

ANSWER KEY

Townshend Duties of 1767. During the crisis with England, Adams authored many important essays in which he defended American liberty by appealing to the natural and English rights of his fellow colonists. In 1772, Samuel Adams helped to organize Committees of Correspondence across Massachusetts. When Parliament passed the Tea Act the following year, Adams organized the Boston Tea Party. In response, to the Coercive Acts, Adams wrote a letter addressed to all the American colonies in which he called for Americans to unite “in opposition to this violation of the liberties of all.” Elected to the Continental Congress in 1774, Adams became a champion of American independence and signed the Declaration of Independence.

Handout B—Vocabulary and Context Questions

- Vocabulary
 - dishonorable
 - hostile
 - minimum for survival
 - until now
 - uncivilized
 - disgraceful
 - approval
 - effectively
- Context
 - Samuel Adams wrote this document.
 - This document was written in 1774.
 - The audience for this document was the citizens of Massachusetts and all the other colonies.
 - The two purposes of this document were to stir opposition to British tyranny and to create a sense of unity among all the colonists.

JOHN DICKINSON

Handout A—John Dickinson

(1732–1808)

- In 1776, Dickinson still hoped that America and Britain could work out their differences. Dickinson objected to the strong wording of Thomas Jefferson’s draft of the Declaration of Independence. When it became clear that Congress would approve the Declaration, Dickinson left Philadelphia. He could not consent to this fateful step, but he also refused to undermine his countrymen by voting against the measure.
- In 1786, Dickinson chaired the Annapolis Convention. In 1787, Dickinson headed Delaware’s delegation to the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia. He favored giving the central government additional powers, but he also wished to preserve the powers of the states. Most of all, Dickinson distrusted any ideas that broke with English and colonial traditions. Illness prevented Dickinson from assuming a larger role in the proceedings at Philadelphia. Nevertheless, Dickinson was one whose views helped produce a document that was acceptable to a broad range of Americans.
- During the ratification debates, Dickinson composed a series of essays, the *Letters of Fabius*, in support of the Constitution. The *Letters* were widely published in 1788. Echoing his words on the floor of the convention, Dickinson advised that the document ought to be tested first: “A little *experience* will cast more light upon the subject, than a multitude of debates.”
- Students should recognize the extraordinary amount of writing that Dickinson produced on behalf of American liberty during the Revolutionary period: *The Late Regulations Respecting the British Colonies*, the resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress, the *Letters from a Farmer*

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in Pennsylvania, “The Liberty Song,” the “Petition to the King,” the *Declaration of the Causes of Taking Up Arms*, and the Articles of Confederation.

5. Some students may suggest that Dickinson’s opposition to the Declaration of Independence has excluded him from the pantheon of heroes of the American independence movement. Others may note that his moderation had made him less interesting than more extreme figures in the debates about independence and the new Constitution. Still others may note his bad luck in being sick during the Constitutional Convention and thus being unable to participate fully in the debates. He also retired from politics in 1788.

Handout B—Vocabulary and Context Questions

1. Vocabulary
 - a. colonies
 - b. exist
 - c. located
 - d. designed
 - e. for both
 - f. dealings
 - g. members of
 - h. hurtful
 - i. revenue
 - j. used
 - k. taxing
 - l. new idea
 - m. hopeless
2. Context
 - a. John Dickinson wrote this document.
 - b. This document was written in 1768.
 - c. This is an essay.
 - d. The audience for this document was the colonists and, since it was read in England, perhaps the British government.

Handout C—In His Own Words: John Dickinson on the Townshend Acts

- Likely appeal to British Parliament and Loyalist Americans: Paragraph 2; Paragraph 3, lines 1–5
- Likely to appeal to Patriots: Paragraph 1; Paragraph 5, line 1; Paragraph 6

ALEXANDER HAMILTON

Handout A—Alexander Hamilton (1757–1804)

1. Hamilton was a leading critic of the Articles of Confederation during the 1780s. In 1787 he was chosen as a member of the New York delegation to the Constitutional Convention. Though he played a minor role in the debates at Philadelphia, he took the lead in the campaign for ratification in New York. In 1787–1788 he joined with Madison and John Jay in writing *The Federalist Papers*, a series of essays supporting the Constitution.
2. Hamilton pressed for the establishment of a national bank, funding of the national debt, and assumption of state war debts. He also favored a tariff to protect manufacturing and the creation of a standing army and navy. Hamilton wanted to change the basis of wealth in America from land to money. Money, he held, was the great equalizer. Anyone could amass it and thereby advance up the economic and social ladder.
3. Hamilton’s economic plan alarmed many who feared government power. Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson became the leader of the opposition to Hamilton. The first American party system formed around these two men. The Federalists supported the Hamiltonian program. The Democratic-Republicans (or simply, Republicans) worked for its defeat.