

Lesson 10: Presidential Politics

☐ Getting Started

In this lesson, you'll learn about Abigail Adams's personal life as her younger children began to marry and she addressed the problems that her family members experienced, all of which happened against a backdrop of presidential politics and revolution in France. You'll embark on a scavenger hunt to help solidify the grammar concepts you've studied so far in this unit, and you'll also explore the two political parties that were emerging as Abigail's husband, John, ran for president.

Stuff You Need

- *Abigail Adams: Witness to a Revolution* by Natalie S. Bober
- *Handy Guide to Writing* by Beyond the Page

Ideas to Think About

- How do the lives of individuals interact with, influence, and become transformed by the events of the time and place in which they live?

Things to Know

- The Federalists and Republicans offered dramatically different visions for American government in the 1790s.

☐ Reading and Questions

Read Chapters 19 and 20 of *Abigail Adams: Witness to a Revolution* by Natalie S. Bober, and then answer these questions.

1. What did John Adams think about the French Revolution? How about Abigail?

2. To what role was John Quincy Adams appointed by President Washington?

3. Why could John not return to practicing law if he were not elected president?

4. What did Abigail Adams do during her leisure time as First Lady?

Activities

☐ Activity 1: Grammatical Scavenger Hunt

In this activity you'll complete a scavenger hunt, looking for examples of various grammatical concepts that you have covered so far in this unit.

NOTE: For more information about verb voice, verb mood, and verbals, refer to the *Handy Guide to Writing*.

☐ Activity 2: Federalists and Republicans

Throughout the biography of Abigail Adams, you've seen how she was influenced by the political changes going on around her and how her own family influenced the new nation. Today's reading focused on her husband's service in the federal government and his term as president at a time when opposing political parties were first forming. Would the new nation withstand political disagreement and competition or would the new government crumble without unity?

In this activity, you'll explore the differences between the Federalists and Republicans. Review the first three pages of Chapter 19 and refer back to the rest of the reading as needed as you complete the chart on the "Federalists and Republicans" activity page.

Wrapping Up

The political party differences that you learned about in this chapter would only intensify in the coming years. In the final chapters of the book, you will read about

the end of John Adams's presidency and the later life of Abigail Adams and the other members of her family.

Life Application

How have political parties in the United States changed over time? You can learn more about the Federalists and Republicans and see what other parties emerged over the course of American history in this link.



Historical Timeline of Important Political Parties in the United States

www.beyondthepage.com/link/12249/



Grammatical Scavenger Hunt



Directions: In this activity, you will go on a scavenger hunt in today's reading to find examples of some of the grammar concepts you have studied in this unit. If the passage is provided, circle or underline the word, phrase, or clause specified in the question.

1. In the 2nd paragraph of Chapter XIX, find a sentence or clause in the passive voice.

2. Find an example of a participle (verbal) in the following paragraph.

Before he left, John had put together a pile of books to take with him to Philadelphia, then went off without them. The sight of the forgotten books on the table only served to further intensify her loneliness.

3. Find an example of a gerund (verbal) in the following passage.

By January of 1796 John Adams realized that he had a major decision to make. With his friend John Jay out of the running, there were reliable rumors that the Federalists would endorse John Adams for president.

4. Find an example of the subjunctive mood in the following passage.

By mid-December Thomas Jefferson was ready to concede the presidency to John Adams. He instructed his friend James Madison that in the event of a tie vote, which seemed possible, Madison was to request, on Jefferson's behalf, that John Adams be preferred.

5. Find a clause in the imperative mood in the following passage.

My dearest friend, as you have been called in Providence into the chair of government, you did not accept it without knowing that it had its torments, its trials, its dangers and perplexities. Look steadfastly at them, arm yourself with patience and forbearance and be not dismayed, and may God and the people support you.

6. Find a clause in the interrogative mood in the following passage.

She described how she had sent James, a black servant boy, at his own request, to an evening school to learn reading, writing, and ciphering. When a respectable neighbor, the father of two other boys in the school, came to her to report the serious objections of some "others" to James's presence, Abigail asked, "Pray, has the boy misbehaved?"

7. Find an example of an infinitive (verbal) in the following passage. (Hint: The infinitive functions as the direct object of a clause.)

One of Sister Cranch's Letters is worth half a dozen others," John told Abigail. She had found him standing at the fire "very gravely reading" a letter from Mary. Abigail was furious. She "scolded" very hard. John promptly promised that he would not open any more letters addressed to her, and would "be satisfied with such parts as I am willing to communicate."

Federalists and Republicans

Characteristics	Federalists	Republicans
Who were their leaders?		
Should the federal government be strong or weak?		
Should power be held more by the federal government or by the states?		
Who should govern, the common man or the elites?		
How did they view the French Revolution?		
Whom did they endorse for president in the 1796 election?		

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Getting Started

✿ Ideas to Think About

- How do the lives of individuals interact with, influence, and become transformed by the events of the time and place in which they live?



Things to Know

- The Federalists and Republicans offered dramatically different visions for American government in the 1790s.

• Skills

- By the end of the year, read and comprehend literature, including stories, dramas, and poems, at the high end of grades 6-8 text complexity band independently and proficiently. (LA)
- Acquire and use accurately grade-appropriate general, academic, and domain-specific words and phrases; gather vocabulary knowledge when considering a word or phrase important to comprehension or expression. (LA)

Introducing the Lesson

In this lesson, your child will complete a grammatical scavenger hunt to help solidify the grammar concepts she's studied in this unit, and she will also compare and contrast the Federalists and the Republicans, two emerging political parties in America's early years.

Reading and Questions

1. What did John Adams think about the French Revolution? How about Abigail?

He feared that the quest for equality would lead to mass violence. Abigail feared that the revolutionary leaders in France might abolish Christianity, and she wondered how the French example might influence American society.

2. To what role was John Quincy Adams appointed by President Washington?

Minister to the Netherlands.

3. Why could John not return to practicing law if he were not elected president?

He suffered from palsy, which made his hands shake and made it hard to write; he also was losing teeth, which might be a hindrance when giving speeches before a jury or judge. In addition, he had been away from law practice for over two decades and may have found it hard to re-enter that profession after so long an absence.

4. What did Abigail Adams do during her leisure time as First Lady?

Her only leisure time was from 5 AM to 8 AM, and she passed it in prayer, reading, writing letters, or enjoying the sunrise and the quiet of the house before the beginning of another busy day.

Activities

Activity 1: Grammatical Scavenger Hunt

In this activity, your child followed clues to find the specified grammar concepts in today's reading. An answer key is provided, although your child may find additional examples that also fit. In those cases, ask her to explain why her answers work.

Answer Key:

1. Passive Voice: "that political freedom could be preserved" or "He would ultimately be proved right."
2. Participle: "The sight of the forgotten books"
3. Gerund: "John Jay out of the running" (also part of a gerund phrase "although lacking in tact")
4. Subjunctive: "Madison was to request, on Jeffersons behalf, that John Adams be preferred."
5. Imperative: "Look steadfastly at them" or "arm yourself with patience and forbearance" or "be not dismayed"
6. Interrogative: "Abigail asked, 'Pray, has the boy misbehaved?'"
7. Infinitive: "satisfied with such parts as I am willing to communicate."

Activity 2: Federalists and Republicans

In this activity, your child will compare the Federalists and Republicans in a chart-based activity page. An answer key has been provided.

Answer Key - Federalists and Republicans		
Characteristics	Federalists	Republicans
Who were their leaders?	Supporters of Alexander Hamilton (your child may also mention John Adams)	Thomas Jefferson
Should the federal government be strong or weak?	Strong	Relatively weak
Should power be held by the federal government or by the states?	The federal government	The states
Who should govern, the common man or the elites?	The elites	The common man
How did they view the French Revolution?	With caution and fear that the Revolution would result in mass violence	As following the example set in America and worthy of American support
Whom did they endorse for president in the 1796 election?	John Adams	Thomas Jefferson

Wrapping Up**Questions to Discuss**

- What were the key differences between the Federalists and the Republicans? (Your child should know that the Republicans favored a federal government with limited power run by common men while the Federalists favored a stronger federal government and rule by the elites in society.)
- Do you think Abigail Adams enjoyed being First Lady? (Answers may vary. She described it as "splendid misery" and was busy most of each day entertaining guests and running the household.)

Things to Review

- Review your child's answers to the reading questions.
- Review your child's answers to the grammar scavenger hunt.
- Review your child's activity page about early political parties.