Freedom's New Challenges

How independence changed trade and government

5.H.13 "Explain consequences of the American Revolution, including the strengths and weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, changes in trade relationships, and the achievement of independence by the United States."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the words showing what independence meant, and circle one change in trade. Write 1 beside one strength of the Articles of Confederation and 2 beside one weakness.

A New Country at the Dock

1. In 1783, the Treaty of Paris ended the war and Britain recognized the United States as an independent country. Americans no longer had to obey British laws about trade. Picture a ship captain looking for buyers for barrels of flour. The captain could now seek new trade partners, but trade with Britain's Caribbean colonies became harder because Britain restricted American ships there.

2. After independence, the states needed a way to work together. The Articles of Confederation created the first national government. Congress could make treaties with other countries and settle disputes between states. Those powers helped the new country speak and act as one nation. Yet each state kept much of its own power, so getting states to agree on a common plan could be slow.

3. Under the Articles, Congress could not collect taxes directly from people or set one trade policy for all the states. It had to ask states for money, and states could make different trade rules. That made it hard to pay war debts and respond together to trade problems. Independence brought new choices, but the weak national government struggled to handle some of the new country's needs.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Treaty of Paris change the United States' relationship with Britain?

2. How did independence bring both a new trade choice and a trade problem for ship captains?

3. How could Congress's power to make treaties help the new country?

4. Why was it hard for the government under the Articles to pay war debts and solve trade problems?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a ship captain after the Revolution. Two neighboring states have different rules for ships carrying flour. In four sentences, explain how independence changes your choices, how the rules affect your trip, and how one strength and one weakness of the Articles could affect your country.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.H.13

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the words showing what independence meant, and circle one change in trade. Write 1 beside one strength of the Articles of Confederation and 2 beside one weakness. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Treaty of Paris change the United States' relationship with Britain?	**Britain recognized the United States as independent, so Americans no longer had to obey British laws about trade.**
2	How did independence bring both a new trade choice and a trade problem for ship captains?	**Captains could seek new trade partners, but Britain restricted American ships from trading with its Caribbean colonies.**
3	How could Congress's power to make treaties help the new country?	**It let the United States make agreements with other countries and act as one nation.**
4	Why was it hard for the government under the Articles to pay war debts and solve trade problems?	**Congress had to ask states for money because it could not collect taxes directly. It also could not set one trade policy for all the states.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Now that the United States is independent, I can look for buyers beyond Britain's trade system. Following different rules at the two state ports could slow my trip. Congress can make a treaty with another country, which could open a new place to trade. But Congress cannot set one trade policy for the states, so the different port rules may remain.

Accept other accurate strengths or weaknesses stated in the passage. In the open response, look for an explanation of how each change affects the captain or the country, not just a list of facts.