

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: The Rebellion's Risky Gamble: A 7th Grade Treason or Triumph Quiz

Would you have risked the gallows for a new Republic? Analyze 10 complex scenarios regarding colonial espionage, logistics, and legal philosophy.

1. Which clandestine organization, led by Samuel Adams, used 'Liberty Trees' as meeting points to coordinate civil disobedience and communicate across colonies?

Answer: B) The Sons of Liberty

The Sons of Liberty were a radical grassroots group that organized protests against British taxation, often using symbolic locations like Liberty Trees for clandestine meetings.

2. In his influential 1776 pamphlet, _____ used Enlightenment logic to argue that it was 'absurd' for a continent to be perpetually governed by an island.

Answer: C) Thomas Paine

Thomas Paine's 'Common Sense' was written in plain language to convince ordinary colonists that monarchy was an unnatural form of government.

3. True or False: The 'Olive Branch Petition' was the final attempt by the Second Continental Congress to avoid war by pledging loyalty to King George III.

Answer: A) True

Despite the growing conflict, many delegates hoped for reconciliation as late as 1775, though the King famously refused to even read the petition.

4. Which Polish military engineer was instrumental in designing the fortifications at West Point and Saratoga, proving that international expertise was vital to the American cause?

Answer: D) Thaddeus Kościuszko

Kościuszko was a master of tactical engineering; his defenses at Saratoga were key to the British defeat, showing the war's global intellectual roots.

5. The primary goal of the British 'Southern Strategy' late in the war was to recruit _____ who were believed to be more numerous in the Carolinas and Georgia.

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Answer: B) Loyalists

Lord Cornwallis hoped that moving the war south would tap into a deep well of Loyalist support, although this strategy eventually failed due to guerrilla warfare.

6. How did the 1772 Gaspee Affair signal a shift from peaceful protest to violent resistance in the American colonies?

Answer: A) Colonists burned a British customs ship

The burning of the HMS Gaspee by Rhode Islanders represented a significant escalation in the physical destruction of British government property.

7. True or False: The Marquis de Lafayette was a French teenager who joined the Continental Army and served without pay to support the ideals of liberty.

Answer: A) True

Lafayette's personal dedication and wealthy connections were crucial in bridging the gap between the American rebels and the French government.

8. Lord Dunmore's Proclamation promised freedom to enslaved people who escaped their masters to fight for which side?

Answer: B) The British Army

This proclamation by the Royal Governor of Virginia was a tactical military move that created a massive social upheaval and forced many southern planters to join the rebellion.

9. The principle of _____, central to the Declaration of Independence, suggests that the authority of a government is created by the consent of its people.

Answer: C) Popular Sovereignty

Popular sovereignty (or social contract theory) was a radical departure from the European tradition that power was granted to kings by God.

10. True or False: The victory at the Battle of Cowpens was significant because it was the first time the Americans used traditional European open-field tactics to defeat the British.

Answer: B) False

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Cowpens was significant because General Daniel Morgan used a 'double envelopment' strategy, blending militia 'retreat' tactics with regular army strikes, rather than just traditional line-fighting.