Three Kings, One Kingdom

Read how Israel's kings built and held a united kingdom.

SS24.7.8b "Describe the establishment of a unified Israel under Kings Saul, David, and Solomon."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action each by Saul, David, and Solomon that helped unite or govern Israel. Circle one detail that shows why the kingdom's unity was difficult to maintain.

Building a United Israel

1. Before Israel had a king, its tribes lived in separate regions and sometimes joined forces against enemies. The Philistines, who held cities along the coast, threatened Israelite communities. According to the Hebrew Bible, the prophet Samuel anointed Saul as Israel's first king. Saul gathered fighters from different tribes to face the Philistines. His rule gave the tribes a shared leader and an army that could act together. Yet cooperation remained difficult, and Saul's conflicts with David showed that the new kingdom was not fully secure.

2. After Saul's death, David first ruled Judah in the south. Later, leaders of the northern tribes accepted him as king too, bringing the groups under one ruler. David captured Jerusalem and made it his capital. The city stood between northern and southern regions, so it was a useful center for the united kingdom. He also brought the Ark of the Covenant, a sacred chest, to Jerusalem. David's military victories expanded his control, while a shared capital and sacred center helped connect the tribes.

3. David's son Solomon inherited the united kingdom. He built a temple in Jerusalem to house the Ark of the Covenant, making the capital an even stronger center of worship. Solomon organized officials and districts to collect supplies for the royal court and support large building projects. These systems helped him govern a wide kingdom, but taxes and required labor placed heavy demands on many people. After Solomon died, northern tribes rejected his son's rule. The kingdom split, showing that unity built by these kings could still break apart.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Saul's leadership help separate tribes act as one kingdom?

2. How did David bring northern and southern groups together under his rule?

3. How did Solomon's temple and officials help him govern the united kingdom?

4. How did a way Solomon governed also put the kingdom's unity at risk?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label explaining how a united Israel was built and why its unity did not last. Include one action by each king, and connect at least one action to its effect on the kingdom.

ANSWER KEY

Three Kings, One Kingdom

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.8b

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action each by Saul, David, and Solomon that helped unite or govern Israel. Circle one detail that shows why the kingdom's unity was difficult to maintain. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Saul's leadership help separate tribes act as one kingdom?	**Saul gave the tribes a shared leader and gathered fighters from different tribes into an army.**
2	How did David bring northern and southern groups together under his rule?	**David first ruled Judah, then northern leaders accepted him as king. He made Jerusalem, between the regions, his capital.**
3	How did Solomon's temple and officials help him govern the united kingdom?	**The temple strengthened Jerusalem as a center of worship, while officials and districts collected supplies for the court and building projects.**
4	How did a way Solomon governed also put the kingdom's unity at risk?	**Taxes and required labor placed heavy demands on people. After Solomon died, northern tribes rejected his son's rule, and the kingdom split.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Israel's tribes became a united kingdom through the work of three kings. Saul gathered fighters from different tribes, giving them an army that could act together. David made Jerusalem his capital, creating a center between northern and southern regions. Solomon built a temple there, making the capital a stronger center of worship. The unity did not last because heavy demands under Solomon helped turn northern tribes against his son.

Accept other passage-supported actions, such as David's military victories or Solomon's system of officials. For Part 3, look for an accurate action by each king, a clear cause-and-effect connection, and a passage-supported explanation of the split.