Thirteen Become One

Trace how separate colonies helped form a nation.

5.SS.1.5 "Describe how the establishment of the 13 original colonies contributed to the founding of the nation."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one colonial practice and circle two examples of colonies acting together to trace how the colonies helped form a nation.

From Colonies to Nation

1. Thirteen British colonies took shape along North America's Atlantic coast during the 1600s and 1700s. Each colony had its own government, so colonists learned to make decisions for their communities. In many colonies, elected assemblies helped write local laws and decide how to spend public money. Voting was limited, and enslaved people had no political voice. Still, these assemblies gave some colonists practice in self-government.

2. Britain still ruled the colonies. In the 1760s, Parliament placed new taxes on colonists, who could not elect members of Parliament. People in several colonies protested and shared news through letters and meetings. Leaders later sent delegates to meet with one another. Because the colonies already had separate governments, these delegates had to learn how to act together while speaking for different communities.

3. In 1776, representatives of the thirteen colonies approved the Declaration of Independence, announcing that the colonies would break from Britain. The former colonies became states with their own governments. They also joined in a new national government to face common problems, including the war. The nation did not appear all at once: local government, joint action, and thirteen states all grew from the colonies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did elected colonial assemblies prepare some colonists to help form a new country?

2. How did the colonies' lack of a vote in Parliament help push them to act together?

3. How did sending delegates help separate colonies move toward becoming one nation?

4. How did the thirteen colonies shape the new nation's government after independence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label for an exhibit called “Thirteen Pieces, One Nation.” Trace a path from a practice in colonial life, through a response to British rule, to the founding of the nation, and include a problem the new states faced together.

ANSWER KEY

Thirteen Become One

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.1.5

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one colonial practice and circle two examples of colonies acting together to trace how the colonies helped form a nation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did elected colonial assemblies prepare some colonists to help form a new country?	**Assemblies gave some colonists practice writing local laws, making spending decisions, and governing themselves.**
2	How did the colonies' lack of a vote in Parliament help push them to act together?	**When Parliament taxed colonists who could not elect its members, people in several colonies protested and shared news.**
3	How did sending delegates help separate colonies move toward becoming one nation?	**Delegates met with one another and learned to act together while speaking for different colonies.**
4	How did the thirteen colonies shape the new nation's government after independence?	**The former colonies became states with their own governments and joined in a national government to face common problems.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Colonial assemblies gave some colonists practice making local laws, although many people could not vote. When Parliament taxed the colonies, people shared news and sent delegates to meet. By working together, the colonies moved toward independence, and their representatives approved the Declaration of Independence in 1776. The former colonies became states and joined a national government so they could face the war together.

Accept responses that connect colonial self-government or cooperation to independence and the formation of states and a national government. Students should not suggest that everyone could vote in colonial assemblies.