

After the Victory

Evaluate how peace brought new hardships to Americans.

SS.5.A.5.8 "Evaluate the personal and political hardships resulting from the American Revolution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline personal hardships and circle political hardships in the passage. Write a small 1 beside the hardship you think most affected daily life.

Hard Times After Independence

- ① When the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, many people hoped life would quickly improve. Instead, former soldiers often returned home without full pay. Some had been away from farms or shops for years and found debts waiting. Prices changed quickly, so money bought less than before. Families had to sell land or tools to pay what they owed.
- ② Other hardships touched neighbors too. Loyalists, who had supported Britain, sometimes lost property or faced anger after the war. In some places, returning Patriots and Loyalists argued over homes, businesses, and rights. These conflicts made it hard for communities to rebuild trust. Enslaved people who had sought freedom during the war also faced uncertainty, for slavery continued in most states.
- ③ The new nation also had political problems. Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress could not collect national taxes to pay war debts or support an army. States made different trade rules and printed their own money. In 1786, debt-ridden farmers in Massachusetts joined Shays' Rebellion to protest taxes and court seizures. The unrest showed many leaders that the national government was too weak.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did the war create a personal hardship for some former soldiers and their families?

2 What political weakness did the Articles of Confederation create for Congress?

3 Why did conflicts between Patriots and Loyalists make rebuilding after the war harder?

4 Use two details from the last paragraph to explain why leaders believed the national government was too weak.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one personal hardship and one political hardship from the passage. Write three sentences evaluating which hardship would be harder for a family in 1786, using details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline personal hardships and circle political hardships in the passage. Write a small 1 beside the hardship you think most affected daily life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the war create a personal hardship for some former soldiers and their families?	Many soldiers returned without full pay and found debts waiting. Families sometimes had to sell land or tools to pay what they owed.
2	What political weakness did the Articles of Confederation create for Congress?	Congress could not collect national taxes to pay war debts or support an army.
3	Why did conflicts between Patriots and Loyalists make rebuilding after the war harder?	They argued over homes, businesses, and rights, making it difficult for communities to rebuild trust.
4	Use two details from the last paragraph to explain why leaders believed the national government was too weak.	Congress could not collect national taxes, and states made different trade rules and printed their own money. Shays' Rebellion also showed unrest that the government struggled to address.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A family might find debt harder because selling land or tools could destroy its way to earn money. Political weakness also mattered because Congress could not collect taxes to handle war debts. Debt would feel more immediate to this family, while weak government could make the problem last.

Accept supported evaluations that identify one personal and one political hardship and explain a reasonable judgment. Students may choose different hardships if their evidence comes from the passage.