Choices Beyond Borders

How early U.S. decisions shaped relations with other nations

6-12.US1.22 "Identify and analyze the impact of the foreign policy developments of the period 1787-1825, including but not limited to the Neutrality Acts, the Louisiana Purchase, the Embargo Act, the Adams-Onis Treaty, and the Monroe Doctrine."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the five named U.S. foreign policy developments, circle one impact of each, and number the developments in the order they happened.

A Young Nation Faces the World

1 Picture a ship leaving Philadelphia while France and Britain fight across the ocean. President George Washington declared U.S. neutrality in 1793. The Neutrality Act of 1794 barred Americans from outfitting ships to attack nations at peace with the United States. Neutrality helped keep the young nation out of Europe's war, but it angered some Americans who supported France. A decade later, President Thomas Jefferson bought Louisiana from France in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803 for $15 million. The purchase roughly doubled U.S. territory and secured control of New Orleans, a vital port for farmers shipping goods down the Mississippi River.

2 Trade became a weapon when Britain and France interfered with American ships during their renewed war. Britain also seized American sailors and forced many into its navy. Jefferson signed the Embargo Act in 1807, stopping American ships from sailing to foreign ports. He hoped lost trade would pressure both powers without a U.S. war. Instead, American merchants and sailors lost income, while Britain and France did not change course. Congress ended the embargo in 1809. Later, the Adams-Onís Treaty of 1819 called for Spain to transfer Florida to the United States. In return, the United States gave up its claim to Texas.

3 By 1823, many Spanish colonies in Latin America had won independence. President James Monroe announced that European powers should not establish new colonies or interfere with independent nations in the Americas. He also said the United States would stay out of European conflicts and existing European colonies. This Monroe Doctrine asserted a larger U.S. role in the Western Hemisphere, although the nation lacked the military strength to enforce it alone. Together, these decisions show different ways to shape foreign relations: avoid war, restrict trade, gain land by agreement, or warn other powers. Each choice brought benefits or costs at home and abroad.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Neutrality Act and the Embargo Act each try to keep the United States out of war? How did their effects differ?

2. How did the Louisiana Purchase change both U.S. territory and access to trade?

3. What did the United States gain and give up under the Adams-Onís Treaty?

4. How did the Monroe Doctrine try to change relations with Europe, and what limited its immediate power?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a headline and four sentences for an 1824 newspaper editorial. Choose two developments from the passage, explain how each affected the United States, and argue which one you think will have a longer-lasting impact, using evidence from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Choices Beyond Borders

GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.22

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the five named U.S. foreign policy developments, circle one impact of each, and number the developments in the order they happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Neutrality Act and the Embargo Act each try to keep the United States out of war? How did their effects differ?	**The Neutrality Act barred Americans from outfitting ships to attack nations at peace with the United States and helped keep the nation out of war. The Embargo Act cut off foreign shipping to pressure Britain and France without war, but it cost American merchants and sailors income and did not change those nations' actions.**
2	How did the Louisiana Purchase change both U.S. territory and access to trade?	**It roughly doubled U.S. territory and secured New Orleans, a port used by farmers shipping goods down the Mississippi River.**
3	What did the United States gain and give up under the Adams-Onís Treaty?	**Spain agreed to transfer Florida to the United States, and the United States gave up its claim to Texas.**
4	How did the Monroe Doctrine try to change relations with Europe, and what limited its immediate power?	**It warned European powers against new colonies or interference with independent nations in the Americas. The United States lacked the military strength to enforce the warning alone.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Land Changes Last

The Louisiana Purchase and Monroe Doctrine both changed how the United States dealt with other nations. Buying Louisiana from France roughly doubled U.S. territory and secured the New Orleans port for farmers shipping goods down the Mississippi River. The Monroe Doctrine warned European powers against new colonies and interference with independent nations in the Americas, but the United States lacked the military strength to enforce it alone. The purchase will have a longer-lasting impact because its land and port are already under U.S. control, while the doctrine remains a warning.

Accept different judgments in Part 3 if the student explains the impact of two developments and supports a comparison with accurate passage evidence. Students may circle a benefit, a cost, or a limitation as an impact.