Making a Nation

Read how creators shaped early American life.

5.H.17 "Identify and describe the contributions of important early American artists, writers, and entrepreneurs and traditional arts and crafts to the new nation's cultural landscape."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the words that identify each creator or group of makers. Underline one detail that shows what each added to the new nation's culture or daily life.

Pictures, Poems, Copper, and Quilts

1. In the years around the birth of the United States, people made more than laws and buildings. They also made pictures, poems, useful goods, and household art. These creations helped people see who lived in the new nation and what mattered to them. Some creators were famous by name. Others worked in homes and shops, where their skills shaped daily life.

2. In Philadelphia, artist Charles Willson Peale painted portraits of leaders such as George Washington. His paintings let people recognize figures they might never meet. Phillis Wheatley, an enslaved poet, published a book of poems in 1773, before the United States became independent. Her writing showed the talent of a Black woman at a time when enslaved people were denied freedom and education.

3. Paul Revere is remembered for his ride, but he was also an entrepreneur. In 1801, he opened a copper rolling mill in Massachusetts. Its copper sheets helped cover roofs and the bottoms of ships. Meanwhile, many women hand-stitched quilts from pieces of cloth. Quilts kept families warm, and their patterns showed care and skill. These handmade objects became part of the look and feel of everyday American life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Charles Willson Peale's portraits contribute to the new nation's culture?

2. What did Phillis Wheatley's poems show people about who could contribute to early American writing?

3. How did Paul Revere's business contribute to life in the new nation?

4. How did quilt makers add to both daily life and the look of early American homes?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Create a three-sentence museum label that gives your display an original title and pairs a handmade quilt with Peale's portraits, Wheatley's poems, or Revere's copper sheets. Explain what each creation contributed and what the pair shows together about life in the new nation.

ANSWER KEY

Making a Nation

GRADE 5 · 5.H.17

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the words that identify each creator or group of makers. Underline one detail that shows what each added to the new nation's culture or daily life. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Charles Willson Peale's portraits contribute to the new nation's culture?	**His portraits helped people recognize leaders they might never meet.**
2	What did Phillis Wheatley's poems show people about who could contribute to early American writing?	**Her published poems showed the talent of a Black woman, even though enslaved people were denied freedom and education.**
3	How did Paul Revere's business contribute to life in the new nation?	**His copper mill made sheets that helped cover roofs and the bottoms of ships.**
4	How did quilt makers add to both daily life and the look of early American homes?	**Their hand-stitched quilts kept families warm, while the patterns showed care and skill.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would call my display “Words and Warmth.” A hand-stitched quilt shows how families used skill to make useful things with patterns. Wheatley's poems and the quilt together show that both writers and craft makers shaped life in early America.

Accept labels that accurately describe a hand-stitched quilt and one other creation from the passage. The explanation should connect both creations to early American life or culture.