When Beliefs Clash

Religion, land, and power in Tudor England

6-9.WH.1.12 "Examine why the diversity of religion and belief systems across cultural, social, political, and economic institutions have been sources of conflict."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two views about who should lead the church, circle two effects of religious changes on daily life or resources, and number one action that turned disagreement into open conflict.

A Protest in Tudor England

1. In the 1530s, King Henry VIII broke with the Roman Catholic Church and made himself head of the Church of England. He wanted control over church affairs, including his marriage, and demanded public loyalty to his rule. Many people believed the pope should lead the church and wanted to keep familiar Catholic practices. Others supported the king's changes. This difference was more than a private disagreement: the king's decision changed who held power in churches across the country. Choosing a religious leader could also mean choosing which political authority to obey.

2. Henry also closed monasteries, religious communities where monks and nuns lived. The government took their land and goods, then sold or granted much of the property to new owners. Some nearby people had relied on monasteries for food or other help. Others worried that old places of worship and community life would disappear. For them, changes in belief and church leadership threatened both local support and the way land was used. New owners, however, had a reason to support the king's policy.

3. In 1536, thousands in northern England joined a protest called the Pilgrimage of Grace. They opposed the closing of monasteries and wanted some of the king's religious advisers removed. Their demands show how a religious dispute could become a political challenge: protesters asked the ruler to reverse decisions made by his government. The king saw a large organized march as a threat to his authority. Some protesters also feared losing local aid or traditional community ties. Not everyone joined; people faced different risks and had different interests in the changes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why could disagreement about who should lead the church also become a disagreement about political power?

2. How could closing a monastery upset the social life of a nearby community?

3. Why might a new landowner and a person who relied on a monastery disagree about the closings?

4. Why did the Pilgrimage of Grace turn a religious dispute into a political conflict?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

In a fictional town, a council schedules a weekly market in a shared hall at the same time one group meets there for worship. Write four sentences explaining how different beliefs and needs could cause conflict in community life and business, then suggest a fair way to use the hall.

ANSWER KEY

When Beliefs Clash

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WH.1.12

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two views about who should lead the church, circle two effects of religious changes on daily life or resources, and number one action that turned disagreement into open conflict. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why could disagreement about who should lead the church also become a disagreement about political power?	**Henry made himself head of the Church of England. People who believed the pope should lead the church disagreed with the king's claim to that authority.**
2	How could closing a monastery upset the social life of a nearby community?	**People could lose a place of worship or a center of community life, along with help they had received there.**
3	Why might a new landowner and a person who relied on a monastery disagree about the closings?	**A new owner could gain monastery property, while someone who relied on the monastery could lose food or other help.**
4	Why did the Pilgrimage of Grace turn a religious dispute into a political conflict?	**Protesters demanded that Henry reverse government decisions and remove advisers, challenging his authority.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The worship group needs a quiet place to meet, but the sellers need space to earn money. Holding the market at the same time could interrupt worship and leave sellers without stalls. A council rule favoring only one group might make neighbors feel that their needs do not count. The council could ask both groups about their schedules and set different hours for worship and the market.

Accept answers that connect differences in religious authority or practice to specific effects on community life, resources, or government power. For the open task, look for both a cause of conflict and a workable way to share the hall.