When War Spreads

Trace how conflict changes civilian lives

SS24.WH.16d "Assess the consequences of modern conflicts on populations, including famine, refugee crises, and the use of child soldiers."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways fighting disrupted daily life, circle one consequence each for food, displacement, and children, and number two sentences that show how one consequence can worsen another.

Civilian Life During South Sudan's Civil War

1 In 2013, a political struggle in South Sudan grew into civil war. Armed groups fought for control of towns and roads, and civilians faced attacks. Many farmers fled before planting or harvesting, leaving fields untended. Fighting also blocked roads used to bring food to markets. When supplies shrank, prices rose beyond what many families could pay. By 2017, famine was declared in parts of Unity State. Famine means that extreme food shortages cause widespread hunger and deaths. The declaration described conditions in specific areas, not every part of the country, but millions elsewhere also faced severe food insecurity.

2 For many families, staying meant risking violence or hunger. Some moved to safer areas within South Sudan, while others crossed into neighboring countries, including Uganda. People who crossed a national border to escape danger could seek protection as refugees. A family might reach safety but lose access to its home, livestock, and usual work. Children could miss school, and crowded host communities needed more shelter, clean water, and medical care. When families left farming areas, fewer people remained to grow food. Displacement was therefore both a result of the war and a force that could deepen shortages.

3 Armed groups in South Sudan also recruited and used children during the civil war. Some children were forced to fight; others carried supplies, cooked, or served as lookouts. Joining an armed group could expose a child to injury, fear, and lost years of school, whether the child carried a weapon or not. Even after leaving a group, a young person might need help returning to school and rebuilding trust with family and neighbors. Recruitment harmed communities too: families lost children's help and faced lasting trauma. Hunger and displacement could make children more vulnerable when adults struggled to protect them.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did fighting increase the risk of famine in South Sudan? Explain two steps in the chain of effects.

2. Why did fleeing danger not end every hardship for displaced families? Include one effect on the places that received them.

3. How could an armed group's use of a child affect that child both during the war and after leaving the group?

4. Choose one way a consequence of the war could make another consequence worse. Explain the link using evidence from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a fictional fishing town where armed clashes close the road to the market and families flee inland. In five or six sentences, assess two different consequences for civilians, explain how those consequences could reinforce each other, and propose one practical step that could lessen harm. Invent your own details rather than retelling the passage.

ANSWER KEY

When War Spreads

GRADE 9 · SS24.WH.16d

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three ways fighting disrupted daily life, circle one consequence each for food, displacement, and children, and number two sentences that show how one consequence can worsen another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did fighting increase the risk of famine in South Sudan? Explain two steps in the chain of effects.	**Fighting drove farmers from their fields and blocked food deliveries. With less food available, prices rose, putting food beyond many families' reach.**
2	Why did fleeing danger not end every hardship for displaced families? Include one effect on the places that received them.	**Families could lose their homes, work, and access to school. Communities receiving them needed more shelter, clean water, and medical care.**
3	How could an armed group's use of a child affect that child both during the war and after leaving the group?	**During the war, the child could face injury, fear, and missed schooling. After leaving, the child might need help returning to school and rebuilding trust.**
4	Choose one way a consequence of the war could make another consequence worse. Explain the link using evidence from the passage.	**Displacement could deepen food shortages because fewer people remained in farming areas to grow food. Accept the passage's link between hunger or displacement and children's vulnerability to recruitment.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In the fictional town of Bellport, fighting closes the road that carries fuel and grain. Fishers cannot run their boats, so food becomes scarce and expensive. Families flee inland, but they leave boats and jobs behind, making it harder to earn money for food. At a crowded shelter, children lose school time, which could limit their choices long after the fighting ends. Aid workers could deliver food to the shelter, easing hunger for families that lost their income.

Accept other passage-supported causal links in the short answers. For the open task, look for two distinct civilian consequences, a plausible connection between them, and one practical response.