



Name: _____

1776 Video Study Guide

1. What group is meeting and WHEN are they meeting? Where are they meeting? Why must the windows remain closed?

2. Describe John Adams. Which colony does he represent? Is he liked by other congressmen? Why or why not?

3. What does John Adams support?

In reality, John and Abigail Adams wrote hundreds of letters to each other often discussing a wide range of topics. These letters posed a problem for the creators of the 1776 show.

4. How does the 1776 movie show what is being said in the letters?

5. Name three things which are mentioned or discussed with these letters:

A.

B.

C.

4. What position did John Hancock hold? What was so special about his position? Is this a good or bad thing?

5. Describe Richard Henry Lee. What colony does Lee represent? What is so special about what Lee does?

6. Describe Thomas Jefferson. What does he end up doing? Why?
7. The New England Colonies: Do they support independence? Why or why not?
8. The Middle Colonies: Do they support independence? Why or why not?
9. The Southern Colonies: Do they support independence? Why or why not?
10. New York: What is this colony's position? ALWAYS!!!
11. Describe the workings of the Congress...is it easy to get things done? Why or why not...be very specific with examples. Is this a good thing?
12. There was a committee to write the Declaration. The committee consisted of the following people. Now, WHO wrote, or didn't write, the Declaration:

NAME	WRITE IT (Y/N)	WHY OR WHY NOT?
John Adams		
Ben Franklin		
Roger Sherman		
Richard Livingston		
Thomas Jefferson		

13. Describe the writing of the Declaration. Was it easy or hard just to create the original draft of the Declaration? Why?

14. Did Congress accept the Declaration WITHOUT change? What happened to the Declaration after it was initially written but before it was approved?

15. Name three changes made to the Declaration before it could be approved.

A.

B.

C.

16. What type of vote was required for the Congress to approve the Declaration? Why was this type of vote required? Did this type of vote make it easier or harder to get the Declaration approved?

17. Describe the condition of the American army during this time period?

18. Who was the commander of the American army? At this time and with this condition, does this commander believe the Americans can win the war?

19. What was the major problem issue which threatened the Declaration of Independence?

20. How was this problem issue “settled” or “resolved” so that the Declaration could be passed? Was the issue really settled?

21. Who decided he would rather leave Congress than sign the Declaration of Independence? What does this man do instead and why does he do that?

22. Describe the actual signing of the Declaration according to the movie.

23. What is the famous quote attributed to John Hancock?

24. Based on classroom discussion, what was wrong about the movie’s version of the signing of the Declaration of Independence?