# A War Over Homelands

Indigenous choices and consequences in the War for Independence

**SS24.6.8c** "Explain the involvement of Indigenous peoples in the War for Independence and the effects of the war on Indigenous societies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two ways Indigenous peoples took part in the war, circle two reasons for their choices, and write 1 and 2 beside two effects the war had on Indigenous communities.

### More Than One Side

1 When the War for Independence began in 1775, Indigenous nations faced a hard choice. The British and the Patriots both wanted allies, but neither side spoke for every Indigenous community. Many leaders worried that Patriot settlers would keep moving onto their lands. Others hoped an alliance with the Patriots would protect their homes and trade. Some communities tried to stay out of the fighting. For Indigenous peoples, the war was not only about Britain's rule over the colonies. It was also about who would control their homelands.

2 Within the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, nations did not all take the same side. Many Oneida people supported the Patriots, sharing food and serving as scouts because they hoped to protect their lands and relationships with nearby colonists. Many Mohawk people supported the British. Mohawk leader Joseph Brant fought with British forces because he believed Britain offered a better chance to stop colonial settlement. These choices could split families and longtime allies. Indigenous warriors and guides shaped battles, gathered information, and defended communities, even as the war reached their own villages.

3 The costs did not end when the fighting stopped. In 1779, a Patriot army burned Haudenosaunee villages and food stores in western New York, forcing many people to flee. After the war, the 1783 Treaty of Paris gave the new United States control of vast lands that Britain claimed, without asking the Indigenous nations living there. Settlers pushed farther west, and Indigenous nations continued to defend their land and independence. The war left some communities displaced and made old divisions harder to heal, but Indigenous peoples did not give up their rights.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did many Oneida people support the Patriots while many Mohawk people supported the British?

2. How did Indigenous people help shape the fighting, beyond choosing an ally?

3. How did the fighting affect Haudenosaunee communities during the war?

4. How did the Treaty of Paris create a new challenge for Indigenous nations after the war?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label called “A War Over Homelands.” Explain one choice Indigenous people made and why, describe one effect during the war, and connect it to a challenge after the war.

ANSWER KEY

# A War Over Homelands

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.8c

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ways Indigenous peoples took part in the war, circle two reasons for their choices, and write 1 and 2 beside two effects the war had on Indigenous communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Why did many Oneida people support the Patriots while many Mohawk people supported the British? | **Many Oneida people hoped to protect their lands and ties with nearby colonists. Many Mohawk people believed Britain offered a better chance to stop colonial settlement.** |
| 2 | How did Indigenous people help shape the fighting, beyond choosing an ally? | **They shared food, served as scouts and guides, gathered information, fought in battles, and defended communities.** |
| 3 | How did the fighting affect Haudenosaunee communities during the war? | **A Patriot army burned villages and food stores, forcing many people to flee. Choosing different sides also divided families and longtime allies.** |
| 4 | How did the Treaty of Paris create a new challenge for Indigenous nations after the war? | **The treaty gave the United States control of lands Britain claimed without Indigenous consent. Settlers then pushed farther west, and Indigenous nations continued to defend their lands.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many Mohawk people allied with Britain because they hoped to stop settlers from taking their land. During the war, Patriot troops burned Haudenosaunee villages and food stores, forcing many people to flee. After a peace treaty ignored Indigenous nations, westward settlement added to the struggle to protect their homelands.

Accept other passage-supported choices and effects. Look for an explanation of why a choice was made and a clear connection between a wartime effect and a challenge after the war.