Indiana Takes Sides

Service, protest, and opinion during the Vietnam War

IS.1.29 "Examine and analyze the involvement and sentiments of Hoosiers during the Vietnam War."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three ways Hoosiers took part in the war at home or overseas, and circle words that show support for or opposition to US war policy. Write a 1 beside a sentence showing why an action alone may not reveal a person's opinion.

A Distant War Reaches Indiana

1 When the United States expanded its war in Vietnam in the 1960s, the conflict reached Indiana through mailboxes, schools, and workplaces. Young Hoosiers joined the armed forces or were drafted, and some served in Vietnam. Their relatives waited for letters and news. Others worked at home while service members were away. Service did not reveal a single opinion about the war. A person could feel a duty to serve without agreeing with every decision made in Washington. For families, involvement could mean sending a loved one overseas, caring for children at home, and living with uncertainty about that person's return.

2 Some Hoosiers favored the war because they believed the United States should resist the spread of communism and stand by South Vietnam. Some urged elected officials to continue the war. Other Hoosiers argued that the fighting cost too many lives and that US policy should change. At Indiana University in Bloomington, students protested the war, especially after the 1970 US military action in Cambodia and the killing of four students by National Guardsmen at Kent State University in Ohio. A campus protest was one way Hoosiers took part in the debate without going overseas.

3 Public disagreement did not divide Hoosiers into two neat groups. Some people opposed US military policy yet welcomed returning troops and wanted veterans to receive care. Others supported the war but worried about its length and the losses suffered by families. A veteran's views could also change after coming home. Looking at a person's action and the reason for it reveals more than a simple label such as “for” or “against.” In Indiana, military service, family responsibilities, public support, and campus protest were different forms of involvement in a war fought thousands of miles away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why would a Hoosier's military service alone be weak evidence that the person supported every US decision about the war?

2. How did Hoosiers who urged officials to continue the war differ in both opinion and action from the students who protested at Indiana University?

3. How did the events in Cambodia and at Kent State connect the war to a form of Hoosier involvement at home?

4. What example in the passage shows why opposing US war policy did not necessarily mean opposing service members?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65 to 85 word label for a museum exhibit called “Hoosiers and the Vietnam War.” Use evidence from the passage to explain at least two different forms of involvement and two contrasting views of the war, without treating all Hoosiers as if they thought alike.

ANSWER KEY

Indiana Takes Sides

HIGH SCHOOL · IS.1.29

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three ways Hoosiers took part in the war at home or overseas, and circle words that show support for or opposition to US war policy. Write a 1 beside a sentence showing why an action alone may not reveal a person's opinion. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why would a Hoosier's military service alone be weak evidence that the person supported every US decision about the war?	**A Hoosier might serve out of duty without agreeing with every decision made in Washington.**
2	How did Hoosiers who urged officials to continue the war differ in both opinion and action from the students who protested at Indiana University?	**The first group supported continuing the war and urged elected officials to do so. The students opposed the war and made their views visible through campus protests.**
3	How did the events in Cambodia and at Kent State connect the war to a form of Hoosier involvement at home?	**After those events in 1970, Indiana University students protested the war in Bloomington, taking part in the debate from home.**
4	What example in the passage shows why opposing US war policy did not necessarily mean opposing service members?	**Some people opposed US military policy but welcomed returning troops and wanted veterans to receive care.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Vietnam War reached Indiana even though the fighting was far away. Some Hoosiers served in Vietnam, while relatives at home waited for news and cared for their families. People also took part in public debate. Some urged officials to continue the war because they wanted to resist communism. Indiana University students protested it, especially after events in Cambodia and at Kent State. Service, family responsibility, and protest were different experiences, and no single action reveals everyone's beliefs.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that distinguish what Hoosiers did from what they believed. For the museum label, look for two forms of involvement, contrasting views, and an explanation that avoids assigning one opinion to all participants.