

Choices Beyond Borders

Analyze how U.S. foreign policy responds to a world issue.

SS.7.CG.4 "Demonstrate an understanding of contemporary issues in world affairs, and evaluate the role and impact of U.S. foreign policy."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each U.S. policy action, circle the goal or effect connected to it, and number one benefit and one possible drawback of the policy.

A War With Global Effects

- ① In February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The war became a world affairs issue because it threatened Ukrainian lives and changed food, energy, and security conditions far beyond the battlefield. Ukraine is a major exporter of grain and other farm products. When fighting damaged ports and fields, some countries faced higher food prices. Governments had to decide how to respond while trying to avoid a wider war between Russia and NATO countries as well.
- ② The United States used several foreign-policy tools. It sent military equipment and training to help Ukraine defend itself. It provided humanitarian assistance, including support for people displaced by the war. The United States also worked with allies to impose economic sanctions, which are penalties that limit trade or financial activity, on Russia. These choices aimed to support Ukraine and raise the cost of aggression without sending U.S. troops to fight Russian forces. U.S. leaders also explained these policies in public statements.
- ③ U.S. policy had effects, but its results were not simple. Aid strengthened Ukraine's ability to resist, while humanitarian help addressed urgent needs. Sanctions signaled that the United States and its partners opposed the invasion, and they sought to pressure Russia's economy. However, sanctions can also affect trade, prices, and people outside the conflict. Critics questioned the cost and the risk of escalation. Supporters argued that helping Ukraine could protect the rule that borders should not be changed by force through invasion.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the war in Ukraine affect countries beyond the battlefield? Give two effects from the passage.

2 Name two U.S. foreign-policy actions in the passage. What was the purpose of each action?

3 How did the U.S. policy described in the passage try to avoid a direct war between U.S. and Russian forces?

4 Give one reason a supporter might favor U.S. aid or sanctions and one concern a critic might raise.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose a current world issue. In 3 or 4 sentences, name one U.S. foreign-policy action, explain a likely effect on people or countries, and evaluate one benefit and one possible drawback.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each U.S. policy action, circle the goal or effect connected to it, and number one benefit and one possible drawback of the policy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the war in Ukraine affect countries beyond the battlefield? Give two effects from the passage.	It changed food, energy, and security conditions beyond Ukraine. Damage to ports and fields also contributed to higher food prices in some countries.
2	Name two U.S. foreign-policy actions in the passage. What was the purpose of each action?	Answers may include military equipment and training to help Ukraine defend itself, humanitarian assistance to support displaced people, or sanctions to support Ukraine and raise the cost of aggression for Russia.
3	How did the U.S. policy described in the passage try to avoid a direct war between U.S. and Russian forces?	The United States did not send U.S. troops to fight Russian forces.
4	Give one reason a supporter might favor U.S. aid or sanctions and one concern a critic might raise.	A supporter might say aid strengthened Ukraine or defended the rule against changing borders by force. A critic might point to costs, effects on trade and prices, impacts on people outside the conflict, or the risk of escalation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During a global disease outbreak, the United States could fund vaccine delivery through international health partners. This policy could help countries protect more people and could reduce the chance that illnesses spread across borders. Its benefit is faster access to vaccines, but a drawback is that U.S. funding is limited and leaders must choose how much to spend abroad.

Accept equivalent descriptions of the policy actions, goals, effects, benefits, and concerns stated in the passage. For the open response, accept a reasonable current issue if the student identifies an action, a likely impact, one benefit, and one drawback.