War and Change

Trace service, rights, and debate during World War I

SS24.US2.2 "Trace United States military involvement in World War I and the contributions of the American Expeditionary Force to the victory of the Allied Powers..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one example of military service and one of home-front work, circle one government action that brought growth and one that caused division, and label the treaty arguments F (for) and A (against).

The War's Effects at Home and Abroad

1. When the United States entered World War I in 1917, the Allies needed soldiers. General John J. Pershing led the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) to France. In 1918, U.S. troops helped stop German advances and fought in the Meuse-Argonne offensive, adding pressure before the November armistice. The 369th Infantry Regiment, or Harlem Hellfighters, served under French command and fought with distinction, despite segregation in the U.S. Army. Wartime factory jobs also drew many Black Americans from the South to northern cities during the Great Migration.

2. To equip the AEF, the federal government coordinated war production and sold Liberty Bonds. Factory orders expanded employment and output, but wartime policies also sharpened divisions. The Espionage Act of 1917 and Sedition Act of 1918 punished some criticism of the war; many Americans faced pressure to prove their loyalty. Women worked in war industries, served as nurses, and organized relief, strengthening demands for voting rights. Ratified in 1920, the Nineteenth Amendment prohibited denying the vote on account of sex, though other barriers still blocked many women.

3. After fighting stopped, President Woodrow Wilson urged the Senate to ratify the 1919 Treaty of Versailles. He argued that joining its League of Nations would help countries settle disputes and prevent another war. Opponents feared the League might pull American forces into future conflicts without Congress deciding when to act. Some senators favored a treaty with reservations that protected congressional authority; Wilson rejected those changes. With the Senate unable to agree on a version, the United States did not ratify the treaty or join the League.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the AEF help the Allies move toward victory, and what was one contribution of the Harlem Hellfighters?

2. How did wartime work change opportunities for Black Americans and strengthen women's demands for rights?

3. Give one way federal wartime actions expanded the economy and one way they increased social division.

4. Why did Wilson support the treaty, and why did opponents object to its League of Nations?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence newspaper editorial set in 1920 arguing whether wartime contributions led to equal gains for Black Americans and women. Include two specific contributions and one lasting limit described in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

War and Change

GRADE 11 · SS24.US2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one example of military service and one of home-front work, circle one government action that brought growth and one that caused division, and label the treaty arguments F (for) and A (against). Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the AEF help the Allies move toward victory, and what was one contribution of the Harlem Hellfighters?	**U.S. troops helped stop German advances and fought in the Meuse-Argonne offensive. The Harlem Hellfighters fought with distinction under French command.**
2	How did wartime work change opportunities for Black Americans and strengthen women's demands for rights?	**Factory jobs drew many Black Americans from the South to northern cities. Women's war work strengthened demands for voting rights, which the Nineteenth Amendment protected against denial on account of sex.**
3	Give one way federal wartime actions expanded the economy and one way they increased social division.	**Coordinated war production led to factory orders that expanded employment and output. The Espionage and Sedition Acts punished some criticism of the war.**
4	Why did Wilson support the treaty, and why did opponents object to its League of Nations?	**Wilson believed the League could help prevent another war. Opponents feared it could draw U.S. forces into conflicts without Congress deciding when to act.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Wartime contributions opened opportunities, but the gains were not equal. The Harlem Hellfighters fought with distinction, and factory jobs drew Black workers north, yet Black soldiers still faced segregation in the U.S. Army. Women's work in war industries strengthened demands for voting rights. The Nineteenth Amendment barred denying the vote on account of sex, but other barriers still blocked many women.

Accept other passage-based examples of service, work, government action, and limits. For the editorial, look for a clear comparison supported by two contributions and one lasting limit.