Allies and Victory

Read how people and nations helped win American independence.

5.H.11 "Describe the contributions of France, other nations, and individuals to the outcome of the American Revolution."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions that helped the Americans, and circle the person or nation responsible. Use your marks to connect each contribution to the war's outcome.

More Than One Army

1. In 1777, the American army needed help against Britain. The French volunteer Marquis de Lafayette joined George Washington's army and helped lead American soldiers. After an American victory at Saratoga, France made an alliance with the United States in 1778. France sent money, weapons, soldiers, and warships. These supplies helped American troops keep fighting, while French forces gave Britain another powerful opponent.

2. In 1781, American and French forces moved toward British troops at Yorktown, Virginia. French general Rochambeau led soldiers who fought alongside Washington's army. At sea, French admiral de Grasse brought warships into nearby waters. His fleet stopped British ships from reaching Yorktown to rescue or supply the trapped troops. With no easy escape, the British army there surrendered, a major step toward American independence.

3. Spain also fought Britain, though it did not join the American alliance. Spanish governor Bernardo de Gálvez led attacks on British forts along the Gulf Coast, including Pensacola in 1781. Spain's victories took away British bases and forced Britain to defend another part of its empire. The war did not end at Yorktown, but the surrender helped convince Britain to negotiate. In 1783, Britain recognized American independence.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Lafayette help the American cause?

2. How did France's supplies help the American army?

3. How did Rochambeau and de Grasse each help bring about the surrender at Yorktown?

4. How did Spain's actions under Gálvez weaken Britain's position?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label called "Victory Was a Team Effort." Connect contributions from France, Spain, and one named person to the American victory, explaining how their actions worked together rather than just listing them.

ANSWER KEY

Allies and Victory

GRADE 5 · 5.H.11

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline actions that helped the Americans, and circle the person or nation responsible. Use your marks to connect each contribution to the war's outcome. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Lafayette help the American cause?	**He joined Washington's army and helped lead American soldiers.**
2	How did France's supplies help the American army?	**French money and weapons helped American troops keep fighting.**
3	How did Rochambeau and de Grasse each help bring about the surrender at Yorktown?	**Rochambeau led French soldiers alongside Washington's army. De Grasse's fleet stopped British ships from rescuing or supplying the troops at Yorktown.**
4	How did Spain's actions under Gálvez weaken Britain's position?	**Spanish attacks took away British bases along the Gulf Coast and forced Britain to defend another part of its empire.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Lafayette helped lead American soldiers, while France sent supplies that kept their army fighting. Spain captured British bases on the Gulf Coast, forcing Britain to defend another part of its empire. Together, these efforts kept pressure on Britain in different places and helped bring American independence closer.

Accept accurate descriptions of contributions and their effects, even if students use different wording. For the museum label, look for a connection among France, Spain, and a named person, not just three separate facts.