Many Paths to Victory

Trace how different people helped win the War for Independence.

SS24.6.8b "Research and report on the contributions to victory in the War for Independence from women, Black Americans, and supporters from other countries."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action by a woman, one by a Black American, and one by a supporter from another country. Circle words that show how each action helped the American war effort.

Victory Took Many Kinds of Help

1 An army needs more than soldiers. In 1780, Esther DeBerdt Reed helped organize women in Philadelphia to collect money for the Continental Army. After Reed died, Sarah Franklin Bache helped lead the effort to turn the money into thousands of shirts for soldiers. Women also cooked, washed clothes, and cared for sick or wounded troops in army camps. These jobs did not win a battle by themselves. They helped keep soldiers clothed and able to serve during a long war. Washington's army often struggled to get supplies.

2 Black Americans made different contributions, even as many faced slavery and unequal treatment. James Armistead Lafayette, an enslaved man in Virginia, worked as a spy for the Americans. He gained the trust of British officers and passed information about their plans to the Marquis de Lafayette. That information helped American and French forces track British movements before the victory at Yorktown in 1781. Other Black Americans served as soldiers. In the First Rhode Island Regiment, some enslaved men were promised freedom for serving. The regiment held its ground against British attacks in 1778.

3 Supporters from other countries also changed the war. France signed an alliance with the United States in 1778. In 1781, French troops under General Rochambeau marched with Washington's army toward Yorktown, where British general Cornwallis was stationed. French warships blocked the nearby Chesapeake Bay, preventing British ships from rescuing Cornwallis. The British surrendered at Yorktown, a major step toward American independence. Spain fought Britain too, though it was not a formal U.S. ally. Spanish governor Bernardo de Gálvez led forces that captured British posts along the Gulf Coast, weakening Britain's control there.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did women's work in army camps help soldiers stay in the war?

2. What did the First Rhode Island Regiment do to help the American war effort?

3. Why were French warships important to the victory at Yorktown?

4. How did Spain's forces weaken Britain, even though Spain was not a formal U.S. ally?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label about how victory took different kinds of help. In the first three sentences, describe an action by a woman, a Black American, and a supporter from another country, and explain how each helped; in the last sentence, give your own reason that all three kinds of help mattered.

ANSWER KEY

Many Paths to Victory

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.8b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action by a woman, one by a Black American, and one by a supporter from another country. Circle words that show how each action helped the American war effort. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did women's work in army camps help soldiers stay in the war?	**Women cooked, washed clothes, and cared for sick or wounded troops, helping soldiers remain able to serve.**
2	What did the First Rhode Island Regiment do to help the American war effort?	**The regiment held its ground against British attacks in 1778.**
3	Why were French warships important to the victory at Yorktown?	**They blocked the Chesapeake Bay and prevented British ships from rescuing Cornwallis.**
4	How did Spain's forces weaken Britain, even though Spain was not a formal U.S. ally?	**Forces led by Bernardo de Gálvez captured British posts along the Gulf Coast, weakening British control there.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sarah Franklin Bache helped turn donated money into shirts that kept American soldiers clothed. James Armistead Lafayette passed British plans to the Americans, helping them track British movements. French troops marched with Washington's army toward Yorktown, adding strength to the force facing Cornwallis. Victory needed supplies, information, and military support because an army could not succeed through fighting alone.

Accept other passage-supported actions when the response explains how each aided the war effort. The final sentence should make a claim about why different kinds of help mattered, not simply repeat the three examples.