

Name _____

Date _____

Who Created the Department of the Navy?

John Adams was the second President of the United States and one of the country's founding fathers. John Adams was born in Massachusetts in 1735. His father was a farmer and a Puritan. John Adams was the eldest of three sons and an excellent student. He was accepted into Harvard University at the age of 16 where he studied law and earned his master's degree. After Harvard Adams began practicing law. One of his most important cases was



October, 1735 - July, 1826

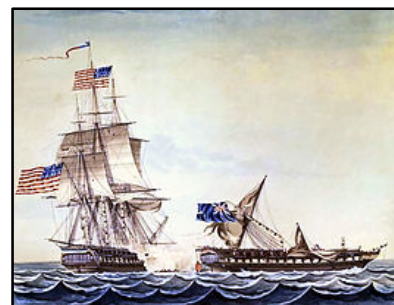


defending the British soldiers on trial for killing five colonists in what became known as the Boston Massacre. In 1764, Adams married Abigail Smith, his third cousin. They had six children including John Quincy Adams, who later in life was elected the sixth President of the United States.

In 1771, Adams was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives, and in 1774 to the First Continental Congress. He was an important voice in the Continental Congress and a strong supporter for independence from England. John Adams was asked to help write the Declaration of Independence but he declined because he thought Thomas Jefferson should write it. Adams served on over 90 committees for the new government of the colonies fighting for Independence from England. Adams was one of the diplomats sent to England to negotiate the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War.



After the United States gained its independence, John Adams served as George Washington's Vice President for two terms. He went on to win election as the second President of the United States. As president he created the Department of the Navy and worked to build up the national defenses. In his bid for a second term, Adams was defeated by Thomas Jefferson, the third President of the United States.



After his loss to Jefferson, John Adams moved to Quincy with his wife, Abigail Adams. In time, he became good friends with Thomas Jefferson. Adams and Jefferson began to write to each other often and remained friends until their deaths. John Adams died on July 4, 1826, on the same day as Thomas Jefferson.

Answer These Questions



1. Which of the following is true concerning John Adams?

- A. He earned a law degree.
- B. He was elected President of the United States.
- C. He was a founding father of the United States.
- D. All of the above.

2. Who was the first President of the United States?

- A. John Adams
- B. Benjamin Franklin
- C. George Washington
- D. Ronald Reagan



3. Who defeated Adams in his bid for re-election for President?

- A. George Washington
- B. Alexander Hamilton
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. Benjamin Franklin



4. John Adams wrote the Declaration of Independence. True or False?

- A. True
- B. False

5. As president, John Adams created the _____.

- A. Department of the Navy
- B. Red Cross
- C. Department of Education
- D. Social Security Department

