

Teacher's Guide for COBBLESTONE JOHN ADAMS—JOIN OR DIE

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Goal: to experience the events that led up to the Revolutionary War and the formation of new country and its government, while spotlighting the influence and leadership of John Adams and family.

"Patriotic Fires" by Diana Childress and Kathiann M. Kowalski (Pages 2-4)

Pre-reading: Look at the pictures. Read the captions and the title. What do you think is meant by Patriotic Fires?

Vocabulary Check: exhausting, thatch, insisted, asserted, rebelling, anew, threaten, kindling, inferior, massive, strictly, enforce, imposed, outraged, representatives, prominence, opponent, invalid, consent, repealed, tyranny, imposed, boycott, vowed, patrolled, barred, rebellious, insulting, patrolling, reflecting, deadlock, disguised, reasserted, and enacted.

Comprehension Check:

1. As a child, what did "independence" mean to John Adams?
2. How did John Adams feel about education as a child?
3. Tell about John Adams' rebellion against his father's wishes.
4. What was the Stamp Act?
5. James Otis, a resident of Massachusetts, declared, "Taxation without representation is tyranny." What does this mean?
6. England imposed "duties" on goods. What are duties?
7. Angry colonists "vowed a boycott." What does this mean?
8. Tell how the British maintained order in the colonial towns. Who paid for this?
9. What happened when a Massachusetts Assembly declared that the British did not have the right to tax the colonists?
10. Who did John Adams defend from the Boston Massacre in 1770?
11. Tell about the Boston Tea Party.
12. After the British closed the port of Boston, put limits on the colonies' charter, and required colonist to house British soldiers, a meeting of the First Continental Congress was called. Why was the Quebec Act a concern to the colonists?
13. Why did Adams quit his law practice?

Research:

- The Stamp Act of 1766
- Declaratory Act
- Townshend Act
- Sons of Liberty
- Boston Massacre
- The Tea Act
- The Boston Tea Party
- The Coercive Acts
- The First Continental Congress (1774)

"Son of Liberty" by Virginia Calkins (Page 7)

Pre-reading: Samuel Adams is called a Son of Liberty. Read the picture captions to learn more about what that means.

Vocabulary Check: skirmish, militia, opposing, condemning, consent, urged, repealed, inspired, protest, demonstrations, injustices, persuade, delegates, appointed, munitions, devoted, uniting, and inspiring

Comprehension Check:

1. What was Samuel Adams' reaction to the skirmish between British and colonists?
2. What was Samuel Adams' main interest since he was 16?
3. Samuel Adams organized a group that met to share information. What was it called?
4. What types of demonstrations did the Sons of Liberty participate in?
5. What offices did Samuel Adams hold after the Revolutionary War?
6. Why did Samuel Adams call the incident on March 5, 1770, "The Boston Massacre?"
7. Why do you think Samuel Adams arms are folded on his statue?

Research:

- Samuel Adams
- Sons of Liberty
- Boston Massacre

"Massacre in March" A Play by Lucinda Winslow (Pages 6-9)

Pre-reading: Read the directions for the actors and staff and the sound effects. Why is this so important for this play? How is it to be presented?

Vocabulary Check: massacre, skirmish, hecklers, resented, quartering soldiers, arrogant, defend, barracks, prominent, evidence, retaining, guarantees, postponed, and manslaughter,

Comprehension Check:

1. Read the note following the play. What liberties did the author take with the setting?
2. Who are the "Lobsters?"
3. British troops had been in the colonies for two years when the play opens. Why?
4. How did the colonists feel about having British soldiers present?
5. What is a Tory lover? What is a Whig?
6. Listen to the chanting of the mob. What is the mood?
7. What was Forrester's request of John Adams?
8. When speaking of the soldiers, why does Samuel say, "They're bound to be guilty for something?"
9. Why might Abigail lose some friends?
10. What is meant by "there really was no turning back?"

Writing Activity:

- Pretend to be Abigail Adams. Write a note to John telling that you are proud of him for defending the soldiers.
- Pretend to be John Adams. Write a note to Abigail asking her to forgive any harm that comes to her because of his defense of the soldiers.

"Remember the Ladies" by Joan Barton Terrana, illustrated by Giovanni Da Re (Pages 10-13)

Pre-reading: Look at the pictures. Read the title. Predict what this article might be about.

Vocabulary Check: reassure, struggling, intelligence, minister, respectable, consent, newlyweds, inherited, managed, temporarily, pored, disgrace, urged, protest, responded, sacrifices, separations, incorporated, yearning, afford, denied, pursued, descendants, remained, managing, corresponded, refugees, confusing, fatigued, urged, generous, ancestors, tyrants, polish, influence, distinguished, virtue, advocated, and opportunities

Comprehension Check:

1. What is "a yearning for learning?"
2. How would life have been different for John and Abigail Adams if she had never learned to write?
3. Why was it unusual that Abigail's father and maternal grandfather encouraged her to read from their libraries and to think for herself?
4. Abigail wrote this message to John before they were married. What does it mean? "Gold and silver have I none, but such as I have, I give unto thee."
5. How can you tell that Abigail had "a yearning for learning?"
6. Tell what wartime shortages were probably faced.
7. What was Abigail's reaction to being called "Mrs. President?"

Writing Activity:

- Pretend to be Abigail and write a letter to John asking that he speak up for women's rights.
- Pretend to be Abigail's mother, when Abigail was a child. Write a letter to Grandmother Quincy. Respond to her comment, "Wild colts make the best horses."

Research:

- Typhoid fever

"Dearest Friend" by Meg Chorlian (Page 13)

Pre-reading: Why do you think the article is entitled "Dearest Friend?"

Vocabulary Check: exchanged, guidance, separated, scoldings, communication, valuable, portion, promote, controversial, and supportive.

Comprehension Check:

1. What different topics did John and Abigail Adams write about?
2. When John writes of his success, what does Abigail say in response?
3. What does John mean by the last quote of this article?

Writing Activity:

- Pretend to be Abigail and write a response to the last comment John makes in this article.

"Mr. Obnoxious" by Meg Chorlian and Jerry Miller (Pages 14-17)

Pre-reading: Look at the pictures. Read the captions and the title. Can you determine who is "Mr. Obnoxious?"

Vocabulary Check: obnoxious, Epocha, apt, enthusiasm, gloom, ravishing, acquainted, skittish, tolerate, accomplish, disbanding, grievances, coercive, militia, resolves, resistance, authority, boycott, essays, insisted, favorably, petition, unite, diverse, unanimously, siege, ensure, hostilities, midst, threatened, margins, postponed, congressional, colossus, advocate, assured, disaster, skiff, impressive, preliminary, unanimous, abstained, parchment, solemn, undeniable, delegation, and treason

Comprehension Check:

1. Delegates from all the Colonies except Georgia attended the First Continental Congress. Describe the journey for John and Samuel Adams of Massachusetts.
2. What was the Declaration of Rights and Grievances?
3. Describe the Suffolk Resolves from Massachusetts.
4. Congress renewed the boycott on British goods. How would it be enforced?
5. What was King George's response to the petition of the Continental Congress?
6. How did John Adams feel about the British taxing the Colonies?
7. Who became the commander in chief of the Continental Army?
8. How did John Adams get the nickname of "Mr. Obnoxious?"
9. How important was it to delegates to be able to vote? How do you know?
10. Why do you think it was important to have public readings of the Declaration of Independence in towns and cities?

Writing Activity:

- Pretend to know a delegate headed to the First Continental Congress. Create a sign to wave and a cheer to shout as he rides by.
- Pretend to be trying to convince South Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Delaware to vote in favor of independence. What key points would you make? Write a list.

Research:

- Independence Hall
- Declaration of Independence

"In Service Abroad" by Ruth Tenzer Feldman (Pages 18-21)

Pre-reading: Look at the pictures, captions and the title of the article. Predict where John Adams will spend time abroad.

Vocabulary Check: allies, negotiate, alliance, mediated, immensely, popularity, distrust, vain, disgrace, contempt, resumed, diplomatic, render, authorized, ambassador, pleading, nobility, accompanied, revoked, sole, recognition, gravely, surrendered, invaluable, embassy, negotiated, convinced, involvement, mourning, ratified, idling, appointed, emotional, frustrating, accomplished, hostility, constitutional, secure, and negotiated.

Comprehension Check:

1. John Adams took his son with him to Paris to negotiate an alliance with France. What did they discover when they arrived?
2. How did John Adams make good use of his time in Paris?
3. "In vain," Adams tried to get more support from the French. What does this mean?
4. What happened to Adams after he wrote the Congress and hinted that Franklin should minister to France?
5. What happened to Henry Laurens, who had served as Ambassador to the Netherlands?
6. How did John Adams feel when Congress no longer allowed him to be the sole peacemaker with Britain?
7. When Ambassador Adams signs a treaty of commerce and gets loans from the Netherlands, he says, "If this had been the only action of my Life, it would have been a Life well spent." Why does he say this?
8. When Adams was minister to Britain, what did he ask the Congress to do? Why?

Writing Activity:

- Pretend to be asked by the Congress to be a minister or an ambassador to France, England, or the Netherlands. Write your response to the Congress.

Research:

- Revolutionary War
- malaria

"A Committee of One" by Meg Chorlian (Page 20)

Pre-reading: Look at the photograph, caption and the title. What do you think the title means?

Vocabulary Check: draft, political, philosophy, essentially, composed, inhabitants, functioning, and designed

Comprehension Check:

1. How many people were on the committee?
2. How many people actually wrote the state constitution? Now, explain the title.
3. Where are some of these ideas seen in other documents today?

Writing Activity:

- Pretend to be John Adams. Write a letter to one of the committee members assigned to work on this draft of a state constitution. Tell the person that you have completed the draft.
- Pretend to be on the committee to draft a state constitution. Write a response to John Adams when he says that the draft is complete.

"Did You Know?" illustrated by Chris Ware (Pages 24-25)

Pre-reading: Look at the illustrations. Which one made you chuckle? Which one taught a fact you did not know?

Vocabulary Check: epidemic, immunization, postponed, remained, convince, proposals, rejected, and account.

Comprehension Check:

1. What is smallpox?
2. What unexpected effect did the Revolutionary War have on some marriages?
3. How does Adams feel about slavery?
4. What way is the president of the U.S. addressed?
5. Tell of Adams' influence in the Senate.
6. How is moving to another country different today?

Art:

Choose an article from this issue and illustrate something in a comical way. For example: Peacefield could be drawn as a field full of Peace signs.

Research:

- smallpox

"President Adams" by Marcia Amidon Lusted (Pages 26-29)

Pre-reading: What key words come to mind after looking at the pictures, picture captions, and the title?

Vocabulary Check: inauguration, administration, temporary, inhabit, reside, portico, released, retained, rival, electoral, rarely, consulted, contrived, insignificant, conceived, executive, resolved, alliance,

negotiate, bribe, envoys, surge, reactivated, sedition, controversial, prosecuted, denounced, averting, hostilities, normalized, and diplomacy.

Comprehension Check:

1. Do you predict that Adams and Jefferson will restore their friendship at a later time? Why or why not?
2. Tell about the vice president's primary duty at this time.
3. Explain the advantage of running on a ticket during a presidential election.
4. Tell why the French began to attack American merchant ships.
5. What did the French demand from America?
6. Which of the four acts about aliens is still in effect today?
7. Adam's party did not agree with him on how the French conflict was settled. Tell about it.
8. If Adams had agreed with his political party's stand on the French conflict, do you think he would have been re-elected? Why or why not?
9. What are "Midnight Judges?"
10. Why do you think Adams did not attend Jefferson's inauguration as the next president?

Writing Activity:

- Pretend to be Abigail and write a letter to John explaining that you won't be able to attend the inauguration and why.
- Pretend to be John Adams. Write a letter to Abigail telling how the political party stands on the French conflict and how you feel.

Research:

- *USS Constitution*

"The First Party" by William B. Bushong (Page 30)

Pre-reading: Do you know when the first party was held in the White House? What was the occasion?

Vocabulary Check: brocade, breeches, imitated, curiosity, tradition, flair, and festive,

Comprehension Check:

1. What was the White House originally called?
2. What is unique about visiting the White House?
3. How long did the Adamses live in the White House?
4. How did the Adamses greet their guests? Why?
5. Tell about the tradition of music at White House events.

Art:

- Illustrate laundry hanging in the East Room.
- Illustrate the Adamses living in the unfinished, unfurnished White House.
- Illustrate the room's furnishings described in this article.

Writing Activity:

- Pretend to be John Adams. Write a note to be tucked in a history book for a 21st-century president.
- Pretend to be Abigail Adams. Write a letter to John telling him how proud you are of him.

"Finding Peace at Peacefield" by Marcia Amidon Lusted (Pages 31-33)

Pre-reading: Look at the pictures, captions, and the title of the article. Name three things that brought John Adams peace.

Vocabulary Check: various, electoral, delegate, constantly, reunited, re-establish, mutual, determined, differing, philosophies, revive, cordial, persuaded, resumed, correspondence, conscience, impressed, response, regretted, urging, province, commenting, critics, despite, uncommon, survives, orator, eulogy, prosperity, beneficial, commissioned, and portraits.

Comprehension Check:

1. Tell how letter writing helped John Adams' friendships.
2. How was Dr. Benjamin Rush involved in renewing a friendship for Adams and Jefferson?
3. Adams wrote angry letters to Mercy Otis Warren because of comments she wrote about him in a book she published. Their friendship ended. What happened to resume it?
4. What was significant about Adams and Jefferson both dying on the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence?

Research:

- Peacefield
- Mercy Otis Warren
- The Adams National Historical Park

"Old Man Eloquent" by Randy Krehbiel and Andrew Matthews (Pages 34-37)

Pre-reading: Look at the pictures, captions, and title. What words describe his career?

Vocabulary Check: excel, expectations, passionate, abolition, interview, apologized, fickle, vexed, diligent, accompanied, varied, interrupted, capacity, unrivaled, negotiator, avoid, prohibited, interference, aggression, disputed, distinguished, treaty, contributed, ineffectiveness, filibusters, opposition, seized, illegally, collapsed, and acquired.

Comprehension Check:

1. How many presidential administrations was John Quincy Adams involved in?
2. What was George Washington's opinion of John Quincy Adams?
3. What positive influence did John Quincy Adams have on war involvement?
4. What was the Monroe Doctrine's stand on colonization?
5. Name at least two parallels between John Adams and John Quincy Adams.
6. Name one way John Quincy Adams supported national unity.
7. Why was he given the nickname "Old Man Eloquent?"

Research:

- Abolition
- Monroe Doctrine

"And the Beat Goes On" by Andrew Matthews (Pages 36-37)

Comprehension Check:

1. Name two or more descendants of John Quincy Adams who were involved in politics. What position did this person hold?
2. Did the Adams' opposition to slavery continue? What tells you so?

"Home, Sweet Home" by Marian R. Carlson (Pages 38-39)

Pre-reading: Look at the pictures, captions, and the title. If you tour the Old House today, why would it feel like walking back in time?

Vocabulary Check: extensive, associated, resided, renovations, accommodate, accumulated, residence, artifacts, converted, and avid.

Comprehension Check:

1. Why do you think the Adamses waited so long to buy their dream home?
2. What were some family traditions that John Quincy Adams kept going?
3. Charles Francis Adams shared the writings of his father and grandfather. Tell of his project.
4. Why did John Quincy Adams leave a special request in his will?
5. How did Brooks Adams prevent family members from burning old diaries?
6. Why was the library built as a separate building?
7. How many trunks of books did Charles Francis Adams find stored in the Adams' house?

Research:

- Bullet mold
- Adams National Historical Park

"It's All in the Family" by Marcia Amidon Lusted, illustrated by Bryan Langdo (Pages 40-41)

Pre-reading: Before reading, can you guess one or more family featured here?

Vocabulary Check: dynasty, dedicating, generations, immigrant, descended, contributions, champion, expectations, impact, and assassinated

Comprehension Check:

1. What does the Roosevelt family have in common with the Adams' family?
2. Who was the only presidential candidate to win four terms to the White House?
3. What were some of the accomplishments of the Harrison family?
4. Why does the article say the Harrisons have deep roots?
5. What sadness came to the Kennedys due to public service?
6. What organization did Eunice Kennedy help form?

Writing Activity:

- Think of a family with several members with similar careers. Perhaps there have been several generations in that career. For example: I come from a long line of educators. Write a letter to one of the family members and thank them for their family's history of worker in that field.

"Making History Cool" by Dennis Denenberg (Page 47)

Pre-reading: Can you predict the mystery hero's occupation based on the illustrations?

Vocabulary Check: campaign, frequently, passion, pivotal, narrated, curiosity and documentaries.

Comprehension Check:

1. After reading the first two sentences in this article, see if you predicted the hero's occupation correctly.
2. How did the mystery hero feel about school and reading when he was a student?
3. The featured book about John Adams is very popular. What book-related offer came next?
4. A campaign is under way to build a monument in our nation's capital for a famous family. Which family?

5. Which is "Dr. D's" favorite book by this mystery hero?
6. "Dr. D." has met this mystery hero. Do you know the hero's name?

Writing Activity:

- Write a few clues about your favorite author. See if a friend can tell who your mystery author is.

"What a Loose Cannon!" (Page 48)

Vocabulary Check: revolutionaries, originated, phrase, secured, reckless, and consequences

Comprehension Check:

1. There is an expression that says, "Do the right thing." Do you think John Adams is someone who would believe this? Tell why or why not.
2. What emotions are probably to blame for when people speak or act like a loose cannon?
3. Would it be unusual for Adams to stand alone on one side of an argument? Do you recall a time he did this?
4. Did only Adams' enemies see him "as a loose cannon?" Explain.

"Whale Watch!" (Back Cover)

Pre-reading: Does it look like this whale is close enough to watch from the shore?

Vocabulary Check: whaling, industry, obvious, targets, carcass, extinction, designated, habitat, identification, critical, and callosities.

Comprehension Check:

1. What caused the right whales to be easy targets?
2. Why did the whale's blubber make them easy to locate after they were killed?
3. What prevented the right whale from becoming extinct?
4. Name some features that help identify the right whale.

Research:

- Right whales
- Blubber
- Official State Creatures: Massachusetts—State marine mammal is a right whale. Do other states have state marine mammals?