Contact and Control

How communities responded to European expansion

WH.4.5 "Examine the reactions against European Exploration including reactions in China, Japan, Africa, and the Americas."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each action taken in response to Europeans, circle the pressure behind it, and number the regions where it happened. Use your marks to compare why responses differed.

More Than One Response

(1) When Portuguese ships reached China's southern coast in the 1500s, Ming officials did not simply welcome or expel them. Officials allowed Portuguese merchants to settle at Macao in the 1550s, but kept the settlement under Chinese authority and limited where foreigners could trade. In Japan, some warlords first bought Portuguese firearms, and Christian missionaries gained followers. Later, Japan's rulers feared that Christianity could weaken their control and connect local believers to foreign powers. They banned Christianity and, by the 1630s, sharply restricted European access. Dutch traders could still trade at Nagasaki under tight supervision. In both places, rulers tried to control contact rather than surrender authority.

(2) Along Atlantic trade routes, Portuguese traders sought captives as well as goods from Africa. African rulers did not respond in one way. In the Kingdom of Kongo, King Afonso I welcomed some European goods and Christian teaching, yet in 1526 he wrote to Portugal's king to protest traders who seized people, including members of his kingdom's leading families. He asked Portugal to stop illegal enslavement. Farther south, Queen Nzinga of Ndongo and Matamba used negotiations and armed resistance against Portuguese efforts to dominate her lands in the 1600s. Both leaders defended their political authority, but they chose different tools.

(3) In the Americas, European exploration quickly led to conquest and forced labor in many places. On Hispaniola, Taíno communities resisted Spanish demands for labor and tribute, but warfare and devastating epidemics weakened their ability to fight. Resistance did not end there. In 1680, Pueblo communities in what is now New Mexico coordinated an uprising against Spanish rule, which had imposed labor demands and suppressed Indigenous religious practices. Pueblo fighters drove Spanish settlers and officials from the region for about twelve years. Unlike rulers who restricted foreign trade, these communities faced settlers already governing their lands. Their reactions aimed to reclaim local control.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Ming officials allow contact with Portuguese merchants while keeping control?

2. Why did Japan's rulers restrict European access, and what contact continued?

3. How did Afonso I and Nzinga use different methods to defend their authority?

4. How did the Pueblo response differ from the Ming response? Explain how each group's situation shaped its action.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word museum label explaining why reactions to European exploration differed. Use one Asian case and one African or American case, name a pressure each faced, explain each response, and end by challenging the claim that everyone rejected contact.

Contact and Control

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each action taken in response to Europeans, circle the pressure behind it, and number the regions where it happened. Use your marks to compare why responses differed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Ming officials allow contact with Portuguese merchants while keeping control?	**They allowed merchants to settle at Macao but kept it under Chinese authority and limited where foreigners could trade.**
2	Why did Japan's rulers restrict European access, and what contact continued?	**They feared Christianity could weaken their control and link believers to foreign powers. Dutch traders could still trade at Nagasaki under supervision.**
3	How did Afonso I and Nzinga use different methods to defend their authority?	**Afonso I wrote to Portugal's king to protest illegal enslavement. Nzinga used negotiations and armed resistance against Portuguese domination.**
4	How did the Pueblo response differ from the Ming response? Explain how each group's situation shaped its action.	**Pueblo communities rose against settlers already ruling their lands and drove them out. Ming officials still governed their coast, so they limited foreign settlement and trade instead.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ming officials let Portuguese merchants live at Macao while limiting their trade. They faced the challenge of allowing commerce without giving up authority over the settlement. In Kongo, Afonso I protested the seizure of people and asked Portugal to stop illegal enslavement. Both leaders sought to protect their kingdoms, but one regulated a trading settlement while the other challenged abuses connected to trade. The claim that everyone rejected contact misses a key point: both responses allowed some exchange with Europeans.

Accept other accurate comparisons grounded in the passage. For the museum label, look for two distinct pressures, responses linked to those pressures, and a clear challenge to the claim that all contact was rejected.