A Nation's Choices

Read Washington's advice about unity, other nations, and citizenship.

SS24.6.19b "Summarize the views Washington expressed in his Farewell Address regarding political factions, international relations, and civic virtue."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a sentence that states Washington's main view in each paragraph. Circle a nearby reason or example that helps explain that view.

Advice Before Leaving Office

1 In 1796, George Washington prepared to leave the presidency. In his Farewell Address, a written message to the nation, he warned that fierce political groups could put their own victories ahead of the country's needs. People in one group might treat neighbors in another as enemies. Leaders could use that anger to gain power instead of solving problems. Washington did not say Americans must always agree. He feared that strong party loyalty could weaken unity and make it easier for ambitious people to take control.

2 Across the Atlantic, European nations often fought wars and formed alliances. Washington wanted the United States to trade with other countries and act fairly toward them. But he urged Americans to avoid permanent political alliances that might pull the young nation into distant fights. He also warned against lasting hatred or blind affection for any foreign country. Either feeling could cloud good judgment. His advice did not mean refusing all contact or help. It meant making decisions based on the nation's interests and keeping its freedom to choose.

3 Washington also believed a free government needed citizens with good habits. He urged Americans to support education, since public opinion matters in a republic. He called for respect for the Constitution and laws, not just loyalty to a favorite leader. He said the nation should pay its debts rather than leave unfair costs to future generations. These duties ask people to think beyond personal gain. In Washington's view, citizens who learn, follow shared rules, and meet public obligations help keep the country strong.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Summarize Washington's concern about political groups. What might happen if party loyalty becomes too strong?

2. Summarize Washington's advice about relations with other countries. Include both something he supported and something he warned against.

3. Summarize what Washington thought good citizens should do. Give two examples from the passage.

4. How are Washington's warnings about party loyalty and feelings toward foreign countries alike?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A new country is debating a permanent military alliance, and two rival parties call each other enemies. Write four sentences advising its citizens: address the party conflict, the alliance, a civic duty, and a way to decide what best serves the country.

ANSWER KEY

A Nation's Choices

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.19b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline a sentence that states Washington's main view in each paragraph. Circle a nearby reason or example that helps explain that view. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Summarize Washington's concern about political groups. What might happen if party loyalty becomes too strong?	**Strong party loyalty could turn neighbors against one another, weaken unity, and help ambitious leaders gain power.**
2	Summarize Washington's advice about relations with other countries. Include both something he supported and something he warned against.	**He supported trade and fair treatment but warned against permanent political alliances that could draw the United States into distant wars.**
3	Summarize what Washington thought good citizens should do. Give two examples from the passage.	**Citizens should act for the public good, such as by supporting education and respecting the Constitution and laws.**
4	How are Washington's warnings about party loyalty and feelings toward foreign countries alike?	**Both warn that strong loyalties or feelings can cloud judgment and lead people to put something other than the nation's needs first.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Citizens should hear both parties instead of treating neighbors as enemies. Leaders should think carefully before accepting a permanent alliance that could pull their country into another nation's war. Citizens can learn the facts and respect the rules for a fair vote. They should judge the proposal by their country's needs, not by party pride or fondness for another country.

Accept accurate summaries in students' own words. For Your Turn, look for four sentences that apply all three views to the new country's decision.