Victory and Its Costs

Trace how three wars changed Roman power and daily life.

SS24.7.15c "Analyze the social, political, and economic effects of the Punic Wars."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline political effects, circle economic effects, and write S beside social effects in the passage. Mark at least two examples of each kind.

What Rome Won, and What Changed

1 In 264 BCE, Rome and Carthage began fighting over Sicily, an island between Italy and North Africa. Neither side could win there without control of the sea. Rome built fleets and trained crews, even though Carthage had more experience at sea. After years of costly battles, Rome won the First Punic War in 241 BCE. Carthage gave up Sicily and paid Rome a large sum of money. Rome made Sicily its first province outside Italy, gaining new political control and a source of grain and taxes.

2 The Second Punic War brought the fighting much closer to Roman homes. In 218 BCE, the Carthaginian general Hannibal led an army into Italy and won major battles. As Roman farmers served in the army, many could not tend their fields; fighting also damaged farmland. Some small farmers lost their land and moved to cities. Wealthy Romans bought land and used enslaved people captured in wars to work large estates. Rome eventually defeated Carthage in 201 BCE. Carthage lost its overseas possessions and most of its warships, while Rome gained power in Spain.

3 Rome and Carthage fought once more from 149 to 146 BCE. Rome destroyed the city of Carthage, and many survivors were enslaved. Rome then made the surrounding land a province in North Africa. Its leaders could govern more territory and collect taxes and grain from it. Yet conquest did not benefit everyone equally. Large estates grew while some small farmers lost land, fueling arguments in Rome about land reform. The wars had made Rome a Mediterranean power, but they had also widened the gap between wealthy landowners and poorer citizens.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did winning the First Punic War change both Rome's political control and its economy?

2. How did fighting in the Second Punic War change life for some small Roman farmers?

3. What political gain did Rome make after the Third Punic War, and what happened to many people who survived the destruction of Carthage?

4. Why did the growth of large estates lead to political arguments in Rome?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence speech to Roman citizens arguing whether the Punic Wars made Rome stronger overall. Use details from at least two different wars, explain a benefit and a harm, and address social, political, and economic effects.

Victory and Its Costs

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline political effects, circle economic effects, and write S beside social effects in the passage. Mark at least two examples of each kind. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did winning the First Punic War change both Rome's political control and its economy?	**Rome gained control of Sicily, its first province outside Italy. Sicily provided grain and taxes, and Carthage paid Rome a large sum of money.**
2	How did fighting in the Second Punic War change life for some small Roman farmers?	**Army service kept some farmers from tending their fields, and fighting damaged farmland. Some lost their land and moved to cities.**
3	What political gain did Rome make after the Third Punic War, and what happened to many people who survived the destruction of Carthage?	**Rome made the land around Carthage a province in North Africa, and many survivors were enslaved.**
4	Why did the growth of large estates lead to political arguments in Rome?	**As large estates grew, some small farmers lost land. This fueled arguments about land reform.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Punic Wars made Rome stronger in power, but not every Roman shared in the gains. After the First Punic War, control of Sicily gave Rome grain and taxes, helping its economy and extending its rule beyond Italy. During the Second Punic War, farmers who served in the army could not tend their fields, and some lost land and moved to cities. I would ask Rome's leaders to address land reform, because a powerful state should not ignore the citizens hurt by its victories.

Accept other accurate passage-based effects and reasonable judgments about whether Rome grew stronger. In Part 3, look for four sentences, details from two wars, a benefit and a harm, and social, political, and economic effects.