A Nation's Choices

Nationalism in the United States after the War of 1812

8.H.15 "Define nationalism and explain how it affected domestic policy, foreign policy, and the development of an industrial economy during this period."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that defines nationalism. Number one domestic policy, one foreign policy, and two ways leaders supported industrial growth so you can trace how national pride shaped their choices.

Building a Stronger Nation

1 In 1815, Americans celebrated the end of the War of 1812, although the war had not settled every dispute with Britain. Many people felt stronger loyalty to the United States as a whole. This feeling, called nationalism, is pride in and commitment to one's nation. It shaped domestic policy, the government's decisions at home. Congress passed the Tariff of 1816, a tax on imported goods that made foreign products more expensive. Supporters hoped Americans would buy more goods made in U.S. factories. Yet some Southern farmers disliked paying higher prices.

2 Nationalism also influenced foreign policy, or how a country deals with other nations. In 1823, President James Monroe warned European powers against creating new colonies in the Americas. His statement, later called the Monroe Doctrine, claimed a special U.S. interest in the Western Hemisphere. Monroe did not promise that the United States would defend every newly independent country by force. Instead, his warning announced that the nation expected European powers to stay out of the region. This policy expressed confidence, even though the United States could not enforce it alone.

3 At home, leaders argued that a strong nation needed a connected, growing economy. Congress created a new national bank in 1816 to help provide a steadier currency and credit. Roads and canals helped move raw materials to factories and finished goods to buyers. New York State's Erie Canal, opened in 1825, linked the Great Lakes region to Atlantic markets through the Hudson River. Together, transportation, banking, and the tariff supported industrial growth. Still, Americans debated who benefited most: factory owners, workers, merchants, or farmers. National unity did not erase regional disagreements.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What is nationalism, and how did it help shape the Tariff of 1816?

2. How did the Monroe Doctrine express nationalism through foreign policy?

3. Explain how the national bank and the Erie Canal could each help an industrial economy grow.

4. Why did nationalism not end disagreements about economic policy? Use one example from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a U.S. lawmaker in the 1820s. In four sentences, define nationalism, propose one domestic action and one foreign action not named in the passage, explain how at least one could help U.S. industry, and identify one possible drawback.

ANSWER KEY

A Nation's Choices

GRADE 8 · 8.H.15

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that defines nationalism. Number one domestic policy, one foreign policy, and two ways leaders supported industrial growth so you can trace how national pride shaped their choices. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is nationalism, and how did it help shape the Tariff of 1816?	**Nationalism is pride in and commitment to one's nation. Supporters of the tariff wanted Americans to buy more U.S.-made goods.**
2	How did the Monroe Doctrine express nationalism through foreign policy?	**It asserted a special U.S. interest in the Western Hemisphere and warned European powers not to create new colonies there.**
3	Explain how the national bank and the Erie Canal could each help an industrial economy grow.	**The bank helped provide steadier currency and credit. The Erie Canal helped move materials and goods between the Great Lakes region and Atlantic markets.**
4	Why did nationalism not end disagreements about economic policy? Use one example from the passage.	**Americans disagreed about who benefited from national policies. For example, some Southern farmers disliked the higher prices associated with the tariff.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Nationalism is pride in and commitment to one's nation. I would ask Congress to improve busy ports so U.S. factories could ship goods more cheaply and strengthen the nation. I would seek a trade agreement with Brazil to help U.S. businesses sell products abroad and build ties with another independent nation. Taxpayers far from the improved ports might object to paying for them.

Accept other historically plausible 1820s proposals if the student connects them to national interests and industrial growth. The drawback may concern costs, uneven benefits, or objections to the proposed policy.