

LEVELED BOOK • K

Abigail Adams

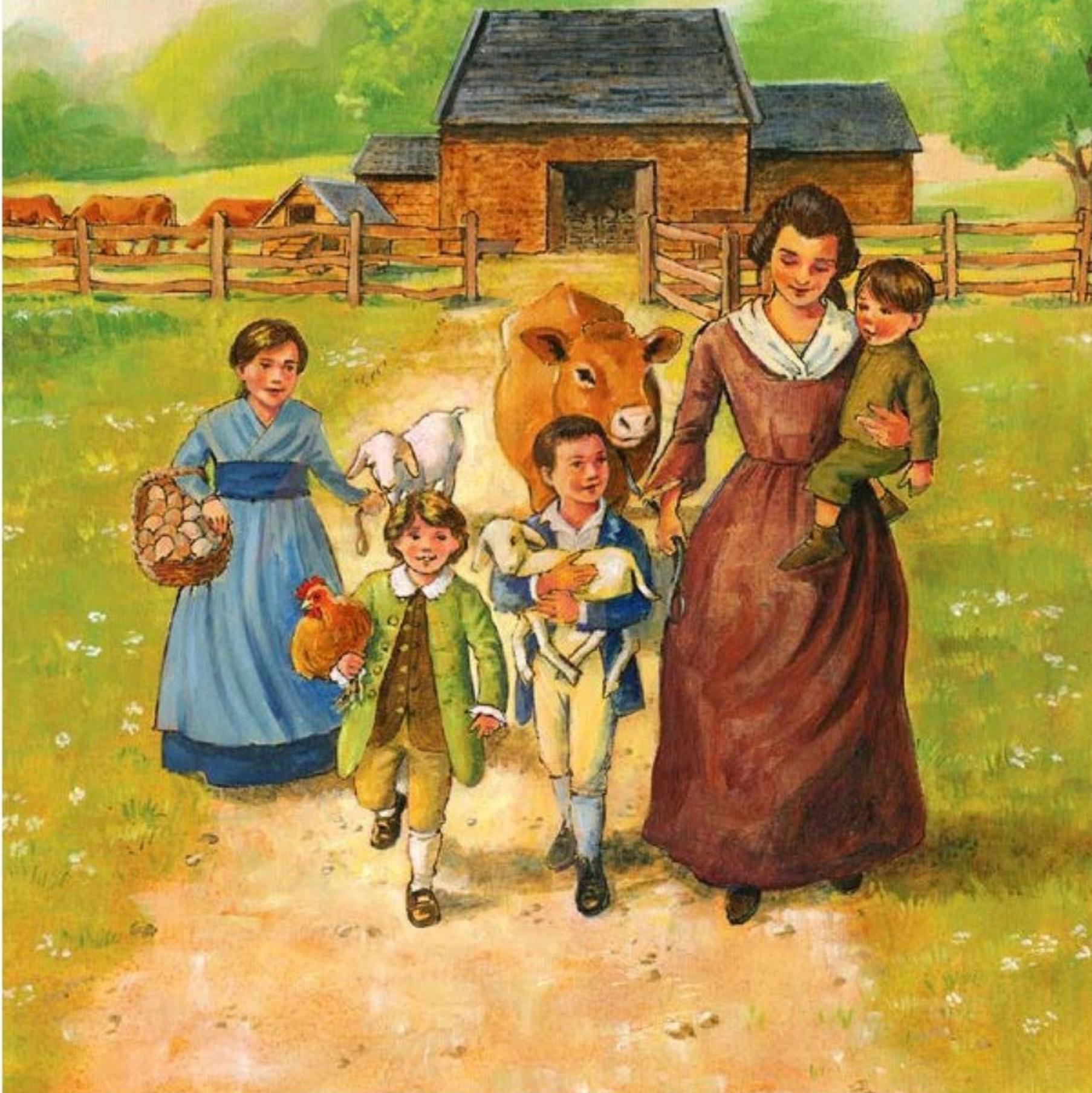


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Abigail Adams



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Focus Question

Who was Abigail Adams, and
why was she important?

Words to Know

causes
colonies
equal rights

First Lady
Great Britain
independent

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This portrait of Abigail Adams was made in 1795.

Who Was Abigail Adams?

Abigail Adams lived from 1744 to 1818. At that time, women mostly thought about their husbands, children, and home. Abigail Adams was different. She helped shape the United States' first years as a new country.



Early Years

Abigail was born on November 11, 1744, in Massachusetts, one of the thirteen **colonies**. At the time, the colonies belonged to **Great Britain**.

Most girls were not allowed to go to school. Abigail's mother taught her to read and write. Abigail was smart and loved to read.

The Thirteen Colonies





These paintings of Abigail and John Adams were made around the time of their marriage.

Abigail married John Adams in 1764. John worked as a lawyer. He was often away from home because of his work.

Abigail took care of the farm and their money.



The Adams Family

Abigail and John's children helped with chores on the family farm. Their oldest son, John Quincy Adams, became the sixth president of the United States.



This stamp showed that a tax had been paid to Great Britain.

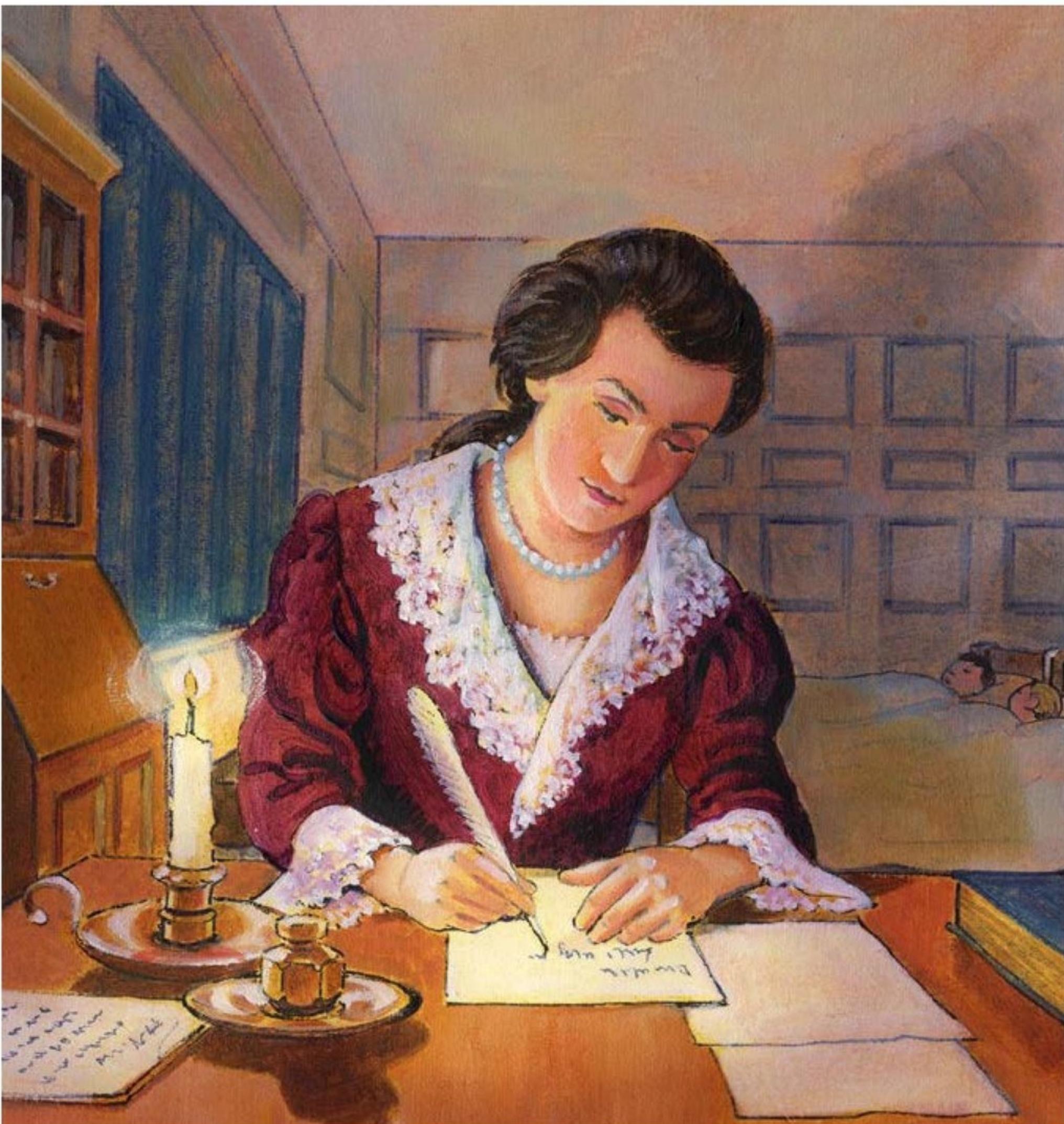
War with Great Britain

Soon after Abigail and John were married, Great Britain began to treat the colonies unfairly. People had to pay many high taxes. Abigail, John, and many others wanted the colonies to become **independent**.



This painting shows John Adams meeting with other men to discuss the colonies' independence.

John left the farm to help the colonies break away from Great Britain. Abigail cared for their children and ran their farm. A woman running a business was not common at the time.



Abigail thought John's work was important. She and John wrote many letters while he was away. Abigail shared her ideas about helping the colonies become independent. John listened to her ideas.



The colonies went to war with Great Britain to become independent in 1775. John kept working to help the colonies become free. Abigail made meals and cared for soldiers who were hurt. She wrote to John about what was happening.



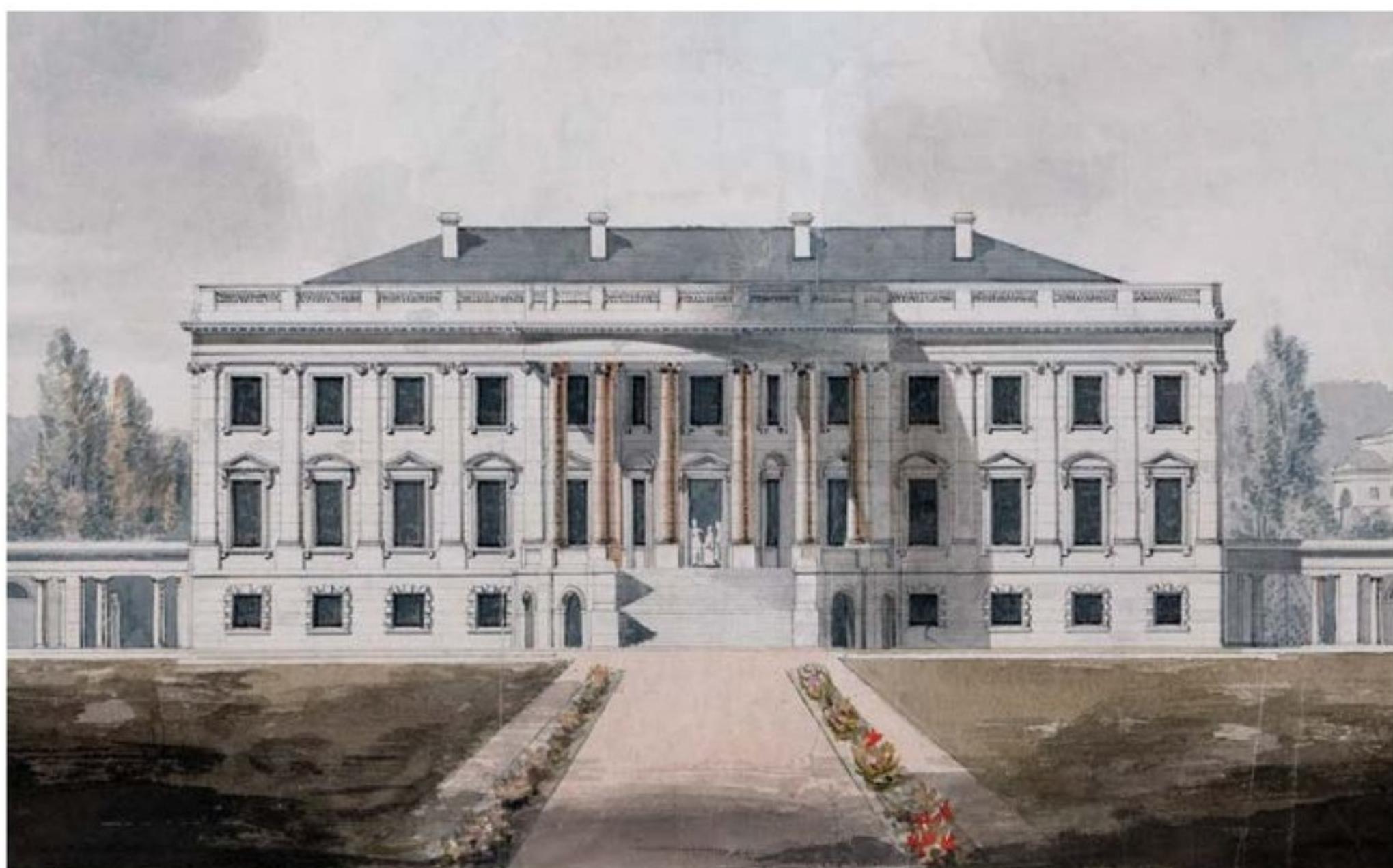
This painting of John Adams was made in 1783.

After the War

The war ended in 1781, and the colonies became a new country—the United States of America. George Washington became the first U.S. president in 1789. John became the first vice president.

John became president in 1797. As **First Lady**, Abigail spoke out against slavery and in favor of **equal rights** for women.

Some people did not like it when Abigail spoke out. They sometimes called her Mrs. President. Abigail never stopped talking about what she believed.



Do You Know?

John and Abigail were the first president and First Lady to live in the White House. It was called the President's House at the time.



This painting of Abigail Adams was made in her later years.

Later Years

Abigail and John moved back to their farm when his four years as president were over.

Many years later, in 1818, Abigail died.



This statue of Abigail Adams is in Boston, Massachusetts.

Abigail Adams was a smart woman who made a difference in many ways. Her ideas were important to the birth of the United States. She showed the world that women can speak up and work for important causes.

Glossary

causes (<i>n.</i>)	beliefs, ideas, or goals supported by a group of people (p. 15)
colonies (<i>n.</i>)	areas or countries that are ruled by or belong to another country (p. 5)
equal rights (<i>n.</i>)	freedoms and powers that are as good as those of other groups of people (p. 13)
First Lady (<i>n.</i>)	the wife of a president or other leader (p. 13)
Great Britain (<i>n.</i>)	an island on which the countries of England, Scotland, and Wales are located (p. 5)
independent (<i>adj.</i>)	not controlled or ruled by others (p. 8)

Abigail Adams

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Word Count: 387

Connections

Writing and Art

Write a letter to a friend discussing the future of the United States and ideas for making it a better place.

Social Studies

Make a timeline of Abigail Adams's life. Include three dates and at least five important events. Share your timeline with a partner.

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