A Divided China

Trace the civil war and its consequences under Mao.

SS24.WH.13c "Describe the development and conclusion of the Chinese Civil War, including the formation of Taiwan, and how the Chinese Communist Party sought to impose its vision under the rule of Mao Zedong."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline what changed the fighting in 1937 and 1946, circle what happened to each side in 1949, and number two ways Mao's government tried to reshape life.

From Civil War to Rival Governments

1. In 1927, a struggle for power broke out between China's Nationalist Party, or Kuomintang, and the Chinese Communist Party. Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek sought to destroy Communist forces. When Japan invaded China in 1937, the rivals formed a fragile alliance against a common enemy, though distrust remained. After Japan surrendered in 1945, negotiations failed. Full-scale civil war resumed in 1946, with both sides fighting for control of the country.

2. The Nationalists initially held major cities and had more weapons, but corruption, inflation, and military defeats weakened their support. Communists gained rural support with promises of land reform. In 1949, Communist armies took control of much of mainland China, and Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China. Chiang and the Nationalist government retreated to Taiwan, an already inhabited island under Republic of China control since 1945. The Republic of China government continued there. Both governments claimed to represent China.

3. Mao's victory did not end the effort to change China. Communist officials redistributed land, sometimes through violent campaigns against landlords. In the late 1950s, the Great Leap Forward pushed farmers into large collective farms and tried to increase steel production rapidly. Failed policies and other pressures contributed to a devastating famine. During the Cultural Revolution, beginning in 1966, Mao urged young people to attack people and ideas labeled counterrevolutionary. Schools closed, many people were persecuted, and political loyalty became a test of daily life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Japan's invasion change the rivals' fight, and what happened after Japan surrendered?

2. Why did Communist forces gain support while the Nationalists lost it?

3. How did the war's outcome leave two governments claiming to represent China?

4. Choose one Mao-era campaign. How did it try to change life, and what was one consequence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 70 to 90 word museum label answering: Did the Chinese Civil War settle who ruled all of China? Connect the wartime alliance and the 1949 split to one Mao-era policy and its human impact.

ANSWER KEY

A Divided China

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.13c

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline what changed the fighting in 1937 and 1946, circle what happened to each side in 1949, and number two ways Mao's government tried to reshape life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Japan's invasion change the rivals' fight, and what happened after Japan surrendered?	**The rivals formed a fragile alliance against Japan. After its surrender, negotiations failed and full-scale civil war resumed.**
2	Why did Communist forces gain support while the Nationalists lost it?	**Communists promised land reform to rural people. Corruption, inflation, and military defeats weakened Nationalist support.**
3	How did the war's outcome leave two governments claiming to represent China?	**Mao's government controlled much of the mainland, while Chiang's Republic of China government continued on Taiwan. Both claimed to represent China.**
4	Choose one Mao-era campaign. How did it try to change life, and what was one consequence?	**The Great Leap Forward pushed collective farming and rapid steel production. Its failed policies contributed to a devastating famine.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Japan's invasion briefly pushed the Nationalists and Communists into an uneasy alliance, but their civil war resumed after Japan's defeat. In 1949, Communist victory brought Mao's government to the mainland while Chiang's Republic of China government continued on Taiwan. Each claimed to represent China, so military victory did not settle that dispute. On the mainland, Mao tried to transform farming through the Great Leap Forward. Its push for collective farms and rapid production contributed to a devastating famine.

Accept either the Great Leap Forward or the Cultural Revolution in question 4 and the museum label if the policy and its consequence are accurate. Students should distinguish the government that continued on Taiwan from the People's Republic established on the mainland.