

History Lab Document Log Answer Key

Overarching Question: Should the colonists have revolted against Great Britain?

Document Name: *Letters from Abigail Adams to John Adams*

Type of Document: *Primary source—personal letter*

Date of Document: *November 27, 1775 and March 31, 1776*

Author of Document: *Abigail Adams*

Author Information: *Abigail Adams (1744-1818) was the wife of one president, John Adams, and mother of another, John Quincy Adams. At the time this letter was written, John was in Philadelphia at the Continental Congress, and Abigail was in Quincy, Massachusetts at the family home.*

Intended Audience: *John Adams*

Purpose for Writing: *Express her feelings of uncertainty about America's future and the future of women*

Does **Abigail Adams** think the colonists should revolt against Great Britain?

Text Support
<i>I wish I knew what mighty things were happening. If a form of government is to be created here, what one will be formed? Will it be left to our Representatives to choose one? And will not many men have many minds? And shall we not run into disagreements among ourselves? Will not ten thousand difficulties arise in the formation of it?</i>
<i>If we separate from Britain, what laws will be established? How shall we be governed, so as to keep our liberties? Can any government be free, which is not run by laws that apply for everyone? Who shall make these laws? Who will give them force and energy? It is true that so far, the decisions of the representatives have been followed by the people as if they were law; but will they continue to do so?</i>
<i>Whatever occurs, may justice and righteousness lead us to peaceful times, and order arise out of confusion. Great difficulties may be overcome by patience and perseverance.</i>
<i>I desire you would Remember the Ladies, and be more generous and favorable to them than your ancestors. If particular care and attention is not paid to the Ladies we are determined to foment a Rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any Laws in which we have no voice, or Representation.</i>

Author's Perspective: *Abigail is writing to express her uncertainty about America's future. She asks John many questions about the type of government America will have and how it will be governed. She is worried about the fate of the country because there are no clear answers. Abigail is especially worried that women will not be represented in the new government and gain their natural rights. In 1775, Abigail is not exactly for or against a revolt. She seems to want her questions answered before she forms an opinion about the current situation. She, however, does feel that the difficulties of creating a new government can be overcome by patience and perseverance. Nevertheless, by 1776, she wants the colonists to revolt in hopes they will include the women in the new government.*