

Revolution in Motion

Trace how conflict grew, changed course, and reshaped the United States.

SS.8.A.3.6 "Examine the causes, course, and consequences of the American Revolution."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements that explain why the conflict grew, circle major events in the war, and put a star beside consequences of the Revolution.

From Protest to Independence

- ① After the French and Indian War, Britain faced heavy debt and wanted the colonies to help pay for imperial defense. Parliament passed measures such as the Stamp Act, which taxed printed paper, and the Tea Act, which affected tea sales. Many colonists objected because they had no elected representatives in Parliament. Boycotts and protests followed. In Boston, protesters destroyed tea in 1773. Britain answered with the Coercive Acts, which closed Boston's port and increased colonial anger. These measures deepened the conflict.
- ② In 1775, fighting at Lexington and Concord began the war. The Second Continental Congress created the Continental Army and chose George Washington as commander. In 1776, the Declaration of Independence explained why the colonies claimed independence. Early losses showed the army's weakness, but the American victory at Saratoga in 1777 convinced France to become an ally. French money, troops, and naval support strengthened the American war effort. The conflict became an international struggle. Spain later aided France against Britain. Britain now faced enemies beyond the colonies.
- ③ American and French forces trapped British General Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781, while the French navy blocked a British rescue by sea. Cornwallis surrendered, though peace negotiations continued for two years. The Treaty of Paris of 1783 recognized the United States as an independent nation and set boundaries to the Mississippi River. The Revolution brought political change as new state governments and the national government faced questions about rights, representation, and power. It also left slavery in place, despite revolutionary language about liberty.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Why did many colonists object to Parliament's measures after the French and Indian War?

2 How did the American victory at Saratoga change the course of the war?

3 Explain how French support helped bring about the British surrender at Yorktown.

4 Identify one political change and one major issue that remained after the Revolution.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose one event from the passage. Write three sentences that explain a cause of the event, describe what happened, and explain one consequence that followed.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline statements that explain why the conflict grew, circle major events in the war, and put a star beside consequences of the Revolution. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many colonists object to Parliament's measures after the French and Indian War?	They objected because Parliament taxed or controlled colonial affairs even though the colonists had no elected representatives in Parliament.
2	How did the American victory at Saratoga change the course of the war?	The victory convinced France to become an American ally. French money, troops, and naval support strengthened the American war effort.
3	Explain how French support helped bring about the British surrender at Yorktown.	French forces joined American forces to trap Cornwallis, and the French navy blocked a British rescue by sea. Cornwallis then surrendered.
4	Identify one political change and one major issue that remained after the Revolution.	Political change included an independent United States and new state and national governments. Slavery remained in place.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Many colonists objected to British measures because they had no elected representatives in Parliament. Protesters in Boston destroyed tea in 1773. Britain responded with the Coercive Acts, which closed Boston's port and increased colonial anger.

Accept accurate cause, event, and consequence chains supported by the passage. For the open response, accept different events if all three sentences are historically accurate and show a clear connection.