

## **John Adams - Lexile 800**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

### **The Birth of a Patriot**

John Adams was born in 1735 to Henry and Susanna Adams. He graduated from Harvard University in 1755 and became a lawyer in 1758. From a young age, John felt strongly about political issues. He gave speeches against unfair taxes like the Stamp Act and even defended British soldiers after the Boston Massacre. In 1764, he married Abigail Smith, and they had five children, including future president John Quincy Adams. Abigail was a big support to John during the years he spent away from her in Europe.

### **Political Life and Presidency**

In 1771, John Adams was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives. In 1774, he joined the Continental Congress and helped write the Declaration of Independence. John Adams was a strong supporter of separating from England. He became known as a brave and stubborn leader. After the Revolutionary War, he worked on treaties with Europe. In 1797, he became the second president of the United States. Before that, he had been George Washington's vice president. As president, Adams faced challenges like the Alien and Sedition Acts, which made people angry, and disagreements in his political party. In 1800, he lost to Thomas Jefferson in the election.

### **Later Life and Friendship with Thomas Jefferson**

After leaving the presidency, John Adams felt sad and retired to his home called Peacefield in Massachusetts. In 1812, he began writing letters to his old friend, Thomas Jefferson. They wrote to each other for 14 years, talking about politics and ideas. In 1825, his son, John Quincy Adams, became president. John Adams passed away on July 4, 1826, the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Amazingly, Thomas Jefferson died on the same day, just hours before him.

### **Legacy as a Founding Father**

Today, John Adams is remembered as a key Founding Father of the United States. He might not have been as famous as some other leaders like Thomas Jefferson or George Washington, but he is now more recognized thanks to a popular book and movie about his life.

**1. Why did John Adams become an important figure in the fight for independence?**

- A) He was a great military leader.
- B) He was the first president of the United States.
- C) He helped write the Declaration of Independence and strongly supported separating from England.
- D) He invented important technologies.

**2. What was one of the challenges John Adams faced during his presidency?**

- A) A war with England.
- B) The Alien and Sedition Acts and disagreements within his political party.
- C) Building new states.
- D) Not having enough time to write letters to Thomas Jefferson.

**3. What was the significance of July 4, 1826, for both John Adams and Thomas Jefferson?**

- A) It was the day John Adams became president.
- B) It was the day they both signed the Declaration of Independence.
- C) It was the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and both men died on the same day.
- D) It was the day Thomas Jefferson wrote a letter to John Adams.

**4. How did John Adams' relationship with Thomas Jefferson evolve after Adams left the presidency?**

- A) They became rivals and never spoke again.
- B) They wrote letters to each other for 14 years, discussing politics and ideas.
- C) They worked together on government projects.
- D) They did not communicate for many years.

**5. Why is John Adams considered an important Founding Father, even though he was overshadowed by others like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson?**

- A) He helped create the U.S. Constitution.
- B) He was the first person to lead the Continental Army.
- C) He was the first person to live in the White House.
- D) He played a crucial role in the fight for independence and was the second president of the United States.

## Answers

1. C
2. B
3. C
4. B
5. D

## Answers:

- 1.) D
- 2.) D
- 3.) C
- 4.) B
- 5.) B