A Divided Europe

Trace how religious reform changed political power.

SS24.8.10 "Analyze the factors that contributed to the Reformation and explain how it affected the religious and political unity of Europe. 10a Summarize the policies and practices within the Roman Catholic Church that led to conflict with both..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two Church practices that caused conflict, circle the names of people who changed or defended religious authority, and number three changes that divided or reshaped Europe.

When Faith and Power Collided

1. In the early 1500s, a traveler in a German town might hear a preacher selling indulgences, documents linked to a reduction in punishment for sins after death. Church leaders taught that forgiveness required repentance, but some sellers suggested money alone could help souls. Martin Luther objected and argued that faith, not payments, was central to salvation. He also said the Bible, rather than the pope alone, should guide Christian teaching. Some rulers resented Church taxes and the pope's influence over bishop appointments, which could limit their control.

2. Luther's writings spread quickly through printing. German princes who supported him could organize Lutheran churches in their territories, shifting power from the pope toward local rulers. In Geneva, John Calvin taught that God had already chosen who would be saved. His followers built a disciplined church community with strict rules for public behavior. Meanwhile, King Henry VIII broke England's church from the pope after the pope refused to end his marriage. Henry made himself head of the Church of England, joining a religious break to royal power.

3. The Council of Trent restated Catholic teachings and corrected abuses, including the sale of church offices. Ignatius of Loyola's Jesuits opened schools and defended Catholic ideas. In England, Elizabeth I kept the Church of England separate from Rome while seeking a settlement between religious groups. Wars between Catholic and Lutheran rulers shook the Holy Roman Empire. In 1555, Emperor Charles V's representatives accepted the Peace of Augsburg, allowing German princes to choose Catholicism or Lutheranism for their territories. Residents who disagreed could move, but Europe remained divided by faith and political loyalty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did indulgences and bishop appointments create different kinds of conflict?

2. How did the changes associated with Luther and Calvin affect communities differently?

3. How did Henry VIII's and Elizabeth I's choices affect religious and political unity in England?

4. How did Catholic leaders and Charles V's representatives respond to division, and why did Europe remain divided?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you live near the border between two German princes' lands in 1555, and one prince chooses Lutheranism. Write a four-sentence report explaining a cause of reform, one of Luther's ideas, how a prince's choice could affect neighbors, and why the Peace of Augsburg did not reunite Europe. Name both Luther and Charles V.

ANSWER KEY

A Divided Europe

GRADE 8 · SS24.8.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two Church practices that caused conflict, circle the names of people who changed or defended religious authority, and number three changes that divided or reshaped Europe. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did indulgences and bishop appointments create different kinds of conflict?	**The sale of indulgences led Luther to challenge Church teaching and practice. Papal influence over bishop appointments frustrated rulers who wanted more control.**
2	How did the changes associated with Luther and Calvin affect communities differently?	**Princes who supported Luther could organize churches in their territories, gaining power from the pope. Calvin's followers formed communities with strict rules for public behavior.**
3	How did Henry VIII's and Elizabeth I's choices affect religious and political unity in England?	**Henry broke with the pope and made himself head of the Church of England, increasing royal power. Elizabeth kept that church separate from Rome while seeking a settlement between religious groups.**
4	How did Catholic leaders and Charles V's representatives respond to division, and why did Europe remain divided?	**The Council of Trent corrected abuses and restated Catholic teachings, while the Jesuits promoted those teachings through schools. Charles V's representatives accepted an agreement letting German princes choose Catholicism or Lutheranism, but the choice differed across territories.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Some of my neighbors began questioning the Church when sellers claimed that paying for indulgences could help souls. Martin Luther argued that faith, not payments, was central to salvation. A prince's choice of Lutheranism may lead people who want to remain Catholic to move across our border. The agreement accepted by Charles V's representatives allows princes to choose different churches, so it has not reunited Europe.

Accept accurate explanations in students' own words. For the report, look for a cause-and-effect chain that distinguishes a reformer's ideas from a ruler's political choice.