Victory, Then Trouble

How war tested Britain's control of its colonies

8.H.3 "Explain the conditions, causes, consequences, and significance of Britain's struggle to maintain control of colonies during the French and Indian War (1754–1763)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number two conditions that made Britain's colonies hard to control. Circle one British response during the war and one after it, then underline a consequence of each response.

Winning the War, Keeping Control

1. In 1754, British colonists moving into the Ohio River Valley met French forces and Native nations defending their own interests. Britain claimed the region, but it could not simply order its colonies to act as one. Each colony had its own assembly, which controlled local taxes and often resisted paying for soldiers outside its borders. Early British defeats showed the cost of divided planning. Native nations also chose allies or fought to protect land and trade, making control of the frontier far more complicated than a contest between two European flags.

2. After several setbacks, Britain sent more troops and supplies across the Atlantic and pressed colonial governments to help pay for the war. Colonists supplied soldiers and materials, yet assemblies argued over costs and kept control of many local decisions. British commanders also depended on Native allies, whose goals did not always match Britain's plans. In 1759, British forces captured Quebec, a major French stronghold. The victory helped Britain defeat France in North America, but winning battles did not settle who would decide taxes, defense, or access to western land.

3. The 1763 peace treaty gave Britain most former French lands east of the Mississippi River. War costs left Britain deeply in debt. Fighting on the frontier continued, including a Native uprising against British posts in 1763. To limit clashes, Britain barred colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains in its Proclamation of 1763. Many colonists who wanted western land opposed the rule. British leaders also sought more colonial tax revenue. Thus, Britain's military victory sharpened disputes about land, taxes, and authority within its colonies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did colonial assemblies make it difficult for Britain to organize the war effort?

2. Why could Britain not control the frontier simply by defeating French forces?

3. How did fighting on the frontier help lead to a new dispute between Britain and colonists in 1763?

4. Why did victory over France not end Britain's struggle to control its colonies?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence memo from a colonial assembly member to a British official in 1763. Explain how one wartime condition and one postwar British action made control difficult, then propose a compromise that addresses both.

ANSWER KEY

Victory, Then Trouble

GRADE 8 · 8.H.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Number two conditions that made Britain's colonies hard to control. Circle one British response during the war and one after it, then underline a consequence of each response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did colonial assemblies make it difficult for Britain to organize the war effort?	**Assemblies controlled local taxes and sometimes resisted paying for soldiers outside their colonies, which made joint planning difficult.**
2	Why could Britain not control the frontier simply by defeating French forces?	**Native nations made their own choices about alliances, land, and trade, and their goals did not always match Britain's.**
3	How did fighting on the frontier help lead to a new dispute between Britain and colonists in 1763?	**Britain barred settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains to limit clashes, but colonists who wanted western land opposed the rule.**
4	Why did victory over France not end Britain's struggle to control its colonies?	**The victory did not settle disputes over taxes, defense, and western land. War debt led Britain to seek more colonial revenue, while its settlement rule angered some colonists.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Our assembly supplied soldiers, but we resisted paying for fighting far beyond our borders because we controlled our own taxes. Now the rule against settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains angers neighbors who hope to farm there. These disputes make it harder for Britain to gain our cooperation, even after its victory over France. Let our assembly vote on defense funds, and consult colonists and Native nations before making decisions about western settlement.

Accept other passage-supported explanations of wartime limits on British control and postwar disputes. For the memo, look for a plausible compromise that addresses both the chosen condition and the British action.