Syria in Crisis

Trace the causes of war and weigh responses to it.

7.H.14 "Analyze the causes of modern global conflicts from 1945 to the present, and evaluate the responses of individual nations and international organizations in addressing these crises."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of Syria's war, circle one Turkish and one UN response, and write B and L beside one benefit and one limit of each response.

From Protest to War

1. In 2011, Syrians joined protests demanding political change after years of tight government control. Security forces arrested and fired on protesters, and some opponents took up arms. What began as protests grew into a civil war. Armed groups disagreed about Syria's future, while other countries supported different sides. The rise of the group called ISIS added another threat. Fighting destroyed homes, schools, and hospitals, pushing millions of people to flee. The conflict had several causes, but the government's violent response to protests helped turn political anger into war.

2. Turkey, Syria's northern neighbor, initially opened its border to millions of Syrians fleeing the war. It allowed many to live in Turkish towns and camps and provided services, including health care and schooling. This response gave families a safer place to live, but it also put pressure on housing, schools, and public budgets. Turkey supported some groups fighting Syria's government, hoping to shape the conflict next door. That support did not end the war and made Turkey part of a struggle involving many armed groups.

3. The United Nations, or UN, tried to ease the crisis in two ways. Its agencies sent food and medical supplies to people affected by fighting, while UN envoys brought opposing sides to peace talks. Aid helped people survive, but battles and blocked routes made delivery difficult. Talks did not produce a lasting nationwide peace because leaders and armed groups disagreed over power and security. Members of the UN Security Council also disagreed over how to respond. The UN could reduce suffering, but it could not force all sides to stop fighting.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the government's response to protests help turn political anger into war?

2. Why was Turkey's decision to receive refugees helpful but difficult to sustain?

3. Compare UN aid and peace talks. Which met an immediate need, and why did the other fail to end the war?

4. How did support from other countries and disagreement within the UN Security Council make a shared response to the war harder?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine fighting in Syria has forced more families to flee. In four sentences, propose one new action by Turkey and one new action by the UN that differ from the actions in the passage, explain how each would help, and identify one likely obstacle.

ANSWER KEY

Syria in Crisis

GRADE 7 · 7.H.14

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of Syria's war, circle one Turkish and one UN response, and write B and L beside one benefit and one limit of each response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the government's response to protests help turn political anger into war?	**Security forces arrested and fired on protesters. Some opponents then took up arms, and the protests grew into a civil war.**
2	Why was Turkey's decision to receive refugees helpful but difficult to sustain?	**It gave fleeing families a safer place to live, but it put pressure on Turkey's housing, schools, and public budgets.**
3	Compare UN aid and peace talks. Which met an immediate need, and why did the other fail to end the war?	**Food and medical aid helped people survive. Peace talks failed to produce lasting nationwide peace because leaders and armed groups disagreed over power and security.**
4	How did support from other countries and disagreement within the UN Security Council make a shared response to the war harder?	**Other countries supported different sides in the war, while Security Council members disagreed over how to respond. These divisions made it harder to agree on one approach.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Turkey could issue temporary work permits to Syrians who have fled the war. This could help families pay for housing without relying only on public services. The UN could send teams to monitor local truces, which might help protect civilians. Monitoring might fail if armed groups refuse to let the teams enter.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of causes, benefits, and limits. For Part 3, look for two distinct new actions, a reason each would help, and a plausible obstacle.