Ways to Resist

Compare how colonists challenged British policies.

SS24.6.7b "Compare and contrast methods of colonial activism and protest against British policies, including boycotts, craftwork, letters, petitions, poems, public oration, and speeches."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two methods that changed what colonists bought or made, circle at least three methods that used words, and write the same number beside two different methods that could challenge one policy.

Protest in Daily Life

1. In the late 1760s, Parliament taxed goods imported into the colonies, including paper and glass. Many colonists argued that they should not be taxed by a Parliament in which they had no elected representatives. Some merchants and shoppers organized boycotts, refusing to buy certain British goods. A boycott put pressure on sellers by cutting sales. Families could also make cloth at home instead of buying imported fabric. This craftwork, often called homespun, helped people keep the boycott and made their protest visible in everyday life.

2. Other protesters used words. A letter could explain a complaint to a friend or newspaper reader. A petition collected names and asked an official to change a policy. Colonial writers also published poems that used rhyme to make arguments memorable. At a public gathering, a speaker could deliver an oration, a formal speech, to an audience. Letters and poems could travel to readers far away, while a speech reached people listening together. Each method shared ideas, but a petition directly asked authorities to act.

3. After Parliament passed the Tea Act in 1773, some colonists objected because the law kept a tax on tea. A shopkeeper might stop selling tea, while a writer might send a letter explaining why. Both could challenge the same policy, but one changed buying habits and the other tried to change minds. Not every colonist agreed with these protests, and some continued buying British goods. Protesters sometimes combined methods: a speech could urge a boycott, and a petition could show leaders that many people supported a change.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did making homespun cloth help a boycott? How were the two methods different?

2. How did a petition and a letter differ in whom they addressed and what they asked for?

3. How could a published poem and a public oration reach people differently?

4. In the tea example, what goal could the shopkeeper and writer share? How would their methods differ?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Suppose Parliament puts a new tax on imported candles. In four or five sentences, propose one protest method involving goods and one involving words. Explain who each method would reach and how the methods would work differently.

Ways to Resist

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two methods that changed what colonists bought or made, circle at least three methods that used words, and write the same number beside two different methods that could challenge one policy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did making homespun cloth help a boycott? How were the two methods different?	**Making homespun gave people cloth to use instead of imported fabric, helping them keep a boycott. Craftwork made a replacement, while a boycott meant refusing to buy certain goods.**
2	How did a petition and a letter differ in whom they addressed and what they asked for?	**A petition asked an official to change a policy and collected names. A letter could explain a complaint to a friend or newspaper reader.**
3	How could a published poem and a public oration reach people differently?	**A published poem could travel to distant readers. A public oration reached people listening together at a gathering.**
4	In the tea example, what goal could the shopkeeper and writer share? How would their methods differ?	**Both could challenge the policy that kept a tax on tea. The shopkeeper would stop selling tea, while the writer would use a letter to change minds.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask neighbors to boycott imported candles, so merchants would notice falling sales. Neighbors could choose candles made in the colonies instead. I would circulate a petition asking officials to end the tax and invite neighbors to sign it. The boycott would affect sales, while the petition would show officials that many people objected.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that identify a meaningful difference between methods. For Your Turn, accept any plausible goods-based and words-based methods if the response explains each method's audience and how the methods work differently.