Trade and Protest

Trace how British economic policies led to colonial resistance.

5.SS.3.4 "Explain the economic policies that contributed to rebellion within the North American colonies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each named British policy, and underline the words that show how it affected colonists' money or trade so you can trace why colonists resisted.

When Trade Rules Sparked Protest

1. Imagine a colonial ship carrying barrels of flour. Under the Navigation Acts, trade between the colonies and other lands had to use ships owned by people in Britain or its colonies. Some goods could be sold only to Britain or through British ports. These rules helped British merchants control trade. Colonial traders had fewer choices about where to sell goods and which ships to hire. Some felt their chance to earn money was limited.

2. Later, Britain needed money after fighting a costly war. Under the Sugar Act, Britain collected a tax on imported molasses and worked harder to stop smuggling. The Stamp Act put a tax on printed papers, including newspapers and legal documents. Taxes raised the cost of doing business. Many colonists argued that Parliament should not tax them because they could not elect its members. Protests helped bring about the repeal of the Stamp Act.

3. The Tea Act let the British East India Company sell tea in the colonies without using some middlemen. Britain kept a tax on tea. Colonial tea merchants feared they would lose customers, and many colonists still opposed the tax. In 1773, protesters dumped company tea into Boston Harbor. By choosing to destroy tea rather than buy it, they showed how anger over trade rules and taxes could turn into open rebellion.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the Navigation Acts limit a colonial trader's chance to earn money?

2. How did the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act each raise the cost of doing business?

3. Why might colonial tea merchants have opposed the Tea Act, and how did some colonists protest it?

4. Why did the colonists' lack of a vote in Parliament make its taxes a reason for protest?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you own a small shop in a colonial town. Write three sentences to your neighbors explaining how two different policies from the passage could hurt your business and proposing one peaceful action to take in response.

ANSWER KEY

Trade and Protest

GRADE 5 · 5.SS.3.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle each named British policy, and underline the words that show how it affected colonists' money or trade so you can trace why colonists resisted. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the Navigation Acts limit a colonial trader's chance to earn money?	**The rules limited which ships traders could use and where they could sell some goods.**
2	How did the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act each raise the cost of doing business?	**The Sugar Act taxed imported molasses, while the Stamp Act taxed printed papers such as newspapers and legal documents.**
3	Why might colonial tea merchants have opposed the Tea Act, and how did some colonists protest it?	**Tea merchants feared losing customers to the British East India Company. Protesters dumped the company's tea into Boston Harbor.**
4	Why did the colonists' lack of a vote in Parliament make its taxes a reason for protest?	**Colonists argued that Parliament should not tax them when they could not elect its members.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Sugar Act makes the molasses I buy for my shop cost more, so I may have to charge my customers more. The Tea Act helps a large company sell tea without some middlemen, which could take sales away from my shop. Let us refuse to buy that company's tea until Britain changes these rules.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of how two different policies could affect a shop. The proposed action should be peaceful and connected to the policies.