From Tax to War

Trace how protests and responses changed a dispute.

5.SS.1.6 "Analyze the causes and effects of various compromises and conflicts in American history, including the various events leading to the American Revolution."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons colonists protested British actions, circle two results of their protests, and draw an arrow from each reason to a related result.

A Dispute Grows

1. In 1765, Britain passed the Stamp Act. Colonists had to pay a tax on many paper items, including newspapers and legal papers. Britain wanted money to help pay for troops in North America, but colonists said they had no voice in Parliament, which made the tax. They protested and stopped buying many British goods. British merchants lost sales and urged Parliament to act. In 1766, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act.

2. Repeal eased one conflict, but it did not settle who could tax the colonists. Parliament still claimed that right. In 1773, the Tea Act kept a tax on tea and helped a British tea company sell it in the colonies. Some colonists feared that buying the tea would mean accepting taxes they had not approved. Protesters dumped tea into Boston Harbor. Britain answered by closing Boston's port in 1774.

3. Closing the port hurt workers and merchants in Boston. Leaders from twelve colonies met at the First Continental Congress in 1774 to discuss how to respond. They agreed to stop buying British goods and asked the king to address their complaints. Britain did not give up its policies, and both sides prepared for a fight. In April 1775, British soldiers and colonial militia fought at Lexington and Concord. Their political conflict had become a war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the colonists' boycott of British goods help bring about the repeal of the Stamp Act?

2. Why did repealing the Stamp Act fail to end the disagreement over taxes?

3. How did the protest in Boston Harbor affect people in Boston?

4. How did the closing of Boston's port lead to another colonial response, and what happened when the dispute continued?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a delegate at the First Continental Congress. In three or four sentences, propose a peaceful compromise about taxes or trade, explain why each side might accept it, and tell how it could change what happened next.

ANSWER KEY

From Tax to War

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.1.6

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons colonists protested British actions, circle two results of their protests, and draw an arrow from each reason to a related result. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the colonists' boycott of British goods help bring about the repeal of the Stamp Act?	**British merchants lost sales during the boycott and urged Parliament to act. Parliament repealed the Stamp Act.**
2	Why did repealing the Stamp Act fail to end the disagreement over taxes?	**Parliament still claimed the right to tax colonists. The Tea Act kept a tax on tea that some colonists had not approved.**
3	How did the protest in Boston Harbor affect people in Boston?	**Britain responded to the dumped tea by closing Boston's port, which hurt workers and merchants.**
4	How did the closing of Boston's port lead to another colonial response, and what happened when the dispute continued?	**Colonial leaders met at the First Continental Congress, agreed to stop buying British goods, and asked the king to address their complaints. Britain did not give up its policies, and fighting began at Lexington and Concord.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask Parliament to pause the tea tax while colonial leaders discuss another way to help pay for British troops. Colonists might accept this because they would have a voice in the decision. Britain might accept it because it could still receive money for troops. If both sides agreed, they might avoid more boycotts and fighting.

Accept other cause-and-effect links supported by the passage. For the open task, accept a plausible compromise that gives a reason for each side to agree and explains a possible effect.