

Forces for Peace

Economic, military, and political pressures ended the war.

SS.5.A.5.7 "Explain economic, military, and political factors which led to the end of the Revolutionary War."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each economic factor, circle each military factor, and write P beside each political factor so you can compare the pressures that led Britain to make peace.

Why the War Ended

- ① By 1781, fighting had become expensive for Britain. The British government borrowed money and paid for ships, soldiers, and supplies across the Atlantic Ocean. France, Spain, and the Dutch Republic also helped the American cause in different ways, making Britain face a wider, costly war. Many British taxpayers and merchants worried that the war was draining money without bringing enough benefit.
- ② Military events changed Britain's choices. In October 1781, American and French forces trapped General Charles Cornwallis's army at Yorktown, Virginia. French warships helped block British rescue by sea, while troops surrounded the army on land. Cornwallis surrendered more than 7,000 soldiers. Britain still had troops elsewhere, but losing a major army made continuing the war seem far harder.
- ③ The Yorktown defeat increased pressure inside Britain. Members of Parliament criticized the war, and voters wanted leaders to stop spending lives and money on it. In 1782, a new British government began peace talks with the United States. The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1783, recognized American independence and officially ended the Revolutionary War.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What economic problem made many British taxpayers and merchants want the war to end?

2 How did the events at Yorktown make it harder for Britain to continue fighting?

3 What political pressure grew in Britain after Yorktown, and what did the new government do?

4 Explain how the military defeat at Yorktown affected political decisions in Britain.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences advising British leaders in late 1781 whether to seek peace. Use an economic reason in one sentence, a military reason in one sentence, and a political reason with your recommendation in the third sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each economic factor, circle each military factor, and write P beside each political factor so you can compare the pressures that led Britain to make peace. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What economic problem made many British taxpayers and merchants want the war to end?	The war was draining money, while taxpayers and merchants saw too little benefit from its cost.
2	How did the events at Yorktown make it harder for Britain to continue fighting?	American and French forces trapped Cornwallis's army, French warships blocked a rescue, and Cornwallis surrendered more than 7,000 soldiers.
3	What political pressure grew in Britain after Yorktown, and what did the new government do?	Parliament members criticized the war, voters wanted it to stop, and the new government began peace talks in 1782.
4	Explain how the military defeat at Yorktown affected political decisions in Britain.	The defeat increased pressure inside Britain, helping lead leaders to begin peace talks.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Britain should seek peace because the war is draining money from taxpayers and merchants. The surrender at Yorktown showed that Britain could lose a major army when French ships and American troops worked together. Parliament faced growing criticism, so British leaders should begin peace talks.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations of the economic cost, the Yorktown defeat, and political pressure for peace. For the open response, accept a clear three-sentence recommendation that correctly uses all three types of factors.