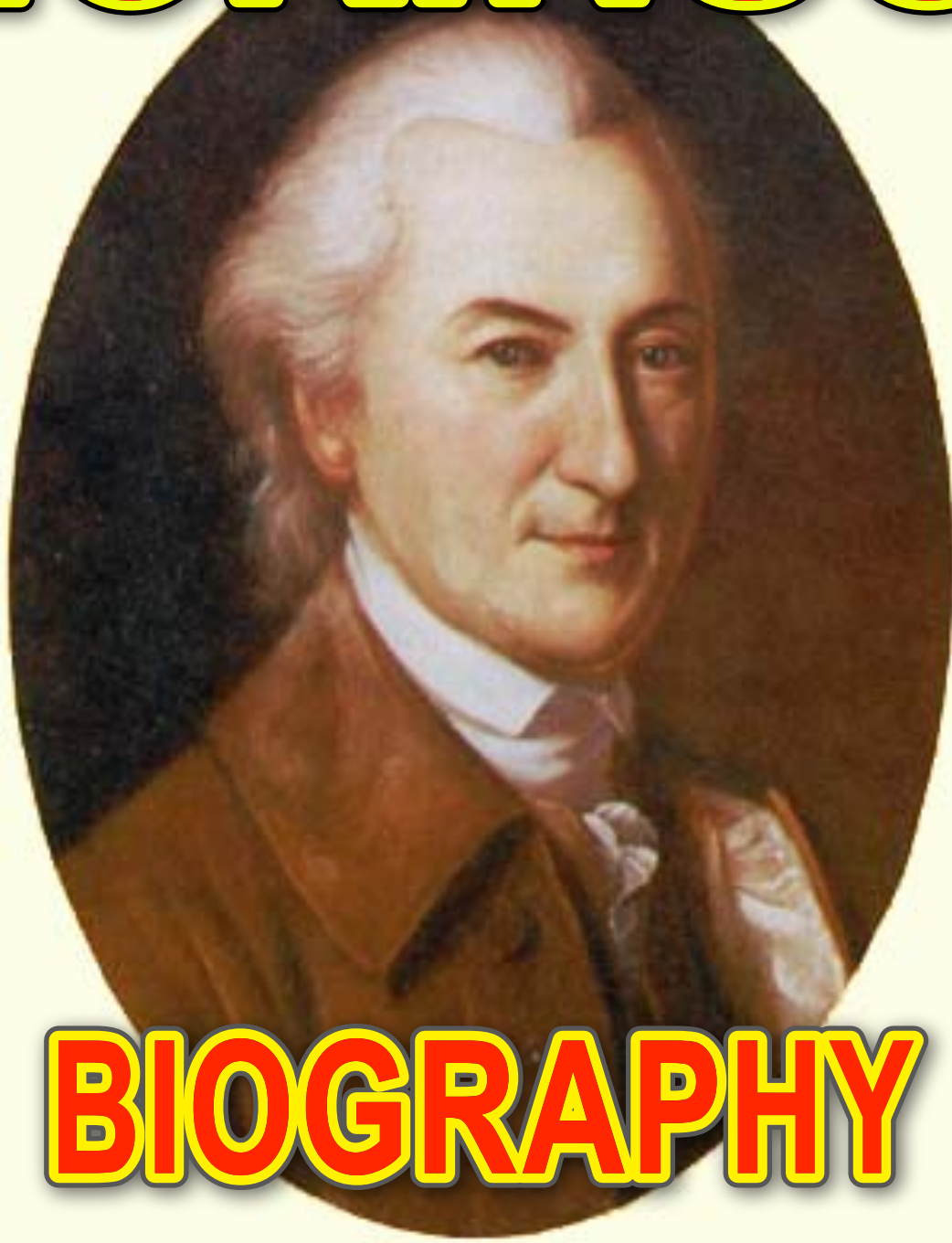


# JOHN DICKINSON



## BIOGRAPHY

# JOHN DICKINSON

John Dickinson was born in Maryland in 1732, although his family moved to Delaware when he was still young. Dickinson trained to be a lawyer, like his father, in Philadelphia, and then in London, Great Britain. He then returned to Pennsylvania to work as a lawyer.

Dickinson was also involved in the politics of the day, especially in the colonies of Pennsylvania and Delaware. In 1765, Dickinson represented Pennsylvania at the Stamp Act Congress. This meeting had come about because Great Britain had imposed on American colonies the Stamp Act, a tax on certain imports and exports. Many people in the colonies objected to the tax because they had had no say on it.

But, while many at the time were moving towards a revolution against Great Britain, through violence if necessary, Dickinson wrote arguing for peaceful resistance. He thought that the issues could be solved through negotiation, rather than fighting for full independence from Great Britain.

In the end, full-on war for independence did break out between Britain and America. Dickinson even served in a militia for a short time during this war, sometimes called the Revolutionary War. Throughout the war, debates and meetings about the issue of independence were held. Dickinson attended, but did not vote for independence, and so did not sign the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

After the war, Dickinson was president of Delaware, and represented it at meetings to decide the U.S. Constitution. He later oversaw the writing of Delaware's constitution, and advised Thomas Jefferson when he was president. Dickinson died in 1808, in Wilmington, Delaware.

# Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'imposed'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'imposed' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'imposed'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'imposed'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'imposed' means.

# Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: issues	problems

# Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Dickinson went to meetings about independence, but did not sign the Declaration of Independence.

In the end, the Revolutionary War broke out between Britain and America.

Meanwhile, Dickinson wanted to negotiate and remain peaceful.

John Dickinson was born in 1732, in colonial America.

After the Stamp Act in 1765, some people in the colonies wanted to start a revolution against Great Britain.

After the war, Dickinson oversaw the writing of Delaware's constitution.

Dickinson was a lawyer, but he was also involved in politics.

# Get to the facts

1 Which colony did John Dickinson represent at the Stamp Act Congress?

2 What was the war between Britain and America called?

3 When was the Declaration of Independence signed?

4 Which state was Dickinson president of after the war?

5 Who did Dickinson advise?

# Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

## Declaration of Independence

Dear diary, today the Declaration of Independence was signed! What a great day this is. Although, I heard that my friend, John Dickinson, did not vote for independence...(now complete the story)

**Below is a plain text version for printing:**

## Understanding words:

- a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'imposed'.
- b From that sentence, suggest what 'imposed' means.
- c Write a new sentence using the word 'imposed'.
- d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'imposed'.
- e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'imposed' means.

## Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – issues                      Synonym – problems

## Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

Dickinson went to meetings about independence, but did not sign the Declaration of Independence.

In the end, the Revolutionary War broke out between Britain and America.

Meanwhile Dickinson wanted to negotiate and remain peaceful.

John Dickinson was born in 1732, in colonial America.

After the Stamp Act in 1765, some people in the colonies wanted to start a revolution against Great Britain.

After the war, Dickinson oversaw the writing of Delaware's constitution.

Dickinson was a lawyer, but he was also involved in politics.



## **Get to the facts:**

- 1 Which colony did John Dickinson represent at the Stamp Act Congress?
- 2 What was the war between Britain and America called?
- 3 When was the Declaration of Independence signed?
- 4 Which state was Dickinson president of after the war?
- 5 Who did Dickinson advise?

## **Make a story...**

### **Declaration of Independence**

Dear diary, today the Declaration of Independence was signed! What a great day this is. Although, I heard my friend, John Dickinson, did not vote for independence... (now complete the story)

# John Dickinson

John Dickinson was born in Maryland in 1732, although his family moved to Delaware when he was still young. Dickinson trained to be a lawyer, like his father, in Philadelphia, and then in London, Great Britain. He then returned to Pennsylvania to work as a lawyer.

Dickinson was also involved in the politics of the day, especially in the colonies of Pennsylvania and Delaware. In 1765, Dickinson represented Pennsylvania at the Stamp Act Congress. This meeting had come about because Great Britain had imposed on American colonies the Stamp Act, a tax on certain imports and exports. Many people in the colonies objected to the tax because they had had no say on it.

But, while many at the time were moving towards a revolution against Great Britain, through violence if necessary, Dickinson wrote arguing for peaceful resistance. He thought that the issues could be solved through negotiation, rather than fighting for full independence from Great Britain.

In the end, full-on war for independence did break out between Britain and America. Dickinson even served in a militia for a short time during this war, sometimes called the Revolutionary War. Throughout the war, debates and meetings about the issue of independence were held. Dickinson attended, but did not vote for independence, and so did not sign the Declaration of Independence in 1776.

After the war, Dickinson was president of Delaware, and represented it at meetings to decide the U.S. Constitution. He later oversaw the writing of Delaware's constitution, and advised Thomas Jefferson when he was president. Dickinson died in 1808, in Wilmington, Delaware.