

John Adams

Part One: “Join or Die”

1. What caused the shooting to begin?
2. Why did John Adams make the very controversial decision to defend the soldiers?
3. Compare and contrast the trial in the movie to modern American court cases.

Colonial Court	Both	Modern Court

4. What was the outcome of the trial?
5. What was the purpose of “tarring and feathering?”
6. How was Boston punished after the “tea party?”
7. After the trial, Adams was presented with multiple job offers. Which job did he choose and why?

Characters

- **John Adams**- lawyer (future Founding Father and President)
- **Abigail Adams**- John’s wife, well-educated
- **Samuel Adams**- John’s cousin, a leader of the Sons of Liberty, wealthy
- **Captain Preston**- British commander of the soldiers involved in the shooting
- **John Hancock**- Merchant, politician, patriot
- **Sons of Liberty**- colonial group formed to protest British Acts
- **Patriot**- nickname for a colonist who were unhappy with British policies, later want American independence
- **Tory**- nickname for a colonist who remained loyal to Britain (Loyalist)
- **Redcoats**- nickname for British soldiers (lobsterbacks)