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Brief Presidential Biographies

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JOHN ADAMS

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John Adams was born and raised in what would become the state of Massachusetts.

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He was a Harvard-educated lawyer.

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As a lawyer, prior to the Revolutionary War, which allowed for the creation of the United States, he successfully defended a group of British soldiers in their trial, when they were charged with the murder of unarmed colonists in the Boston Massacre.

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He was elected to both the First and Second Continental Congresses as a Delegate.

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He advocated for American Independence from Great Britain.

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He served as a diplomat in France and Holland during the Revolutionary War, seeking financial support from countries who were enemies of Great Britain, hoping their support would help the Colonial Armies successfully fight against the British.

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He, along with Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, was a principal writer of the Declaration of Independence.

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He was the second President of the United States.

163 He served as George Washington's Vice President, because at the
175 time, the Constitution called for the runner-up in the Presidential Election
179 to be Vice President.

189 During his two terms as Vice President under Washington, he
201 complained to his wife, Abigail Adams, that as Vice President, he didn't
213 have much to do, because the role of Vice President, under the
227 Constitution, gave him so little to do. This is a feeling that many other
238 subsequent (later) Vice Presidents have felt. Many who have served in
251 this office thought that the position was only a ceremonial one, and didn't
265 really have any political power. This is, for the most part, true, except in
278 the case when there is an even number of Democrat and Republican votes
294 in the Senate. In this case, when a vote is tied, the Vice President gets to
307 cast the deciding vote, and would, as one would expect nowadays, vote in
316 the way the President prefers the vote to go.

325 Additionally, the Vice President becomes President if the President
337 should die. or becomes incapacitated (unable to do the job). This has
351 happened many times in U.S. History. In other words, many U.S. Vice
358 Presidents have gone on to become President.

368 Many former Vice Presidents, including recent ones like Joe Biden,
381 George H.W. Bush, and Richard Nixon went on to be elected President
382 themselves.

394 John Adams was the first former Vice President to later be elected
395 President.

408 A quote attributed to him was, “People and nations are forged in the
411 fires of adversity.”

423 His son, John Quincy Adams, would later be elected the 6th President
427 of the United States.