Across Two Wars

Why the United States fought, and how Alabamians served

SS24.5.14a "Explain reasons for the United States' involvement in the Korean War and Vietnam War and describe the involvement of Alabamians in these conflicts."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a reason the United States became involved in each war. Circle one way Alabamians took part in each war.

Alabamians in Korea and Vietnam

1. After World War II, Korea was divided into a communist North and a noncommunist South. In 1950, North Korean troops attacked South Korea. The United States sent troops as part of a United Nations force to help defend South Korea. U.S. leaders also feared that communism would spread if the attack succeeded. Alabamians serving in the U.S. military fought in Korea, far from their homes and families.

2. Vietnam was also divided into a communist North and a noncommunist South. U.S. leaders feared that if South Vietnam fell to communist forces, other countries nearby might follow. At first, the United States sent money, equipment, and advisers to help South Vietnam. Later, it sent combat troops. Many Alabamians served in the Vietnam War, including people who flew planes, cared for wounded troops, or fought on the ground.

3. One Alabamian in Vietnam was Navy pilot Jeremiah Denton of Mobile. His plane was shot down in 1965, and he spent nearly eight years as a prisoner of war. His story is one example of the risks service members faced. Alabama families were affected by both wars when loved ones left to serve. In Korea and Vietnam, Alabamians helped carry out U.S. plans, even though the fighting happened across the ocean.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did the United States send troops to Korea?

2. Why did U.S. leaders help South Vietnam, and how did that help change over time?

3. How did Alabamians take part in the U.S. response to the attack on South Korea?

4. How does Jeremiah Denton's story show an Alabamian's involvement in the Vietnam War?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a newspaper headline and a three-sentence news brief for Alabama readers. Explain one reason the United States became involved in each war, then compare how Alabamians were involved in the two wars.

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PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a reason the United States became involved in each war. Circle one way Alabamians took part in each war. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did the United States send troops to Korea?	**To help defend South Korea after North Korea attacked and to keep communism from spreading.**
2	Why did U.S. leaders help South Vietnam, and how did that help change over time?	**They feared communism would spread to nearby countries. The United States first sent money, equipment, and advisers, then sent combat troops.**
3	How did Alabamians take part in the U.S. response to the attack on South Korea?	**Alabamians in the U.S. military fought in Korea as the United States helped defend South Korea.**
4	How does Jeremiah Denton's story show an Alabamian's involvement in the Vietnam War?	**Denton, a Navy pilot from Mobile, served in Vietnam. His plane was shot down, and he was held as a prisoner of war.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Alabama Serves Across Two Wars

The United States sent troops to Korea to defend South Korea after an attack and to stop communism from spreading. In Vietnam, U.S. leaders backed South Vietnam because they feared nearby countries might also become communist. Alabamians fought in Korea and served in Vietnam, where Mobile pilot Jeremiah Denton was captured, so families in Alabama felt the effects of both wars.

Accept either defending South Korea or limiting the spread of communism as a reason for U.S. involvement in Korea. For the news brief, look for an accurate reason for each war and a comparison that names Alabamians' service in both.