

Revolution's Ripple Effects

Trace causes, events, consequences, and founding principles.

SS.8.A.3 "Demonstrate an understanding of the causes, course and consequences of the American Revolution and the founding principles of our nation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline statements that explain a cause of conflict or change, circle statements that name a founding principle, and write "Con" beside statements that describe a consequence.

From Protest to New Government

- ① In 1773, Parliament kept a tax on tea even after removing several other taxes. Many colonists believed that taxes without elected colonial representatives violated their rights. In Boston, protesters boarded ships and dumped tea into the harbor. Parliament answered with the Coercive Acts, which closed Boston's port and limited Massachusetts self-government. These punishments angered people beyond Boston. Delegates from twelve colonies met at the First Continental Congress in 1774 to coordinate a response and defend colonial rights.
- ② Fighting began at Lexington and Concord in April 1775, when British troops marched to seize military supplies. Colonial militia resisted, and the conflict spread. In July 1776, the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. It stated that people have natural rights and that governments gain their just power from the consent of the governed. The war continued for years. American and French forces trapped a major British army at Yorktown in 1781, leading to British peace negotiations.
- ③ The Treaty of Paris, signed in 1783, recognized the United States as independent. Yet independence did not solve every problem. Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government could not reliably collect taxes or regulate trade among states. These weaknesses helped lead delegates to write the Constitution in 1787. The Constitution created a stronger federal government but limited its power through separation of powers and checks and balances. Its opening words, "We the People," reflected popular sovereignty, the idea that government authority comes from the people.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What belief led many colonists to oppose the tea tax, and how did Parliament respond to the Boston protest?

2 Describe the course of the war from the first fighting at Lexington and Concord to the British peace negotiations.

3 What two ideas about government did the Declaration of Independence state in the passage?

4 How did weaknesses under the Articles of Confederation help lead to the Constitution, and how did the Constitution limit government power?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a five-sentence proposal from a delegate in 1787. Explain one problem under the Articles of Confederation, name one founding principle, and show how a feature of the Constitution could address the problem while limiting power.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline statements that explain a cause of conflict or change, circle statements that name a founding principle, and write "Con" beside statements that describe a consequence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What belief led many colonists to oppose the tea tax, and how did Parliament respond to the Boston protest?	Colonists believed taxes without elected colonial representatives violated their rights. Parliament passed the Coercive Acts, closing Boston's port and limiting Massachusetts self-government.
2	Describe the course of the war from the first fighting at Lexington and Concord to the British peace negotiations.	British troops marched to seize supplies at Lexington and Concord, and colonial militia resisted. The colonies declared independence in 1776. American and French forces trapped a British army at Yorktown in 1781, leading to peace negotiations.
3	What two ideas about government did the Declaration of Independence state in the passage?	People have natural rights, and governments get their just power from the consent of the governed.
4	How did weaknesses under the Articles of Confederation help lead to the Constitution, and how did the Constitution limit government power?	The national government could not reliably collect taxes or regulate trade among states, so delegates wrote the Constitution. The Constitution limited power through separation of powers and checks and balances.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our states need a stronger national government because the Articles cannot reliably collect taxes or regulate trade among states. A government must rest on popular sovereignty, so its authority comes from the people. The Constitution can give the federal government enough power to handle national problems. It can also separate power among branches. Checks and balances can prevent any one part of government from becoming too powerful.

Accept responses that accurately connect an Articles weakness to a constitutional response and correctly explain a founding principle. Students may use popular sovereignty, consent of the governed, natural rights, separation of powers, or checks and balances when explained accurately.