



ABIGAIL ADAMS Reading Comprehension

Abigail Adams was born on November 22, 1744. Adams was both the wife and mother of two American presidents. She married John Adams, the second president of the United States, on October 25, 1764. John and Abigail Adams had six children together. One of their sons, John Quincy Adams, would later become the sixth president of the United States.

Abigail Adams is most remembered for the letters that she wrote back and forth to her husband while he was working with the Continental Congress in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. John Adams would frequently write to her and ask for her advice on both social and political issues of the time. The letters of Abigail Adams to her husband, John Adams, are now part of the American Revolutionary War period of history because they serve as a firsthand eyewitness account of political life during this time.

Abigail Adams is also known as the first First Lady to live in the White House, which became the official residence of the presidential family after the nation's capital was relocated to Washington, D.C. in 1800. The First Lady enjoyed life at the newly built White House mansion, even though it was still under construction when the First Family moved in.

When Thomas Jefferson defeated Adams in the presidential election of 1800, Abigail and her family moved back to Quincy, Massachusetts. After leaving the White House, Abigail Adams continued to write letters to famous Americans of the time like Thomas Jefferson. She also followed John Quincy's political career with great interest. Abigail Adams died from typhoid fever at the age of 73 on October 28, 1818. Both John and Abigail are buried together in a family crypt in Quincy, Massachusetts.

_____ 1.) **Abigail Adams was not...**

- a.) a first lady.
- b.) the mother of a president.
- c.) a member of Congress.
- d.) the first woman to live in the White House.

_____ 2.) **What happened first in the passage?**

- a.) 1818
- b.) John Adams became president.
- c.) The Adams family returned to Quincy, Massachusetts.
- d.) Abigail Adams moved into the White House in Washington, D.C.

_____ 3.) **Which question can be answered in the third paragraph?**

- a.) When was Abigail Adams married to John Adams?
- b.) Which son later became America's sixth president?
- c.) Who was the first First Lady to live in the White House when the capital was relocated to Washington, D.C.?
- d.) When did Abigail Adams die?

_____ 4.) **Which of the following is not true?**

- a.) Abigail Adams wrote letters to her husband while he was in Philadelphia, PA.
- b.) Abigail's son became the second president of the United States.
- c.) Abigail Adams was the wife of an American president.
- d.) Abigail wrote letters to Thomas Jefferson.

_____ 5.) **What does the word "crypt" mean in the last paragraph?**

- a.) house
- b.) earth
- c.) tomb
- d.) water

_____ 6.) **Abigail Adams is famous for being a First Lady and _____.**

- a.) for becoming a president herself
- b.) for the letters that she wrote back and forth to an American president
- c.) for living during the Revolutionary War
- d.) for having six children

_____ 7.) **What is implied by the following sentence:**

Abigail Adams is also known as the first First Lady to live in the White House, which became the official residence of the presidential family after the nation's capital was relocated to Washington D.C. in 1800.

- a.) The nation's capital was always located in Washington, D.C.
- b.) Abigail Adams was the last First Lady to live in the White House.
- c.) Abigail Adams was the second First Lady to live in the White House.
- d.) The nation's capital was in a different location before it was in Washington, D.C.

_____ 8.) **Who won the presidential election of 1800?**

- a.) Abigail Adams
- b.) John Adams
- c.) John Quincy Adams
- d.) Thomas Jefferson

_____ 9.) **Which question is NOT answered in the passage?**

- a.) How did John Adams die?
- b.) How did Abigail Adams die?
- c.) What did Abigail Adams do after she left the White House?
- d.) Why are the letters between Abigail and John Adams important?

_____ 10.) **Why were the letters of Abigail Adams so important?**

- a.) They describe why John Adams should have won the election of 1800.
- b.) They describe the politics of the American Revolution era.
- c.) They describe the Adams family.
- d.) They describe how John Quincy Adams will eventually become president.