

Documents: Treaty of Paris, 1783

Name: _____

Time: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Analyze the document and answer the questions.

Background: In 1781, American forces under the command of General George Washington and French forces under the command of General Comte de Rochambeau forced one of Britain's best generals Charles Cornwallis to surrender his army at Yorktown, Virginia. For Britain, this was the event that signaled the end of the war. Ministers from America and Britain conducted peace negotiations in Paris, France. American ministers John Adams, Ben Franklin, and John Jay and British minister David Hartley signed the treaty document on September 3, 1783.

The Definitive Treaty of Peace 1783

Article 1:

His Britannic Majesty acknowledges the said United States, viz., New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free sovereign and independent states [and]. . . . relinquishes all claims to the government, propriety, and territorial rights of the same and every part thereof. . . .

Article 6:

That there shall be no future confiscations made nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons for, or by reason of, the part which he or they may have taken in the present war, and that no person shall on that account suffer any future loss or damage, either in his person, liberty, or property. . . .

Article 7:

There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between his Britannic Majesty and the said states, and between the subjects of the one and the citizens of the other, wherefore all hostilities both by sea and land shall from henceforth cease. All prisoners on both sides shall be set at liberty, and his Britannic Majesty shall with all convenient speed, and without causing any destruction, or carrying away any Negroes or other property of the American inhabitants, withdraw all his armies, garrisons, and fleets from the said United States. . . .

Done at Paris, this third day of September in the year of our Lord, one thousand seven hundred and eighty-three.

D. Hartley

John Adams

B. Franklin

John Jay

Central Ideas. A central idea is the overall topic of the entire piece. Main ideas are important topics that support the central idea.

1. What is the central idea of the treaty?
 - E. The treaty ends the war between Britain and France.
 - H. The treaty ends all conflict between France and America.
 - O. The treaty ends all hostilities between Britain and America.
 - Y. The treaty was signed in Paris, France in 1783.

2. Name two main ideas found in Article 6. (circle two)

- E. There will be no more criminal charges against people who fought in the war.
- H. Britain gives up all claims or ownership of the thirteen states.
- O. No punishments will be made against people who fought in the war.
- Y. There will be a permanent peace between America and Great Britain.

Words in Context. Define words based upon how they are used in the writing.

“That there shall be no future confiscations made nor any prosecutions commenced against any person or persons for, or by reason of, the part which he or they may have taken in the present war....”

3. What does the word “prosecution” mean as it is used in the quote above?

- D. a course of action
- I. putting someone on trial
- R. to treat someone unfairly
- W to throw someone in jail

“New Hampshire, Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, to be free sovereign and independent states....”

4. What does the word “states” mean as it is used in the quote above?

- D. a way of living
- I. a way to think about life, the universe, and everything
- R. a politically organized group of people in a territory with a government
- W a fact

Facts vs. Opinions.

Fact: A conclusion that can be proven true and/or is absolutely accurate to all people involved.

Opinion: belief or preference about something that cannot be proven or accepted by all people.

After the Revolutionary War, Britain agreed to give the United States its independence.

5. Identify the statement above as fact or opinion.

- A. fact
- N. opinion