

## **Dramatizing Dilemma 1: *What Should President Adams Do to Protect American Ships?***

### *Characters*

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narrator                   | <input type="checkbox"/> French Sailor 1            | <input type="checkbox"/> American Envoy to France 3 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President John Adams       | <input type="checkbox"/> French Sailor 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> French Secret Agent        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor to President Adams | <input type="checkbox"/> American Envoy to France 1 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Sailor 1          | <input type="checkbox"/> American Envoy to France 2 |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Sailor 2          |   |   |

### ***Scene 1: The White House, Washington, D.C.***

*President Adams and his advisor sit at a desk under the “North America” sign. American Envoys 1, 2, and 3 stand nearby. American Sailors 1 and 2 sit in two chairs under the “Atlantic Ocean” sign. French Sailors 1 and 2 stand nearby. French Secret Agent stands under the “Europe” sign.*

**Narrator:** President Adams is meeting with his advisor in the White House in Washington, D.C. He is deeply troubled by French and British seizures of American ships.

**President Adams:** As president, I feel that we must avoid war with England and France.

**Advisor to President Adams:** (*smiling*) Mr. President, I do not believe we have to worry about conflicts with the British. Do you remember the agreement established by the Jay Treaty? (*pretends to read from a copy of the Jay Treaty*) “We British want friendly relations with the United States. Consequently, we agree to turn our forts in the Ohio River Valley over to the United States.”

### ***Scene 2: The Atlantic Ocean***

**Narrator:** American ships continue to trade with countries in Europe, even though there is constant danger the ships will be seized and the men on board arrested.

**American Sailor 1:** Trading with Europe is profitable, but dangerous.

**American Sailor 2:** I hope we do not encounter French warships during our voyage.

*French Sailors pretend to board the American ship and arrest the American Sailors.*

**French Sailor 1:** So, you Americans plan to trade with the British. You know, of course, they are our enemy.

**French Sailor 2:** We must arrest you. France must protect itself.

**Scene 3: The White House, Washington, D.C.**

**Narrator:** The president meets in the White House with three American envoys whom he plans to send to France.

**President Adams:** Go to France and negotiate an end to these attacks on American ships.

**American Envoy to France 1:** Yes, Mr. President. We will do our best to convince the French to behave properly.

**Scene 4: Office of Minister Talleyrand**

*The three envoys walk to the “Europe” sign.*

**Narrator:** When the American envoys reach France, they are shocked by the reception they receive.

**American Envoy to France 2:** We want to negotiate with Talleyrand, the foreign minister, to end hostilities between the United States and France.

**French Secret Agent:** *(in a haughty manner)* Minister Talleyrand will negotiate with you, but only if you pay him \$250,000 and agree to loan France 32 million francs.

**American Envoy to France 3:** *(in shock)* No! No! Not a sixpence!

**Scene 5: The White House, Washington, D.C.**

**Narrator:** The American public is outraged by the French behavior. Nevertheless, President Adams still wants peace.

**President Adams:** I want to avoid war. Neutrality is the best choice. However, we must be prepared for war. We should raise an army of 10,000 and build new warships. In the meantime, American sailors must defend themselves against attacks by the French navy.

## **Dramatizing Dilemma 2: *How Should President Jefferson Deal with Pirates?***

### *Characters*

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|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narrator          | <input type="checkbox"/> Barbary Pirate 1           | <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor to President Jefferson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Sailor 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> Barbary Pirate 2           | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruler of Tripoli               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Sailor 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> President Thomas Jefferson |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> American Sailor 3 |   |   |

### ***Scene 1: The Mediterranean Sea***

*American Sailors 1, 2, and 3 sit in three chairs under the “Mediterranean” sign. Barbary Pirates 1 and 2 stand nearby. President Jefferson and his Advisor sit at a desk under the “North America” sign. The Ruler of Tripoli sits at a desk under the “North Africa” sign.*

**Narrator:** For years, pirates from the Barbary states of North Africa seized ships that entered the Mediterranean Sea, and held their crews for ransom.

**American Sailor 1:** These are dangerous waters. Oh no! Look, there is a pirate ship!

**Narrator:** The pirates board the vessel, and after stealing all valuables, they seize two sailors.

*Barbary Pirates 1 and 2 take American Sailor 2 and American Sailor 3 and move to the “North Africa” sign.*

**Barbary Pirate 1:** We are taking two of your sailors. Hopefully, your country will pay a ransom for you. Otherwise, you will remain in North Africa for a very long time.

**American Sailor 2:** We’ve always paid off you thieving pirates. I suppose we will this time, too.

### ***Scene 2: The White House, Washington, D.C.***

**Narrator:** President Jefferson meets with his advisor in the White House in Washington, D.C.

**President Jefferson:** We must pay off the pirates. I don’t like it, but it’s better than war.

**Advisor to President Jefferson:** I will make sure the ransom money reaches the pirates.

### ***Scene 3: The Barbary States***

**Narrator:** Meanwhile, back in Tripoli, the Barbary pirates receive word that the ransom money has been paid.

**Barbary Pirate 2:** You may go now. Your government has met our demands.

*American Sailors 1, 2, and 3 move to the “Atlantic Ocean” sign and sail back to the United States.*

**American Sailor 3:** We are glad to be free, but paying ransom to the pirates only encourages them to kidnap more American sailors.

**Scene 4: The White House, Washington, D.C.**

**Narrator:** Back at the White House, President Jefferson hears more bad news.

**Advisor to President Jefferson:** Mr. President, it is time to pay the Barbary pirates their annual tribute.

**President Jefferson:** *(with dismay)* We have paid \$2 million so far. Is there no end to their greed?

**Scene 5: Palace of the Ruler of Tripoli, North Africa**

**Narrator:** The ruler of Tripoli, meanwhile, plans to increase his income from piracy and writes a letter to the president.

**Ruler of Tripoli:** *(pretending to write a letter to President Jefferson)* Dear Mr. President: The people of my country are poor. Yours is a wealthy nation. We must raise the price you pay for sailing in our waters. While you are deciding whether or not to pay the increase, I want to inform you that our nation is declaring war on the United States. Yours truly, the Ruler of Tripoli.

**Scene 6: The White House, Washington, D.C.**

**Narrator:** When the letter arrives at the White House from Tripoli, President Jefferson is furious.

**President Jefferson:** *(after pretending to read the letter from the ruler of Tripoli)* This is an outrage! Send for my advisors. We must decide how to deal with the Barbary States.

### **Dramatizing Dilemma 3: *What Should President Madison Do to Protect Sailors and Settlers?***

*Characters*

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|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narrator                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Napoleon’s Secretary    | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> President James Madison      | <input type="checkbox"/> American Sailor 1       | <input type="checkbox"/> British Army Captain |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisor to President Madison | <input type="checkbox"/> American Sailor 2       | <input type="checkbox"/> War Hawk             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Napoleon                     | <input type="checkbox"/> British Warship Captain |   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> British Sailor          |   |

**Scene 1: *The White House, Washington, D.C.***

*President Madison and his Advisor sit at a desk under the “North America” sign. The War Hawk stands nearby. The Native American and the British Army Captain stand to the left, indicating the Ohio Valley. The two American Sailors sit under the “Atlantic Ocean” sign. The British Warship Captain and the British Sailor stand nearby. Napoleon and his Secretary sit at a desk under the “Europe” sign.*

**Narrator:** President Madison, in Washington, is dictating a letter to Britain and France.

**President Madison:** *(pretending to dictate a letter to his advisor)* To the Leaders of Great Britain and France: For years your countries have been attacking American shipping on the Atlantic Ocean. If you will agree to stop this practice, the United States will not trade with your enemies. Yours truly, James Madison.

**Advisor to President Madison:** *(finishes writing the letter that Madison has dictated)* Mr. President, I hope that the British and French respond favorably to your request.

**Scene 2: *Personal Office of Napoleon, Paris, France***

**Narrator:** President Madison’s letter is delivered to the French leader, Napoleon.

**Napoleon’s Secretary:** General, we have received a letter from President Madison. He has stated that he will not trade with our enemies, the British, if we agree to end our attacks on American ships.

**Napoleon:** How foolish President Madison is to trust me. Send this letter: Dear Mr. Madison: We accept your most generous offer. The French will stop attacking American shipping from this day forward. With warm regards, Napoleon. *(laughs heartily)* The Americans will accept the agreement. Meanwhile, we will continue attacking their ships as we always have. Oui! Oui!

**Scene 3: *The White House, Washington, D.C.***

**Narrator:** Back in Washington, Madison receives letters from the French and the British.

**Advisor to President Madison:** *(after pretending to sort through a pile of mail)* Oh good, a letter from Napoleon. He has agreed to our terms.

**President Madison:** Is there a letter from the British?

**Advisor to President Madison:** Yes! (*pretends to quickly read through a letter from the British*) Mr. President, the British refuse to stop their attacks. Oh my, that means that the United States must cut off all trade with Great Britain.

#### **Scene 4: The Atlantic Ocean**

*American Sailors pretend to sail toward Europe.*

**American Sailor 1:** Darn! That British warship has spotted us. We are certain to be impressed into the British navy now!

**British Warship Captain:** (*pretends to board the American ship*) You men must be deserters. On the command of His Majesty, King George, I am forcing you to return to service in the British navy.

**American Sailor 2:** That's ridiculous. We are American citizens, not British. You need to respect our rights.

*British Sailor pretends to force the two American Sailors onto the British ship.*

**British Sailor:** Rights? (*sarcastically*) Looks like the only right you have now is to follow our captain's orders.

#### **Scene 5: The Ohio River Valley**

**Narrator:** Meanwhile, Americans are angry over the help the British are giving Native Americans who hope to stop white settlers from moving into their territory.

**Native American:** We are tired of white settlers taking our land. Can you help us protect what is rightfully ours?

**British Army Captain:** (*pretends to point to a pile of guns*) My government has secretly granted me the authority to provide you with weapons. Please take these guns and use them to defend yourselves against the hostile actions of the American settlers.

#### **Scene 6: The White House, Washington, D.C.**

**Narrator:** Many Americans favor war with Britain. Those people are called "War Hawks." One of them is meeting with President Madison in Washington.

**War Hawk:** (*angrily*) Mr. President, we have had enough of the British! They impress our sailors and supply the Indians with weapons. Enough is enough! We should declare war and push the British right out of Canada. We can rid ourselves of the British threat and gain new territory as well.

**President Madison:** Send for my advisors! We must decide how to deal with the British.

## **Dramatizing Dilemma 4: *What Should President Monroe Do to Support the New Latin American Nations?***

### *Characters*

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Narrator              | <input type="checkbox"/> Argentinean Citizen 2                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Russian Minister to France  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican Citizen 1     | <input type="checkbox"/> President James Monroe                  | <input type="checkbox"/> King of France              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican Citizen 2     | <input type="checkbox"/> British Ambassador to the United States | <input type="checkbox"/> Austrian Minister to France |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Venezuelan Citizen 1  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Venezuelan Citizen 2  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Argentinean Citizen 1 |  |  |

### ***Scene 1: Mexico City, Mexico***

*Mexican Citizens 1 and 2 stand under the “North America” sign. Venezuelan Citizens 1 and 2 and Argentinean Citizens 1 and 2 all stand under the “South America” sign. President Monroe and the British Ambassador to the United States sit at a desk under the “North America” sign. The King of France, the Russian Minister to France, and the Austrian Minister to France sit around a desk under the “Europe” sign.*

**Narrator:** After the War of 1812, colonial peoples from Mexico to the tip of South America revolted against Spain.

**Mexican Citizen 1:** (*pretending to lower a Spanish flag*) I am taking down this Spanish flag. It has taken many years for Mexico to become free from Spain.

**Mexican Citizen 2:** Yes, it has. I hope that the United States respects our newly obtained independence.

### ***Scene 2: Caracas, Venezuela***

**Venezuelan Citizen 1:** (*pretending to lower a Spanish flag*) I am taking down this Spanish flag. At last, Spain can no longer interfere in Venezuelan matters. We can rule ourselves! Praise to Simón Bolívar!

**Venezuelan Citizen 2:** Yes, I agree. I wonder if the United States will support our independence.

*Scene 3: Buenos Aires, Argentina*

**Argentinean Citizen 1:** (*pretending to lower a Spanish flag*) I am taking down this Spanish flag. The leadership of José de San Martín has brought us to a great moment in Argentinean history. We now are now free to rule ourselves.

**Argentinean Citizen 2:** It is wonderful to finally be independent of Spanish rule. Certainly the Americans must be delighted that we have achieved our independence.

*Scene 4: The White House, Washington, D.C.*

**Narrator:** President Monroe is delighted that these nations are free from control by European nations. He expresses his feelings to the British ambassador.

**President Monroe:** The independence movement in Latin America should be applauded. Don't you agree, Mr. Ambassador?

**British Ambassador to the United States:** Indeed, these events will benefit both Britain and the United States. We will now be able to trade openly with the people of Latin America.

*Scene 5: Palace of Versailles, France*

**Narrator:** Not all European powers are as happy as the United States about this situation. Officials of several European countries meet at the Palace of Versailles in France to discuss the situation.

**Russian Minister to France:** Your Majesty, the recent events in Latin America are quite troubling! Do you not agree?

**King of France:** Yes, I find these independence movements a threat to our power. They will inspire people within our colonies to revolt.

**Austrian Minister to France:** Perhaps then, your Majesty, we should help the Spanish recover their lost colonies. The people of Austria are ready to contribute to some sort of military action.

*Scene 6: The White House, Washington, D.C.*

**Narrator:** Back in the United States, President Monroe learns of the plan by some Europeans to squash the independence movements in Latin America.

**British Ambassador to the United States:** Mr. President, we have learned that some of the major powers in Europe might help Spain reclaim its lost colonies. Will the United States join us in warning these nations to stay out of Latin American affairs?

**President Monroe:** I must send for my advisors. The United States must determine what its policy in Latin America will be.