After the British Left

Why people chose Britain and what defeat changed

SS24.6.8d "Explain why Loyalists and other colonists sided with the British during the War for Independence and how Great Britain's defeat and withdrawal impacted their lives."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle one reason each of the three groups sided with Britain, underline one effect of Britain's defeat on each group, and give each matching reason and effect the same number (1, 2, or 3).

Choices at the War's End

(1) In 1783, British ships prepared to leave New York City after Great Britain lost the War for Independence. Among the people deciding whether to board were Loyalists, colonists who had supported the British king. Some believed British rule would bring more order than a new government. Others had worked for British officials or traded with British merchants and feared losing their jobs. After the British defeat, some Loyalists lost property or faced threats from neighbors. Many sailed to British lands, including Nova Scotia, while others stayed and rebuilt their lives.

(2) For some enslaved people, British promises offered a path to freedom. British officials promised freedom to certain people enslaved by rebels if they escaped and aided British forces. Thousands risked leaving families to reach British lines, but not all gained freedom. When British forces left New York in 1783, some free Black Loyalists sailed to Nova Scotia. Some feared being enslaved again if they stayed. In Nova Scotia, they faced poor land and unfair treatment. British defeat forced them to choose between danger at home and a difficult new life.

(3) Some Native nations also sided with Britain. They feared that settlers from the thirteen colonies would move onto their lands if the colonies won independence. British leaders had sometimes tried to limit settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, though settlers often ignored those limits. Native warriors and leaders hoped a British victory would better protect their homelands. At the war's end, Britain gave up claims to vast lands to the United States without asking Native nations. As British power faded in the new country, many Native communities faced more settlers moving onto their lands.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might a colonist who traded with British merchants support Britain, and what problem might that person face after Britain lost?

2. Why did some enslaved people aid British forces, and why did some free Black Loyalists leave New York with the British?

3. Why did some Native nations support Britain, and how did Britain's defeat affect their homelands?

4. How were the hopes of Black Loyalists and Native nations different, and what happened to each group after Britain's defeat?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence letter from a Black Loyalist leaving New York in 1783 to a Loyalist merchant who plans to stay. Explain why each sided with Britain, how defeat changes each person's choice, and why the writer believes leaving is safer than staying.

ANSWER KEY

After the British Left

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.8d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle one reason each of the three groups sided with Britain, underline one effect of Britain's defeat on each group, and give each matching reason and effect the same number (1, 2, or 3). Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might a colonist who traded with British merchants support Britain, and what problem might that person face after Britain lost?	**The colonist might fear losing work under a new government. After the defeat, Loyalists could lose property or face threats from neighbors.**
2	Why did some enslaved people aid British forces, and why did some free Black Loyalists leave New York with the British?	**British officials promised freedom to certain people enslaved by rebels who escaped and aided British forces. Some free Black Loyalists left because they feared being enslaved again if they stayed.**
3	Why did some Native nations support Britain, and how did Britain's defeat affect their homelands?	**They hoped Britain would better protect their lands from settlers. After Britain gave up its land claims without asking them, many Native communities faced more settlers moving onto their lands.**
4	How were the hopes of Black Loyalists and Native nations different, and what happened to each group after Britain's defeat?	**Some Black Loyalists sought freedom, while Native nations sought protection for their lands. Some free Black Loyalists left for Nova Scotia and faced hardship there, while many Native communities faced more settlers moving onto their lands.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Mr. Reed, you traded with British merchants and feared losing your work if the colonies won. I joined the British because they offered a chance to escape slavery. Now that their ships are leaving, you may stay and rebuild even if neighbors threaten you or you lose property. I fear being enslaved again if I stay, so I will sail to Nova Scotia. The land there may be poor, but I choose the risk of starting over rather than losing my freedom.

Accept other passage-supported reasons for Loyalist support, including a belief that British rule would bring more order. In the letter, look for a reason and a consequence for each person, plus a historically reasonable explanation of why leaving may feel safer to the writer.