Leaders in Action

How leaders shaped three key events of the Revolution

5.H.10 "Identify major British and American leaders of the American Revolutionary War and describe their significance in key events of the war."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the names of American leaders and circle the names of British leaders. Box a phrase that shows one action each leader took.

Three Moments in the Revolution

1. In 1776, British general William Howe led a large army into New York City. His troops took the city, a major port. American general George Washington fought Howe's forces but could not hold New York. Washington led his soldiers away instead of letting the British capture his whole army. That choice kept an American fighting force alive, even after a painful loss.

2. In 1777, British general John Burgoyne marched south from Canada, hoping to split the colonies along the Hudson River. American general Horatio Gates led troops that blocked his path near Saratoga, New York. After more fighting, Burgoyne surrendered his army to Gates. The American victory at Saratoga helped persuade France to join the war on the Americans' side.

3. In 1781, British general Charles Cornwallis moved his army to Yorktown, Virginia, where it waited for help from British ships. Washington brought American troops to Yorktown, while French troops and ships helped cut off escape. With no way out, Cornwallis surrendered his army. This victory ended major fighting in the war, although the peace treaty was not signed until 1783.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did William Howe gain in New York City, and how did George Washington keep his army in the war?

2. What did John Burgoyne hope to do, and how did Horatio Gates stand in his way?

3. What did Charles Cornwallis expect at Yorktown, and what did George Washington do there?

4. Why did Burgoyne's surrender to Gates matter beyond the fighting at Saratoga?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label comparing New York City in 1776 with Yorktown in 1781. Name a British and an American leader at each event, tell what each did, and explain how the results differed.

ANSWER KEY

Leaders in Action

GRADE 5 · 5.H.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the names of American leaders and circle the names of British leaders. Box a phrase that shows one action each leader took. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did William Howe gain in New York City, and how did George Washington keep his army in the war?	**Howe took New York City, a major port. Washington led his soldiers away so the British would not capture his whole army.**
2	What did John Burgoyne hope to do, and how did Horatio Gates stand in his way?	**Burgoyne hoped to split the colonies along the Hudson River. Gates led troops that blocked his path near Saratoga.**
3	What did Charles Cornwallis expect at Yorktown, and what did George Washington do there?	**Cornwallis expected help from British ships. Washington brought American troops to Yorktown, helping trap Cornwallis.**
4	Why did Burgoyne's surrender to Gates matter beyond the fighting at Saratoga?	**The American victory helped persuade France to join the war on the Americans' side.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At New York City, British general William Howe took the city with his army. American general George Washington led his soldiers away, keeping his army in the war. At Yorktown, British general Charles Cornwallis waited for ships, while Washington brought troops to help trap him. New York City was a British victory, but Yorktown ended with Cornwallis surrendering and major fighting ending.

Accept wording that accurately connects each leader's action to the event. For Part 3, the comparison should distinguish the British victory at New York City from Cornwallis's surrender at Yorktown.