# From Protest to Nation

Trace how ideas, war, and peace shaped a new country.

**8.H.5** "Analyze the causes and effects of the Revolutionary War (1775–1783), including the ideas from the Declaration of Independence, the enactment of the Articles of Confederation, and the Treaty of Paris (1761-1783)."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two causes of the war and circle two effects of the war. Number three linked events 1, 2, and 3 to show how one development led to another.

### Who Would Govern?

1. In 1765, a Boston printer had to pay a new tax on certain printed materials under the Stamp Act. Britain had debts after a costly war, but many colonists objected to taxes passed by a Parliament in which they had no elected representatives. Protests and boycotts followed. Britain repealed the Stamp Act but later taxed imported goods, and disputes over British authority continued. After British troops and colonial militia exchanged fire at Lexington and Concord in 1775, the conflict became a war. The fighting grew from a dispute over who could govern the colonies.

2. In 1776, as fighting spread, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence. It argued that people have rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Governments receive their powers from the consent of the governed, the document said. When a government repeatedly violates people's rights, people may change or replace it. These ideas gave the colonies a reason to break from Britain, not just a list of complaints. Independence also meant Americans needed a plan for governing and for supplying an army during a long war.

3. Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation in 1777, and they took effect in 1781 after all thirteen states approved them. The Articles created a national Congress that could direct the war and make treaties, but it could not collect taxes directly from people. That limit made paying for the war difficult. After an American victory at Yorktown in 1781, peace talks continued. The 1783 Treaty of Paris ended the war: Britain recognized the United States as independent and agreed to boundaries reaching the Mississippi River. Winning independence left the nation with a government to test.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the colonists' objection to British taxes help turn a dispute into war?

2. How did the Declaration of Independence use ideas about rights and government to support breaking from Britain?

3. Why did the Articles of Confederation both help and limit the war effort?

4. What did the Treaty of Paris change after the fighting, and how was that different from the Declaration's claim?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence museum label called “From Protest to Nation.” Trace at least two cause-and-effect links from colonial protests to independence and the new government, then explain why peace did not solve every challenge.

ANSWER KEY

# From Protest to Nation

GRADE 8 · 8.H.5

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two causes of the war and circle two effects of the war. Number three linked events 1, 2, and 3 to show how one development led to another. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did the colonists' objection to British taxes help turn a dispute into war? | **Colonists objected to taxes passed without their elected representatives. Protests followed, disputes over British authority continued, and fighting began at Lexington and Concord.** |
| 2 | How did the Declaration of Independence use ideas about rights and government to support breaking from Britain? | **It argued that people have rights and that government gets its power from their consent. If a government repeatedly violates those rights, people may replace it.** |
| 3 | Why did the Articles of Confederation both help and limit the war effort? | **They created a Congress that could direct the war, but Congress could not tax people directly, making war costs difficult to pay.** |
| 4 | What did the Treaty of Paris change after the fighting, and how was that different from the Declaration's claim? | **The Declaration stated the colonies' reasons for independence. In the Treaty of Paris, Britain recognized the United States as independent and agreed to boundaries reaching the Mississippi River.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

British taxes passed without colonial representatives sparked protests, and the dispute over who governed the colonies turned into war. The Declaration argued that government needs people's consent, giving the colonies a reason to seek independence. The states put the Articles of Confederation into effect to govern together, but Congress could not tax people directly, making war costs harder to pay. In the Treaty of Paris, Britain recognized the United States as independent. Peace ended the war, but the new government still had limits.

Accept other accurate cause-and-effect chains supported by the passage. The museum label should connect events rather than merely list them, and its final point should identify a challenge that remained after peace.