

Resistance and Reaction

Analyze revolts and colonial leaders' responses.

SS.68.AA.1.5 "Analyze slave revolts that happened in early colonial America and how political leaders reacted (e.g., 1712 revolt in New York City, Stono Rebellion [1739])."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show what the rebels did, circle details that explain why they acted, and number each action taken by colonial leaders in response.

Two Revolts, Stronger Controls

- ① In April 1712, a group of enslaved people in New York City chose a violent form of resistance. Late at night, they set fire to a building, then waited with guns, hatchets, and swords for white residents who came to fight the flames. The group killed nine colonists and wounded several others before colonial soldiers stopped the revolt. Officials put many accused people on trial. Twenty-one were executed. New York leaders then tightened laws controlling enslaved people's movement, meetings, and access to weapons.
- ② On September 9, 1739, an enslaved man known as Jemmy led the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina. He and other enslaved people seized guns and ammunition from a store near the Stono River. They marched south, toward Spanish Florida, where Spain had offered freedom to fugitives from British colonies who reached its territory. As the group moved, it recruited others and called for liberty. A colonial militia attacked the rebels. Fighting ended the uprising, killing colonists and many enslaved participants.
- ③ The two revolts alarmed colonial leaders because enslaved people had organized, armed themselves, and challenged white control. Leaders answered mainly with punishment and stricter control, rather than by ending slavery. After Stono, South Carolina passed the Negro Act of 1740. The law expanded patrols and limited enslaved people's ability to gather, learn to write, earn money, travel, or gain freedom. These reactions show that leaders tried to prevent future resistance by reducing enslaved people's independence and power to organize.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What tactic did the New York City rebels use to draw white residents to their attack? What did the Stono rebels do to increase the size of their group?

2 Why did the Stono rebels march south toward Spanish Florida?

3 Compare the responses of New York leaders after the 1712 revolt and South Carolina leaders after Stono.

4 What conclusion can you draw about how colonial leaders viewed organized resistance by enslaved people? Use two details from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence paragraph explaining how the two revolts led colonial leaders to increase control over enslaved people. State a claim, use one detail from each revolt, and explain what the leaders' reactions show.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show what the rebels did, circle details that explain why they acted, and number each action taken by colonial leaders in response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What tactic did the New York City rebels use to draw white residents to their attack? What did the Stono rebels do to increase the size of their group?	The New York City rebels set a fire and waited for residents who came to fight it. The Stono rebels recruited other enslaved people as they marched.
2	Why did the Stono rebels march south toward Spanish Florida?	Spain had offered freedom to fugitives from British colonies who reached its territory.
3	Compare the responses of New York leaders after the 1712 revolt and South Carolina leaders after Stono.	New York officials tried accused people, executed twenty-one, and tightened controls on movement, meetings, and weapons. South Carolina passed the Negro Act of 1740, expanding patrols and restricting gathering, travel, writing, earning money, and gaining freedom.
4	What conclusion can you draw about how colonial leaders viewed organized resistance by enslaved people? Use two details from the passage.	Leaders viewed organized resistance as a major threat. They responded with punishment and laws that reduced enslaved people's movement, independence, and ability to organize.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Colonial leaders reacted to both revolts by trying to strengthen control over enslaved people. In New York, officials tried accused people and executed twenty-one people after the 1712 revolt. They also tightened rules about movement, meetings, and weapons. After Stono, South Carolina expanded patrols and restricted gathering, travel, writing, earning money, and gaining freedom. These responses show that leaders answered resistance with punishment and limits on independence instead of ending slavery.

Accept equivalent evidence-based comparisons and conclusions. For the open response, accept a clear claim, accurate evidence from both revolts, and an explanation that connects leaders' actions to preventing future resistance.