After the Victory

How a war changed the colonies' relationship with Britain

SS24.6.7a "Develop an argument defending the belief that the French and Indian War served as a defining event in the relationship between the American colonies and British government."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about the colonies before the war, then number two details about Britain's actions after the war. Circle words that show how colonists reacted to those actions.

A Victory That Changed the Relationship

1. In 1754, fighting began in North America between Britain and France and their Native allies. Many colonists fought alongside British soldiers in what became known as the French and Indian War. Before the war, Britain had often let colonial assemblies manage many local matters and had not strictly enforced some trade rules. Colonists still owed loyalty to the king, but many were used to making decisions close to home. The war brought British troops and colonial fighters together, yet it also set up arguments about who should make decisions afterward.

2. Britain won the war in 1763 and gained control of large areas of land east of the Mississippi River from France. The victory came with a huge debt and the cost of keeping troops in North America. British leaders believed the colonies should help pay those costs. That same year, the king issued the Proclamation of 1763, which barred colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. British leaders hoped to reduce costly fighting with Native nations. Many colonists wanted to move west and saw the rule as Britain limiting their choices.

3. In 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act, a tax on many paper items used in the colonies. British leaders said the tax would help cover the cost of protecting the colonies. Many colonists protested because they had no elected representatives in Parliament to vote on the tax. Parliament repealed the act in 1766, but the dispute over who could tax the colonies continued. The war had not caused independence at once. It had changed the relationship: Britain tried to direct and tax the colonies more, while colonists challenged that control.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What contrast between life before the war and Britain's actions after the war supports the claim that the war changed the relationship?

2. How did the cost of the war lead to a disagreement between Britain and the colonists?

3. How does the disagreement over the Proclamation of 1763 support the claim that the war was a defining event?

4. Someone says repealing the Stamp Act ended the disagreement between Britain and the colonies. What evidence from the passage challenges that view?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence letter to a British lawmaker defending the claim that the French and Indian War changed the colonies' relationship with Britain. Use two facts from the passage, explain how they support your claim, and respond to Britain's reason for raising money.

ANSWER KEY

After the Victory

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.7a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about the colonies before the war, then number two details about Britain's actions after the war. Circle words that show how colonists reacted to those actions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What contrast between life before the war and Britain's actions after the war supports the claim that the war changed the relationship?	**Before the war, colonial assemblies managed many local matters. Afterward, Britain limited westward settlement and taxed the colonies.**
2	How did the cost of the war lead to a disagreement between Britain and the colonists?	**Britain wanted the colonies to help pay war-related costs, so Parliament passed the Stamp Act. Colonists protested because they had no elected representatives in Parliament.**
3	How does the disagreement over the Proclamation of 1763 support the claim that the war was a defining event?	**After the war, Britain barred settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, while many colonists wanted to move there. The disagreement shows growing conflict over who controlled colonial choices.**
4	Someone says repealing the Stamp Act ended the disagreement between Britain and the colonies. What evidence from the passage challenges that view?	**Even after Parliament repealed the Stamp Act, the dispute over who could tax the colonies continued.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear lawmaker, the French and Indian War changed how Britain treated our colonies. Before it, our assemblies managed many local matters, but after it, Britain barred settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Parliament also taxed our paper without giving us elected representatives there, so many colonists protested. I understand that Britain had war debts and paid to protect us. Still, those costs do not erase our anger over rules and taxes made without our voice.

Accept arguments that connect accurate passage evidence to a change in British control or colonial resistance. The letter should acknowledge Britain's war-related costs while defending the claim that the relationship changed.