Independence for Whom?

Trace the causes, arguments, victories, and uneven effects of independence.

SS24.US1.1 "Trace the events from 1754 to 1783 that led to the independence of the United States of America. 1a Explain how British policies and actions from 1754 to 1775 created political and economic disagreements with American colonists..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two British actions and number the colonial responses to them. Circle one claim about rights, then mark two ways the war affected different groups.

From Protest to Independence

1. In 1754, Britain and France fought over land in North America, drawing colonists into a war Britain won in 1763. War debts led Parliament to tax the colonies through measures such as the Stamp Act. Colonists argued that taxation without elected representatives in Parliament violated their rights. Boycotts cut sales of British goods, while petitions demanded change. After Parliament passed the Coercive Acts in 1774, colonial leaders met in the First Continental Congress to coordinate resistance.

2. Fighting at Lexington and Concord in 1775 turned resistance into war. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* urged independence, not merely repeal of taxes. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence argued that people possess equal natural rights, including liberty, and that governments gain authority from the consent of the governed. It listed abuses by King George III and claimed that a government violating rights could be replaced. The colonists declared separation from Britain, though their claims of equality did not include everyone in practice.

3. George Washington kept the Continental Army together despite shortages. The American victory at Saratoga in 1777 helped secure a French alliance; French soldiers and ships helped trap British forces at Yorktown in 1781. The 1783 peace treaty recognized U.S. independence. Some free Black Americans served in American forces, while some enslaved people sought freedom by joining the British. Women supplied armies and managed farms. Loyalists supported Britain and faced confiscation or exile. Native nations fought on both sides; many lost land to settlers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Britain's war debt lead to both a political disagreement and an economic protest?

2. How did boycotts and *Common Sense* challenge British rule in different ways?

3. What reason did the Declaration give for replacing British rule, and what limit to its claim of equality does the passage note?

4. How did the victory at Saratoga help make the victory at Yorktown possible?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence museum label comparing two groups named in the passage. Explain each group's wartime role or response, one effect of the war on each, and how their experiences complicate the Declaration's claim of equality.

ANSWER KEY

Independence for Whom?

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two British actions and number the colonial responses to them. Circle one claim about rights, then mark two ways the war affected different groups. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Britain's war debt lead to both a political disagreement and an economic protest?	**War debt led Parliament to tax the colonies. Colonists objected to taxes imposed without their elected representatives in Parliament and boycotted British goods.**
2	How did boycotts and *Common Sense* challenge British rule in different ways?	**Boycotts reduced sales of British goods to pressure Britain. *Common Sense* argued that the colonies should become independent rather than seek only the repeal of taxes.**
3	What reason did the Declaration give for replacing British rule, and what limit to its claim of equality does the passage note?	**It argued that a government that violates natural rights can be replaced. Its claim of equality did not include everyone in practice.**
4	How did the victory at Saratoga help make the victory at Yorktown possible?	**Saratoga helped secure a French alliance. French soldiers and ships then helped trap British forces at Yorktown.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Native nations fought on both sides of the war, but many lost land as settlers expanded west. Loyalists supported Britain and faced confiscation or exile. Unlike Loyalists, Native nations did not all support the same side. The losses both groups faced show that independence did not bring equal security to everyone.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons of two groups. Responses should distinguish wartime roles or responses from the war's effects and connect the comparison to the Declaration's claim of equality.