A Model for Union

Trace evidence linking Haudenosaunee government to a colonial plan.

SS24.6.12c "Develop an argument supporting the idea that the Iroquois Confederacy's form of representative government influenced attempts of the colonies to unite as one nation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two facts about Haudenosaunee government and circle two facts about colonial leaders or plans. Write the same number beside one underlined fact and one circled fact that together support a connection.

Could Separate Colonies Govern Together?

1. For generations before the United States existed, the Haudenosaunee, also called the Iroquois Confederacy, joined several nations under the Great Law of Peace. The original five nations were later joined by the Tuscarora, making six. Each nation kept control of many of its own affairs but sent leaders to a shared council to discuss concerns for all. Clan mothers chose many of the leaders who served on the council. Decisions were reached through discussion and agreement, rather than orders from a single ruler.

2. Colonial leaders knew about this union through meetings and reports. At a 1744 meeting with colonial officials, the Haudenosaunee leader Canassatego urged the colonies to join together, pointing to his people's union. Benjamin Franklin printed accounts of treaty meetings. In a 1751 letter, he argued that if the Six Nations could form a lasting union, the English colonies could do so too. His argument did not say the two governments had to work in exactly the same way. It used the Haudenosaunee example to challenge colonial doubts about unity.

3. In 1754, Franklin proposed the Albany Plan of Union. It would have created a shared council with members chosen by colonial assemblies to make decisions about common matters, such as defense. Each colony would still manage many local affairs. Unlike the Haudenosaunee council, the plan also called for a president general appointed by the British king. The colonies and the king did not approve the plan, so it never became a government. Still, the plan and Franklin's words offer evidence that the Haudenosaunee union influenced an early attempt to unite the colonies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How does the way Haudenosaunee nations shared power help explain one part of the Albany Plan?

2. How does Canassatego's advice support the idea that Haudenosaunee government influenced colonial thinking?

3. What does Franklin's 1751 letter add to an argument about Haudenosaunee influence?

4. Someone says, "The Albany Plan was never approved, so it cannot show any influence." Use the passage to answer this objection.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a six-sentence note to someone who thinks the Haudenosaunee had no influence on colonial plans for unity. State your claim, use two different facts from the passage, explain how each fact supports your claim, and address one limit to the comparison.

ANSWER KEY

A Model for Union

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.12c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two facts about Haudenosaunee government and circle two facts about colonial leaders or plans. Write the same number beside one underlined fact and one circled fact that together support a connection. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the way Haudenosaunee nations shared power help explain one part of the Albany Plan?	**Haudenosaunee nations handled many local affairs but sent leaders to a shared council. The Albany Plan likewise kept local colonial powers and proposed a shared council.**
2	How does Canassatego's advice support the idea that Haudenosaunee government influenced colonial thinking?	**He urged colonial officials to unite and pointed to the Haudenosaunee union as an example.**
3	What does Franklin's 1751 letter add to an argument about Haudenosaunee influence?	**Franklin argued that if the Six Nations could form a lasting union, the English colonies could unite too. He used their government to answer doubts about colonial unity.**
4	Someone says, "The Albany Plan was never approved, so it cannot show any influence." Use the passage to answer this objection.	**The plan was an attempt to unite the colonies even though it was not approved. Its shared council and local powers resemble features of Haudenosaunee government, and Franklin had pointed to their union as an example.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Haudenosaunee Confederacy gave colonial leaders a useful example for joining separate colonies. Its nations kept many local powers while sending leaders to a shared council. The Albany Plan also left colonies in charge of local affairs and proposed a shared council, so the two governments have a clear link. Canassatego urged colonies to unite by pointing to his people's union. His advice shows that colonial leaders heard this idea from a Haudenosaunee leader. The governments were not identical, since the Albany Plan included a president general appointed by the British king.

Accept arguments that use specific passage evidence to explain a possible influence without claiming the governments were identical. Students may note that proposing a plan demonstrates an attempt at unity even though the plan was not adopted.