delegates react?
 - c. What does Franklin say about the idea?
14. a. What happens in the after-hours session of the Congress?
 - b. What does Adams get permission to do?
15. a. What reason does Abigail Adams suggest to Washington for the bad circumstances facing the colonies?
 - b. Why is this a powerful statement?
 - c. What favor does she ask of him?
16. Why does Adams ask Jefferson to draft the Declaration of Independence? (4 reasons):
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
17. a. What service does Abigail seek out while at home?
 - b. What are the consequences for the family?

18. a. What issue do Franklin and Adams bring up upon first reading Jefferson's draft?
- b. Why is it an issue?
- c. What word(s) does Franklin suggest to replace "sacred and undeniable"?
- d. How does Adams react to Jefferson's writing?
- e. What invention of Jefferson's does Franklin comment is 'marvelous'?
19. a. In the rainy session of the Congress, what do opponents of the Declaration say?
- b. What does Adams say in favor?
20. a. What does South Carolina want before it will vote yes?
- b. What about New York? What does Franklin ask of the dissenting Pennsylvania delegate?
21. a. What was the final tally of the votes on the Declaration of Independence?
- b. What do all the delegates do after the vote?
22. What is going on in Philadelphia at the end of the episode?
23. What is going on back in Massachusetts with Abigail and the children?
24. What are your impressions of the film? What did it teach you about the time period and the decision for independence? (write 3-4 sentences with your thoughts).