Faith in Action

How religious communities helped shape American history

5.SS.1.4 "Identify different examples of how religion has been an important influence in American history."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four ways religious beliefs or communities shaped people's actions in the passage. Number the examples 1 to 4 so you can find them again.

Beliefs That Shaped History

1. In 1681, William Penn received land that became Pennsylvania. Penn was a Quaker, a member of a Christian group that faced punishment for its beliefs in England. He wanted people of different faiths to live and worship in his colony. Penn's policies drew Quakers and other religious groups to Pennsylvania. His beliefs helped shape a place where more kinds of worship were allowed than in many other colonies.

2. In the 1800s, some Quakers believed slavery was wrong because people should be treated with equal care. Some joined the Underground Railroad, a secret network of people who helped enslaved people escape. Free Black churches also gave people places to meet, speak, and organize against slavery. These groups acted in different ways, but their religious communities helped them work for an end to slavery.

3. In 1955, Black residents of Montgomery, Alabama, began a bus boycott to protest unfair rules that forced them to give up seats to white riders. Black churches hosted meetings where people planned and supported the boycott. Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., a Baptist minister, helped lead it. For many participants, faith inspired their demand for fairness. Church spaces and leaders helped neighbors act together for civil rights.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did William Penn's religious beliefs influence Pennsylvania?

2. How did some Quakers act on their beliefs about slavery in the 1800s?

3. How did free Black churches help people work against slavery?

4. How did Black churches influence the Montgomery bus boycott?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a museum guide. In four sentences, introduce two different examples from the passage, explain how religion influenced what people did in each example, and tell visitors what connects the two stories.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.SS.1.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four ways religious beliefs or communities shaped people's actions in the passage. Number the examples 1 to 4 so you can find them again. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did William Penn's religious beliefs influence Pennsylvania?	**His Quaker beliefs led him to welcome people of different faiths to live and worship in the colony.**
2	How did some Quakers act on their beliefs about slavery in the 1800s?	**Some joined the Underground Railroad to help enslaved people escape.**
3	How did free Black churches help people work against slavery?	**They provided places where people could meet, speak, and organize against slavery.**
4	How did Black churches influence the Montgomery bus boycott?	**They hosted meetings where people planned and supported the boycott.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At our first stop, William Penn's Quaker beliefs helped make Pennsylvania a home for several religious groups. At the next stop, Black churches in Montgomery gave bus boycott supporters places to meet and plan. In both places, faith shaped how people worked with their neighbors. One story is about worship in a colony, while the other is about action against unfair bus rules.

Accept any two distinct examples from the passage if the student accurately explains religion's influence in each. The final connection may describe a shared belief, community support, or people acting together.