

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper as we watch Episode 2 of John Adams. This film and this assignment will replace the typical class discussion of these topics. Please also be sure to follow the posted unit schedule carefully as other assignments are due.

**This assignment will count twice in the Activities Grading Category.**

1. What was the purpose of the **Declaration and Resolves** (1774)?
2. Which colony was not represented at the First Continental Congress?
3. Why did the British originally march on Concord? (the event that sparked the battles at Lexington and Concord)
4. What was the original purpose of the convening of the Second Continental Congress?
5. Why did the Second Continental Congress chose the **Olive Branch Petition**?
  - a. Why do you think so many in the Congress were eager to send this document? Who would have opposed it and why?
  - b. From the film: Which region of the colonies voted “no” to the petition? Which regions voted “yes”? What is the significance of this distinction?
6. Who did John Adams recommend as Commander-in-Chief in the debates after the Battle of Bunker Hill?
7. Why did most Native American tribes side with the British in this conflict?
8. How influential was **Thomas Paine’s Common Sense**?
9. What was King George III’s reaction to the Olive Branch Petition?
10. What did Henry Knox drag with his men to Cambridge? Why were they important?
11. Why did Adams suggest that emissaries be sent to King Louis XVI of France?
12. Who were members of the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence?
13. Who were the Hessians?
14. Where did British Commander Howe amass troops in the Spring of 1776?
15. Why did Adams believe it was so important for Thomas Jefferson of Virginia to lead the writing of the **Declaration of Independence**?
16. What grievance against the King in the original draft of the *Declaration of Independence* was removed by the committee? WHY?
17. What were some of the dangers that John Dickinson argued would ensue if the Congress declared independence?

#### Historical Events portrayed in this episode:

1774 – First Continental Congress (assembled in reaction to the Intolerable Acts) concludes with a *Declaration and Resolves*

April 18, 1775 – **Lexington and Concord**

May 10, 1775 – **Second Continental Congress** begins meeting in Philadelphia  
(also: Ft. Ticonderoga captured in New York, cannons will later be dragged to Boston by Henry Knox)

June 17, 1775 – **Battle of Bunker Hill**

July 3, 1775 – George Washington takes command at Cambridge, Massachusetts (Washington without many troops stages men around Boston to make it seem that the British in Boston were surrounded)

July 5, 1775 – Congress sends an **Olive Branch Petition** to the King (when received, King George III refuses to read it and declares the colonies in active rebellion)

January 9, 1776 – **Thomas Paine’s Common Sense published**

March 17, 1776 – After the “Guns of Ticonderoga” arrived, the British evacuated Boston (reassembled in Halifax, Nova Scotia and will move on New York)

June 1776 – British fleet begins to arrive in New York harbor (largest naval assembly in world history)

June 7, 1776 – Richard Henry Lee of Virginia enters motion in the Second Continental Congress for a Declaration of Independence; committee formed by John Adams, Ben Franklin and Thomas Jefferson

July 2, 1776 – Congress votes to approve the Declaration of Independence

July 4, 1776 – Declaration of Independence signed

Overall Questions on the Film:

18. How significant is Abigail Adams? (to her husband John, to the independence movement, as a role model in the United States)
19. Why was declaring independence such a difficult achievement?
20. How is this “world changing”? How revolutionary is this movement for independence?