

John Adams

by David McCullough

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Contents & Printing Notes

Unlike our most popular resources, this one's auto-selected.
Review before use, or edit the DOCX via "View / Print / Edit Web
Quiz" on the Resources menu.

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

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OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context	5	
Answer Key — In Context	7	teacher use only

Pages are ordered for double-sided printing.

About the Pre-Reading Activity

Open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade. Students preview 20 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz

Use after reading, or skip. The same words appear in excerpts from the text.

Practice words: amicable, approach (2), approbation, attribute (2), avarice, correspond, correspondent, embargo, envoy, establish (2), legislature, mediate (2), prudent, republic, trifle, trifle with



More Vocabulary Printables

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ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

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#	KEY
1	B
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	A
6	B
7	B
8	B
9	A
10	A
11	B
12	B
13	C
14	C
15	C
16	B
17	A
18	B
19	C
20	A

Vocabulary Preview

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. Although we disagree, I think we can reach an **amicable** compromise.
 - A. quick
 - B. friendly
 - C. temporary
2. I grow more nervous as the test **approaches**.
 - A. gets nearer
 - B. is remembered
 - C. continues
3. We need to **approach** this problem in a new way.
 - A. avoid
 - B. think about
 - C. assign
4. Her innovative approach to solving problems earned her the **approbation** of her peers.
 - A. approval
 - B. sympathy
 - C. distrust
5. She described his physical **attributes**.
 - A. characteristics
 - B. strengths
 - C. weaknesses
6. She **attributes** her success to hard work.
 - A. gives money for
 - B. gives credit for
 - C. gives help for
7. She was doomed to an empty life motivated by **avarice**.
 - A. selfishness
 - B. greed
 - C. laziness
8. Do either of you have copies of your **correspondence**?
 - A. instructions
 - B. letters or emails
 - C. pictures or drawings
9. Our **correspondent** in Iran was kidnapped.
 - A. reporter
 - B. worker
 - C. witness
10. The country placed an **embargo** on oil shipments during the conflict.
 - A. ban on trade
 - B. tax on trade
 - C. increase in trade
11. Iran's top **envoy** to the United Nations nuclear agency dismissed the accusation.
 - A. scientist
 - B. representative
 - C. translator
12. Which word choice would help to **establish** a serious tone.
 - A. avoid
 - B. create
 - C. increase

13. The sixth paragraph (lines 67–68) is primarily concerned with establishing the contrast between men and masculine traits.
- A. minimizing
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. showing
14. She is running for the state legislature.
- A. highest court
 - B. police department
 - C. lawmaking body
15. She asked the Prime Minister of India to help mediate an agreement.
- A. document
 - B. publicize
 - C. settle
16. The effects of the medication are mediated by microbes in the gut.
- A. enhanced
 - B. influenced
 - C. reduced
17. Courage is dangerous without prudence.
- A. good sense
 - B. good purpose
 - C. good support
18. A republic is a particular type of democracy.
- A. weak monarchy
 - B. representative government
 - C. oligarchy
19. Don't waste my time with trifling matters.
- A. other's
 - B. future
 - C. unimportant
20. The European Parliament refuses to be trifled with.
- A. treated without respect
 - B. argued with
 - C. negotiated with

Vocabulary in Context

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Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 20

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

- 1 He was too **independent** by nature and his political experience amounted to less than a year's service in the Massachusetts **legislature**.
 - A. something that serves as evidence -- especially a statement at a trial or hearing
 - B. an atom that has acquired an electrical charge by the loss or gain of an electron
 - C. a group, made up of government representatives, that has the power to create laws
- 2 For the first time, he was on his own with his studies, and he bent to them with the spirit of independence and intense determination that were to characterize much of his whole **approach** to life.
 - A. change the direction of something or the purpose for which it is used
 - B. technique (way of doing something)
 - C. to stick out, attract more attention than desired, or impose on others
- 3 When night **approached**, the wind died away...
 - A. got near
 - B. made possible
 - C. not satisfied
- 4 Trifles, whipped syllabubs, floating islands ...and then a dessert of fruits, raisins, almonds, pears, peaches--wines most excellent and admirable.
 - A. struggles or disagreements
 - B. is attractive or desirable
 - C. things of small importance
- 5 Our countrymen have too long **trifled with** public and private credit.
 - A. treated thoughtlessly or without respect
 - B. injury to muscles or tendons of the knee
 - C. limit light vibrations to a single plane
- 6 The first edition, **attributed** to an unnamed "Englishman" and published by Robert Bell in a print shop on Third Street, appeared January 9, 1776.
 - A. not made different; or shown to be different
 - B. credited (pointed to as the cause of something)
 - C. not changed directly from a solid to a vapor
- 7 Adams believed his strongest **attributes** were, as he said, "candor, probity, and decision," but these he failed to find in the face that looked back from the finished canvas, and he expressed disappointment.
 - A. characteristics (of something or someone)
 - B. dreamlike states of altered consciousness
 - C. piles of wood or other burnable materials
- 8 On February 26 there was enacted an **embargo** on exports to Britain.
 - A. an official ban or restriction -- especially a government-imposed trade barrier
 - B. portray or create in a particular way OR interpret, translate, or extract from
 - C. to release from slavery or servitude; or (metaphorically) from social restraints
- 9 A single assembly could "grow **avaricious**exempt itself from burdensbecome ambitious and after some time vote itself perpetual."
 - A. the characteristic of demonstrating something
 - B. having or showing excessive desire for wealth
 - C. the quality of not being sensible and careful
- 10 That your sex are naturally tyrannical is a truth so thoroughly **established** as to admit of no dispute, but such of yours as wish to be happy willingly give up the harsh title of master for the more tender and endearing one of friend.
 - A. accepted someone's membership though a special procedure such as a ceremony and/or period of instruction and/or test
 - B. examined an issue, got opinions by asking specific questions; and/or asked people for political support individually
 - C. demonstrated or proved

- 11 A Judiciary Act was deliberated and passed, **establishing** a federal court system, and set the size of the Supreme Court.
- A. to gradually take something like control, property, or rights from another
 - B. creating
 - C. sticking out, attracting more attention than desired, or imposing on others
- 12 With France and America now joined in common cause, he was no longer the **envoy** of a friendly nation but of an ally.
- A. someone who approves or supports
 - B. representative sent on a mission
 - C. one who precedes another in time
- 13 "I take vast satisfaction in the general **approbation** of the Massachusetts Constitution," he would tell a friend.
- A. approval
 - B. not real
 - C. allowing
- 14 The only choice was to make for the nearest friendly port, for Spain, "with all the sail the ship could **prudently bear**."
- A. with good sense and caution
 - B. in a strongly biased manner
 - C. in a manner that challenges
- 15 But before either departed, Adams himself was off to Paris, summoned by Vergennes to take part in discussions of a possible **mediation** of the war by Russia and Austria.
- A. the act of protecting something or keeping it as it is
 - B. speaks with someone about something for the first time
 - C. the process of helping others to settle a disagreement
- 16 "When the election between Burr and myself was kept in suspense by the Federalists," Jefferson would write to Benjamin Rush, "and they were **mediating** to place the President [pro tempore] of the Senate at the head of government, I called on Mr. Adams with a view to have this desperate measure prevented by his negative."
- A. a last name
 - B. influencing
 - C. well suited
- 17 The reunion of the Adamses and Jefferson in New York was appropriately **amicable**.
- A. without boundaries or limits
 - B. friendly or showing goodwill
 - C. not good at making decisions
- 18 To judge by their **correspondence** he might still have been in France.
- A. Nazi organization for children aged 10 to 18
 - B. communication by written letters or messages
 - C. found a condition or substance to be present
- 19 A **correspondent** for the Massachusetts Spy observed in a letter from Washington that numbers of Adams's friends wished he had not departed so abruptly.
- A. reporter
 - B. disorder
 - C. marriage
- 20 That Jefferson would be the **Republican** choice to oppose him in the election was a foregone conclusion.
- A. relating to a Christian ceremony signifying spiritual cleansing and rebirth OR relating to a challenging experience that initiates or purifies
 - B. of a system of government in which a majority of citizens elect representatives to make laws; or someone in favor of such a form of government
 - C. of an organism in the early stages of development prior to birth, hatching, or sprouting OR of anything in an early stage of development

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

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#	KEY	WORD	NOTE
1	C	legislature	Used 37 times in this book.
2	B	approach (<i>as in: use the best approach</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
3	A	approach (<i>as in: approached the city</i>)	Used 24 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
4	C	trifle (<i>as in: a trifling matter</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
5	A	trifle with (<i>as in: trifle with her affections</i>)	2 meanings in this book.
6	B	attribute (<i>as in: I attribute it to...</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
7	A	attribute (<i>as in: It is an attribute of...</i>)	Used 4 times in this book; 2 meanings in this book.
8	A	embargo	Used 8 times in this book.
9	B	avarice	Used 8 times in this book.
10	C	establish (<i>as in: establish that there is a need</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
11	B	establish (<i>as in: establish a positive tone</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
12	B	envoy	Used 40 times in this book.
13	A	approbation	Used 8 times in this book.
14	A	prudent	High-utility academic word; used 29 times in this book.
15	C	mediate (<i>as in: asked her to mediate the talks</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
16	B	mediate (<i>as in: disease is mediated by</i>)	High-utility academic word; 2 meanings in this book.
17	B	amicable	High-utility academic word; used 5 times in this book.
18	B	correspond (<i>as in: corresponding by email</i>)	Used 18 times in this book; 3 meanings in this book.
19	A	correspondent (<i>as in: foreign correspondent of the paper</i>)	3 meanings in this book.
20	B	republic (<i>as in: the country is a republic</i>)	Used 96 times in this book.