War and Its Costs

Trace causes and consequences of the War of 1812

SS24.US1.3e "Analyze the political and economic causes and consequences of the War of 1812, including the impact on Native Americans."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one economic cause and one political cause of the war. Circle one consequence for the United States and one for Native nations, then draw an arrow from each cause to a related consequence.

A War with Unequal Outcomes

1. In 1812, American merchants watched British warships stop U.S. vessels on the Atlantic. Britain, fighting France, restricted neutral trade and seized sailors it claimed were British, a practice called impressment. These actions damaged American commerce and challenged U.S. independence. President James Madison asked Congress for war, and lawmakers voted yes, though many New England representatives opposed it. Some western leaders also wanted to end British support for Native resistance along the frontier.

2. Native nations had their own reasons to fight. Tecumseh and his brother Tenskwatawa worked to unite Native peoples against settlers moving onto their lands. Britain supplied some Native fighters, making the frontier a source of tension before the war. During the fighting, Tecumseh allied with Britain, hoping to protect Native territory. His death in 1813 weakened that alliance. U.S. victories later increased pressure on Native nations to surrender land, even though they had never agreed to U.S. expansion.

3. The war disrupted shipping, but blocked imports also pushed some Americans to make goods at home. Federal spending and trade losses burdened the economy. Signed in 1814 and ratified in 1815, the Treaty of Ghent ended the war without changing the U.S.-Canada border or addressing impressment. Yet the fighting had political effects: opposition hurt the Federalist Party, while many Americans celebrated the defense of their independence. For Native nations, the loss of British military support made resisting U.S. expansion harder.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did British actions at sea create both an economic and a political reason for the United States to go to war?

2. Why did British support for Native fighters matter to western leaders, and why did Native nations resist settlers?

3. How did interrupted trade both harm and change the U.S. economy during the war?

4. The treaty did not change the U.S.-Canada border. What political consequence and what consequence for Native nations followed the fighting?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a short newspaper opinion from 1815 arguing whether the United States gained more than it lost in the war. Use evidence from the passage about a cause of the war, an economic consequence, and a consequence for Native nations.

ANSWER KEY # War and Its Costs

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.3e

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one economic cause and one political cause of the war. Circle one consequence for the United States and one for Native nations, then draw an arrow from each cause to a related consequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did British actions at sea create both an economic and a political reason for the United States to go to war?	**Trade restrictions and impressment damaged commerce. Stopping U.S. ships and seizing sailors also challenged U.S. independence.**
2	Why did British support for Native fighters matter to western leaders, and why did Native nations resist settlers?	**Western leaders wanted to end British support for Native resistance. Native nations resisted because settlers were moving onto their lands.**
3	How did interrupted trade both harm and change the U.S. economy during the war?	**Shipping disruptions caused trade losses, while blocked imports pushed some Americans to produce goods at home.**
4	The treaty did not change the U.S.-Canada border. What political consequence and what consequence for Native nations followed the fighting?	**Opposition to the war hurt the Federalist Party. Native nations lost British military support, making resistance to U.S. expansion harder.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States did not gain enough to justify the war's costs. British restrictions on trade gave Americans a serious reason to fight, but the war itself disrupted shipping and burdened the economy. The treaty did not address impressment, one of the problems that led to war. Some Americans began making goods at home, yet Native nations faced a much harsher outcome: without British military support, they had less power to resist settlers taking their lands.

Accept either position in Part 3 if the student supports it with an accurate cause, economic consequence, and consequence for Native nations. Students should distinguish the treaty's terms from later effects of the fighting.