

# John Adams Episode 2 Independence Worksheet Answers

10. If you were Adams, would you inoculate yourself and/or your children? Explain.

11. Describe the atmosphere in Congress after voting to declare independence. Why do you think the room was like this?

After the film

12. In your opinion, what was the strongest argument for independence? Why?

13. In your opinion, what was the weakest argument for independence? Why?

14. If you were in Congress at the time, how do you think you would have voted? Why?

15. What did you learn about government or day-to-day life in the colonies in the 1700s?

16. Reflect on the film. What are your thoughts on it? What did you like or dislike? What stood out to you or surprised you? Would you recommend the film to others?

John Adams Episode 2 Independence Worksheet Answers serve as a crucial educational tool for students studying the American Revolution and the life of one of its key figures, John Adams. This episode, which forms part of the acclaimed HBO miniseries "John Adams," delves into the events surrounding the Declaration of Independence and the broader context of the fight for American liberty. In this article, we will explore the significant themes and events depicted in the episode, provide a summary of key moments, and offer guidance on how to approach the worksheet answers effectively.

## Overview of John Adams Episode 2: Independence

The second episode of the "John Adams" miniseries, titled "Independence," covers the intense political climate of the early 1770s and the growing desire among the American colonies to break free from British rule. The episode showcases John Adams' pivotal role in advocating for independence, highlighting his relationships with other founding figures, including Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Hancock.

## Key Themes in Episode 2

Several key themes emerge throughout Episode 2, which are essential for understanding the historical context and Adams' motivations:

1. **The Struggle for Independence:** The episode emphasizes the conflict between the colonies and Britain, illustrating the various perspectives on independence and the risks involved in pursuing it.
2. **Political Ideals and Principles:** John Adams and his contemporaries grapple with the philosophical underpinnings of democracy, liberty, and governance. The episode reflects their debates on what independence would mean for the future of the nation.
3. **Courage and Conviction:** Adams' unwavering commitment to independence, despite the personal and political dangers, reveals the character traits that defined many of the founding fathers.
4. **Collaboration and Conflict:** The interactions between Adams and other leaders highlight both the unity and the divisions within the Continental Congress as they navigate their collective goal of independence.

## Key Events in the Episode

The episode is filled with significant events that shaped the course of American history. Here are some of the most notable:

1. **The Continental Congress:** The episode opens with the convening of the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, where representatives from the colonies come together to discuss their grievances against Britain.
2. **The Push for Independence:** John Adams advocates for independence, arguing passionately for the

colonies to break free from British control. His speeches are marked by a sense of urgency and determination.

3. Formation of the Declaration Committee: The episode culminates in the formation of a committee to draft the Declaration of Independence, with Adams, Jefferson, Franklin, and others contributing to this historic document.

4. Personal Struggles: The episode also explores Adams' personal life, including the strain on his marriage to Abigail Adams as he becomes more consumed by political matters.

## Important Characters

Understanding the key figures presented in the episode can enhance the comprehension of its themes and events:

- John Adams: A lawyer and a leading advocate for independence, Adams is portrayed as passionate and principled, willing to take risks for the sake of liberty.

- Abigail Adams: John's wife, she serves as his confidante and critical supporter, reflecting the emotional toll that politics takes on personal relationships.

- Thomas Jefferson: A fellow member of the Continental Congress, Jefferson is depicted as thoughtful and eloquent, tasked with drafting the Declaration.

- Benjamin Franklin: Older and more diplomatic, Franklin represents the established voice of reason, balancing Adams' fervor.

- John Hancock: The president of the Continental Congress, Hancock's charismatic leadership plays a crucial role in rallying support for independence.

# Worksheet Questions and Answers

When tackling the "John Adams Episode 2 Independence Worksheet," students should focus on specific questions that gauge their understanding of the episode's content. Here are some common questions and suggested answers.

## 1. What were the main arguments John Adams presented in favor of independence?

- Adams emphasized the need for self-governance and the natural rights of individuals.
- He highlighted the economic burdens placed on the colonies by British policies.
- Adams argued that continued loyalty to Britain would ultimately lead to oppression.

## 2. How did Abigail Adams influence John's views on independence?

- Abigail provided emotional support and counsel, encouraging John to pursue his ideals.
- She shared her own thoughts on liberty and governance, challenging traditional gender roles.
- Her letters served as a means of communication and reflection for John during turbulent times.

## 3. What role did the Continental Congress play in the push for independence?

- The Congress served as a platform for debate and discussion among the colonies.
- It united various factions and helped to organize a coordinated response to British actions.
- The Congress was instrumental in drafting and adopting the Declaration of Independence.

#### 4. What was the significance of the Declaration Committee's formation?

- The committee was tasked with articulating the colonies' reasons for seeking independence.
- It represented a crucial step toward formalizing the break from Britain.
- The Declaration would provide a foundational document for the new nation's identity.

## Conclusion

The "John Adams Episode 2 Independence" is a rich narrative that encapsulates the fervor and complexity of the American struggle for independence. By engaging with the worksheet questions and answers, students can deepen their understanding of both the historical context and the personal stories that shaped this pivotal moment in American history. As they reflect on the characters and events portrayed in the episode, learners are encouraged to think critically about the ideals of freedom and governance that continue to resonate today.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What key events are highlighted in Episode 2 of 'John Adams' that relate to the push for independence?**

Episode 2 of 'John Adams' focuses on significant events such as the Continental Congress, debates over independence, and the increasing tensions between the American colonies and Britain.

### **How does John Adams' character develop in Episode 2 regarding his views on independence?**

In Episode 2, John Adams becomes more resolute in his beliefs about independence, showcasing his leadership qualities and willingness to stand against opposition to advocate for freedom from British rule.

### **What role do other historical figures play in Episode 2 regarding the independence movement?**

Historical figures like Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and John Dickinson are depicted, illustrating their differing perspectives on independence and contributing to the debates that shape the movement.

### **What challenges does John Adams face in advocating for independence in this episode?**

John Adams faces significant challenges, including political opposition from fellow delegates, the need to build consensus among the colonies, and the fear of potential repercussions from Britain.

### **What themes related to independence are explored in Episode 2 of**

## 'John Adams'?

The episode explores themes of courage, sacrifice, and the moral dilemmas of leadership as Adams navigates the complexities of advocating for independence amidst a divided Congress and public opinion.

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