Faith Across Borders

Trace how religious change shaped life on two continents

6.H.8 "Describe the Reformations and their effects on European and American society."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two changes the Reformations brought to European society. Circle two ways religious change affected people in the Americas.

When Beliefs Changed Communities

1 In 1517, a German monk named Martin Luther challenged some practices of the Catholic Church, including the sale of indulgences, which were said to reduce punishment for sins. Printers spread his ideas across Europe. Luther taught that faith, rather than payments or good deeds, was the path to salvation. His challenge helped begin the Protestant Reformation, a movement that formed new Christian churches. In some places, rulers supported Protestant churches, and people worshiped in their own languages. These changes weakened the Catholic Church's control over religious life in parts of Europe.

2 The Catholic Church also changed. During the Catholic Reformation, its leaders met at the Council of Trent and worked to correct abuses while keeping Catholic teachings. New religious groups, including the Jesuits, opened schools and sent missionaries abroad. Across Europe, rulers sometimes required people to follow the ruler's religion. Disagreements between Catholics and Protestants helped fuel wars and led some families to move. Yet religious conflict did not erase belief. Both Catholic and Protestant communities built schools and taught children to read religious texts.

3 The Reformations also shaped life across the Atlantic. Some English Protestant settlers founded colonies where they hoped to practice their faith. But several colonies limited worship by people with different beliefs. In parts of Spanish America, Jesuit missionaries founded missions and taught Christianity to Indigenous people. Colonial officials sometimes used force to push conversion. Indigenous communities did not all respond alike: some accepted parts of Christianity, while others resisted or kept their own traditions. Religious change in the Americas created new communities, but it could also restrict people's choices.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Luther's challenge change religious life in parts of Europe?

2. How did the Catholic Reformation affect education?

3. How did disagreements between Catholics and Protestants affect families in Europe?

4. How did religious change affect both English Protestant settlers and Indigenous people in the Americas?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label titled “Belief and Belonging.” Explain one change in European life and one change in the Americas, then show how a new religious opportunity could exist alongside a limit on religious choice.

ANSWER KEY

Faith Across Borders

GRADE 6 · 6.H.8

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two changes the Reformations brought to European society. Circle two ways religious change affected people in the Americas. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Luther's challenge change religious life in parts of Europe?	**It helped form Protestant churches. In some places, people began worshiping in their own languages, and Catholic control over religious life weakened.**
2	How did the Catholic Reformation affect education?	**Groups including the Jesuits opened schools, and Catholic communities taught children to read religious texts.**
3	How did disagreements between Catholics and Protestants affect families in Europe?	**The disagreements helped fuel wars and led some families to move.**
4	How did religious change affect both English Protestant settlers and Indigenous people in the Americas?	**Some English Protestant settlers founded colonies to practice their faith. In parts of Spanish America, Indigenous people encountered missionaries, and colonial officials sometimes used force to push conversion.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Belief and Belonging: Protestant churches changed European life by allowing some people to worship in their own languages. Disagreements between Catholics and Protestants also helped drive wars and caused some families to move. Across the Atlantic, some English Protestant settlers founded colonies where they hoped to practice their faith. That opportunity did not mean everyone could worship freely, since several colonies limited other beliefs and colonial officials sometimes used force to push conversion in Spanish America.

Accept other passage-supported cause-and-effect connections. For the museum label, look for accurate effects in both Europe and the Americas and a clear contrast between opportunity and restriction.