Who Held Mobile?

A fort, a port, and Native choices during the Revolution

SS24.4.6b "Describe events that took place in Alabama during the Revolution, including the Spanish seizure of Mobile and the Battle of Fort Charlotte, and explain the involvement of Native Americans."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the actions that changed who controlled Mobile, and circle the words that tell how Choctaw warriors took part.

The Fight for Mobile

1. During the American Revolution, the land we now call Alabama was not a state. Britain held Mobile, a busy port near the Gulf of Mexico. Ships brought people and supplies through its harbor. Spain had joined the war against Britain and wanted control of the Gulf Coast. A Spanish force led by Bernardo de Gálvez sailed toward Mobile in 1780.

2. British soldiers guarded Mobile from Fort Charlotte. Spanish troops surrounded the fort and fired cannons at its walls. The British commander knew his soldiers could not hold out against the larger force. On March 14, 1780, the British surrendered Fort Charlotte. Spain then took control of Mobile. This fight, called the Battle of Fort Charlotte, changed who controlled an important port in what is now Alabama.

3. Native Americans also took part in the war in this region. Some Choctaw warriors joined the Spanish force during the Mobile campaign. Native nations had their own leaders and reasons for making choices. Many wanted to protect their lands and trade. They were not simply watching Britain and Spain fight. Their actions helped shape the struggle for control of the Gulf Coast.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Spain send a force toward British-held Mobile?

2. Describe what Spanish troops did at Fort Charlotte before the British surrendered.

3. How did the Battle of Fort Charlotte change control of Mobile?

4. How did some Choctaw warriors take part in the Mobile campaign, and why did Native nations make choices about the war?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about Mobile in 1780. Explain how the fort's surrender changed Mobile, how Choctaw warriors took part, and why both events belong in a story about this region.

ANSWER KEY

Who Held Mobile?

GRADE 4 · SS24.4.6b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the actions that changed who controlled Mobile, and circle the words that tell how Choctaw warriors took part. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Spain send a force toward British-held Mobile?	**Spain had joined the war against Britain and wanted control of the Gulf Coast.**
2	Describe what Spanish troops did at Fort Charlotte before the British surrendered.	**They surrounded the fort and fired cannons at its walls.**
3	How did the Battle of Fort Charlotte change control of Mobile?	**Britain surrendered the fort, and Spain took control of Mobile.**
4	How did some Choctaw warriors take part in the Mobile campaign, and why did Native nations make choices about the war?	**Some Choctaw warriors joined the Spanish force. Native nations made choices for reasons of their own, including protecting their lands and trade.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In 1780, British soldiers surrendered Fort Charlotte, and Spain took control of Mobile. Some Choctaw warriors joined the Spanish force during the campaign. Both events belong in this story because Native people, as well as European armies, took part in the struggle for the Gulf Coast.

Accept answers that connect the fort's surrender to Spain's control of Mobile and identify Choctaw warriors as participants on the Spanish side. Students may describe Native nations' reasons in their own words, but should not suggest that all Native people chose the same side.