War's Uneven Costs

Trace how the causes of war led to different outcomes.

8.H.14 "Analyze the causes and consequences of the War of 1812."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two causes of the war and circle two consequences. Write the same number beside one cause and one consequence you can connect.

What Did the War Change?

1. In 1812, a sailor on an American merchant ship could be seized by a British warship and forced to serve in Britain's navy. Britain claimed it was taking back deserters, but American sailors were taken too. Britain also restricted American trade with France while Britain and France were at war. Many Americans saw these actions as attacks on their nation's rights. At the same time, settlers moving west blamed Britain for supplying weapons to Native nations that resisted settlement. These disputes pushed the United States toward war.

2. Not everyone wanted to fight. New England merchants feared a war would ruin trade, while members of Congress called War Hawks argued that fighting would defend national honor. Congress declared war on Britain in June 1812. The United States tried to invade British Canada but failed to conquer it. British forces burned public buildings in Washington, D.C., in 1814. Later that year, American defenders stopped a British attack on Baltimore. Fighting disrupted trade and cost lives, showing that the decision to fight carried a heavy price.

3. American and British negotiators signed the Treaty of Ghent in December 1814. Its terms left the border between the United States and British Canada unchanged. The treaty did not settle the issue of impressment, although Britain's war with France had ended and the practice faded. News traveled slowly, so American troops won the Battle of New Orleans in January 1815 after the treaty was signed. The victory boosted American pride. For many Native nations, however, the war weakened resistance to U.S. expansion as Britain reduced its support.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did two British actions at sea help push the United States toward war?

2. Why did New England merchants and War Hawks view the choice to fight differently?

3. How did the war have different consequences for Americans and Native nations?

4. How did slow communication help make a battle fought after the treaty was signed a source of American pride?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence note from an American in 1815 who is deciding whether the war was worth fighting. Explain one cause, connect it to a consequence, and judge the outcome using at least two details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

War's Uneven Costs

GRADE 8 · 8.H.14

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the war and circle two consequences. Write the same number beside one cause and one consequence you can connect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did two British actions at sea help push the United States toward war?	**Britain forced American sailors into its navy and restricted American trade with France. Many Americans saw both actions as attacks on their nation's rights.**
2	Why did New England merchants and War Hawks view the choice to fight differently?	**Merchants feared war would ruin trade, while War Hawks believed fighting would defend national honor.**
3	How did the war have different consequences for Americans and Native nations?	**The victory at New Orleans boosted American pride, but the war weakened Native nations' resistance to U.S. expansion as British support declined.**
4	How did slow communication help make a battle fought after the treaty was signed a source of American pride?	**News of the signed treaty traveled slowly, so American troops fought and won at New Orleans. That victory boosted American pride.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Britain seized American sailors and restricted trade, so I understand why we went to war. The fighting cost lives and disrupted trade, which harmed people at home. Although the victory at New Orleans raised American pride, the peace treaty did not settle impressment. I do not think that gain in pride made the war worth its cost.

Accept different judgments if the four-sentence note accurately connects a cause to a consequence and supports its judgment with at least two passage details. For the marking job, accept any defensible link between an underlined cause and a circled consequence.