

John Hancock - Lexile 800

Name _____

Early Life and Education

John Hancock grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, where his uncle took care of him. His uncle sent him to Harvard University and made him a partner in his shipping business. When his uncle passed away in 1764, John became very wealthy.

Involvement in Politics and the Sons of Liberty

In 1765, John became a Boston Selectman and joined the Sons of Liberty, a group that fought against the Stamp Act, a tax by Great Britain. In 1768, he became a member of the Massachusetts Legislature and was known for supporting American independence. His shipping business helped the colonists get goods secretly to fight against British rule.

Leadership During the Revolutionary War

In 1774, after Great Britain passed laws that angered the colonists, John became president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress. This group had the power to call for soldiers if needed. The British then charged him with treason. In 1775, British soldiers tried to capture John in Lexington, and it was there that the first shots of the American Revolution were fired. John and Samuel Adams escaped.

Becoming President of the Continental Congress

Later in 1775, John became president of the Second Continental Congress, where he helped choose George Washington as the leader of the Continental Army. On July 4, 1776, John Hancock was the first to sign the Declaration of Independence. His signature was the biggest and most famous, and legend says he made it so King George III could see it clearly without needing glasses.

Helping the American Revolution

During the Revolution, John helped raise money and supplies for the Continental Army. In 1780, he became governor of Massachusetts and served for nine terms. He passed away in 1793. Today, many places, including the tallest building in Boston, are named after him.

1. What was one of John Hancock's main contributions to the American Revolution?

- A) He helped write the U.S. Constitution
- B) He raised funds and supplies for the Continental Army
- C) He led the Continental Army into battle
- D) He was the first to propose independence to Britain

2. Why is John Hancock's signature on the Declaration of Independence so famous?

- A) It was the longest signature
- B) It was the first signature
- C) It was the biggest and most visible signature
- D) It was written in a special color ink

3. What role did John Hancock play in the Massachusetts government during the Revolutionary War?

- A) He was a British spy
- B) He was president of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress
- C) He served as a military leader
- D) He helped create the first army draft

4. How did John Hancock's shipping business help the American colonies during the Revolution?

- A) It helped send secret messages to other countries
- B) It provided goods secretly to resist British control
- C) It built ships for the Continental Army
- D) It helped fund the British army

5. What is one reason John Hancock is remembered today?

- A) He was the first president of the United States
- B) Many places, including the tallest building in Boston, are named after him
- C) He was the writer of the Bill of Rights
- D) He led the first battle of the Revolution

Answers:

1.) B

2.) C

3.) B

4.) B

5.) B