

Teaching with Primary Sources Lesson Outline

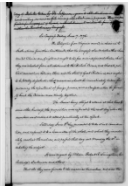
Grade Level: High School (9-10)

Standard(s) or Objectives: CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.2: Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of how key events or ideas develop over the course of the text.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.9-10.5: Analyze how a text uses structure to emphasize key points or advance an explanation or analysis.

Library of Congress or Morris Special Collections Resources:

James Madison, "John C. Payne's copy of Thomas Jefferson notes on debates of the Continental Congress," June 7, 1776.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/mjm022774/>



Specific pages used:

https://www.loc.gov/resource/mjm.27_0731_0767/?sp=3

https://www.loc.gov/resource/mjm.27_0731_0767/?sp=4

https://www.loc.gov/resource/mjm.27_0731_0767/?sp=5

Topic Background:

Acting under the instruction of the Virginia Convention, Richard Henry Lee on June 7, 1776, introduced a resolution in the Second Continental Congress proposing independence for the colonies. The Lee Resolution contained three parts: a declaration of independence, a call to form foreign alliances, and "a plan for confederation."

Excerpted from: <https://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=1>

Source(s) Used:

The source used for this assessment includes excerpts from Thomas Jefferson's notes on the debates of the Continental Congress in June, 1776. These notes are included in James Madison's papers, and are focused upon the day of the Lee Resolution, what might be considered an early draft of the Declaration of Independence. In particular, these excerpts focus upon questions over foreign alliances.

Answer Key:

Question 1: B

Question 2: D

James Madison, “John C. Payne's copy of Thomas Jefferson notes on debates of the Continental Congress,” June 7, 1776. [Excerpt]

That if the Delegates of any particular Colony had no power to declare such Colony independent, certain they were the others could not declare it for them; the Colonies being as yet perfectly independent of each other:

...it was probable these bodies would take up the question of Independence, and would declare to their Delegates the voice of their state:

That if such a declaration should now be agreed to, these Delegates must retire and possibly their Colonies might secede from the Union:

That such a secession would weaken us more than could be compensated by any foreign alliance.

That in the event of such a division foreign powers would either refuse to join themselves to our fortunes, or having us so much in their power as that desperate declaration would place us they would insist on terms proportionably more hard and prejudiced.

That we had little reason to expect an alliance with those to whom alone as yet we had cast our eyes:

That France and Spain had reason to be jealous of that rising power which would one day certainly strip them of all their American possessions.

That it was more likely they should form a connection with the British Court, who if they should find themselves unable otherwise to extricate themselves from their difficulties, would agree to a partition of our territories, restoring Canada to France, and the Floridas to Spain, to accomplish for themselves a recovery of these Colonies.

Questions:

- 1) Which sentence best summarizes the central idea of this excerpt? (CCSS-RH9-10.2)
 - a. Delegates believed that France and Spain would support their decision to break away from Great Britain.
 - b. Delegates worried that division among the colonies would make potential allies think of the colonies as weak.
 - c. Delegates believed that France and Spain would seek an alliance with Great Britain.
 - d. Delegates worried that potential allies would want their former American territories restored to them.

- 2) How does the note “That such a secession would weaken us more than could be compensated by any foreign alliance” relate to the following note, “That France and Spain had reason to be jealous of that rising power which would one day certainly strip them of all their American possessions?” (CCSS-RH9-10.5)
 - a. A secession of colonies from others would strengthen all colonies and intimidate France and Spain into alliances.
 - b. If the colonies united together, France and Spain would probably become their allies.
 - c. France and Spain were unlikely to help the colonies, whether considered weak or strong, because of their American possessions.
 - d. Weak colonies could not be helped by a foreign alliance, while strong colonies would threaten France and Spain.