

Revolution and Sale

Trace how events in Haiti helped shape the Louisiana Purchase.

SS.8.A.4.12 "Examine the effects of the 1804 Haitian Revolution on the United States acquisition of the Louisiana Territory."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three details that show why France became less able or willing to keep Louisiana, then circle the sentence that explains the Haitian Revolution's effect on the sale.

A Caribbean Revolution Changes Plans

- ① In the French colony of Saint-Domingue, enslaved people began a revolution in 1791. They fought for freedom against French forces and other armies. Napoleon Bonaparte wanted France to regain firm control of the colony, which later became Haiti. In 1802, he sent a large expedition across the Atlantic. The troops faced determined resistance, yellow fever, and heavy losses. Without Saint-Domingue's sugar wealth and military base, Napoleon's larger plans in the Americas became far less practical.
- ② France also claimed the vast Louisiana Territory west of the Mississippi River. Napoleon had considered using Louisiana to supply and support a revived French empire in the Caribbean. But the expedition's failure changed his calculations. France needed money for wars in Europe, and defending distant Louisiana looked difficult without a secure Caribbean base. In 1803, Napoleon offered the territory to the United States. American negotiators Robert Livingston and James Monroe agreed to buy it for \$15 million. The Louisiana Purchase was signed on April 30, 1803.
- ③ The purchase doubled the size of the United States and gave Americans control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans. The Haitian Revolution did not force the purchase by itself. Still, it weakened France's Caribbean strategy, reduced Napoleon's interest in holding Louisiana, and helped create the conditions for the sale. Haiti declared independence from France on January 1, 1804. Its successful revolution showed that formerly enslaved people could defeat a European empire and reshape events far beyond the island.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What three problems did the French expedition in Saint-Domingue face?

2 How did the failed expedition change Napoleon's plans for Louisiana?

3 What did the United States gain through the Louisiana Purchase?

4 Why does the passage say that the Haitian Revolution did not force the purchase by itself?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence cause-and-effect explanation of how the Haitian Revolution helped lead to the Louisiana Purchase. Include one effect on France's plans and one result for the United States.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline three details that show why France became less able or willing to keep Louisiana, then circle the sentence that explains the Haitian Revolution's effect on the sale. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What three problems did the French expedition in Saint-Domingue face?	It faced determined resistance, yellow fever, and heavy losses.
2	How did the failed expedition change Napoleon's plans for Louisiana?	Without a secure and profitable Caribbean base, defending and using Louisiana for a French American empire looked less practical.
3	What did the United States gain through the Louisiana Purchase?	The United States doubled in size and gained control of the Mississippi River and the port of New Orleans.
4	Why does the passage say that the Haitian Revolution did not force the purchase by itself?	Other factors also mattered, including France's need for money for European wars. The revolution weakened France's Caribbean strategy and helped create conditions for the sale.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Haitian Revolution helped lead to the Louisiana Purchase because French troops suffered losses and France lost a dependable Caribbean base. As Napoleon's American plans became less practical, he was more willing to sell Louisiana while France needed money for European wars. The United States then gained land and access to the Mississippi River and New Orleans.

Accept responses that connect the revolution and failed French expedition to Napoleon's reduced interest in Louisiana. Students should also identify a specific result of the purchase for the United States.