Revolution and Reality

Trace causes, turning points, and outcomes across the Atlantic.

WH.5.3 "Examine the causes, events, and consequences of the Atlantic Revolutions, including the American, French, Haitian, and Latin American revolutions."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB For each revolution, underline a cause and circle an event. Put 1 beside a consequence for America, 2 for France, 3 for Haiti, and 4 for Spanish America.

When Revolutions Crossed the Atlantic

1 At a Boston harbor in 1773, colonists dumped British tea into the water to protest taxes set without their representatives. War followed, and the colonies declared independence in 1776. After victory, the United States formed a republic, but slavery continued. Across the Atlantic, France faced debt, high food prices, and unequal privileges. In 1789, crowds attacked the Bastille, a royal prison. Revolutionaries ended feudal privileges and proclaimed equal rights, yet political violence and war followed.

2 In France's Caribbean colony of Saint-Domingue, enslaved people produced valuable sugar while facing brutal conditions. News of France's rights declarations sharpened a question: Who counted as equal? In 1791, enslaved people began a revolt that grew into a long war. Leaders including Toussaint Louverture fought to end slavery. In 1804, the colony became Haiti, an independent nation. Independence secured the end of slavery there, but war damage and foreign isolation made the new nation's survival difficult.

3 Revolution also spread through Spanish America. Many American-born elites resented Spanish control of trade and government posts. When Napoleon invaded Spain in 1808, royal authority weakened, creating an opening for independence movements. Simón Bolívar helped win independence for several northern South American regions during years of fighting. New states replaced Spanish rule, but power often stayed with wealthy landowners. Unlike Haiti's revolt, these campaigns were usually led by elites. Across the Atlantic, independence did not guarantee equality.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did grievances in America and France lead to revolutionary events, and what changed in each place?

2. How did conditions and ideas in Saint-Domingue connect to the revolt, and what did the revolt achieve?

3. Why did Spain's invasion create an opening in Spanish America, and what changed after the fighting?

4. How did the leadership and social outcomes of Haiti's revolution differ from those of the Spanish American campaigns?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 65- to 85-word museum label arguing whether the Atlantic Revolutions changed political power more than social equality. Use evidence from three revolutions, linking at least one cause to an event and one event to a consequence.

ANSWER KEY

Revolution and Reality

HIGH SCHOOL · WH.5.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

For each revolution, underline a cause and circle an event. Put 1 beside a consequence for America, 2 for France, 3 for Haiti, and 4 for Spanish America. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did grievances in America and France lead to revolutionary events, and what changed in each place?	**Colonists protested taxes set without their representatives, fought a war, and formed an independent republic. Debt, high food prices, and unequal privileges fueled revolution in France, where revolutionaries ended feudal privileges and proclaimed equal rights.**
2	How did conditions and ideas in Saint-Domingue connect to the revolt, and what did the revolt achieve?	**Enslaved people faced brutal conditions, while French rights declarations raised questions about equality. Their 1791 revolt grew into a war that led to Haiti's independence and secured the end of slavery there.**
3	Why did Spain's invasion create an opening in Spanish America, and what changed after the fighting?	**Napoleon's invasion weakened Spanish royal authority, giving independence movements an opening. New states replaced Spanish rule, although wealthy landowners often retained power.**
4	How did the leadership and social outcomes of Haiti's revolution differ from those of the Spanish American campaigns?	**Enslaved people began Haiti's revolt, which secured the end of slavery there. Elites usually led the Spanish American campaigns, and wealthy landowners often kept power afterward.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Atlantic Revolutions changed political power more consistently than social equality. British taxes without colonial representation helped drive American independence, but slavery continued in the new republic. In Haiti, enslaved people rose against brutal conditions and won independence, securing an end to slavery there. Bolívar helped end Spanish rule in parts of South America, yet wealthy landowners often kept power. These different outcomes show that removing rulers did not always remove the inequalities that revolutions challenged.

Accept either position in the museum label if evidence from three revolutions supports it and the required cause-to-event and event-to-consequence links are clear. For the questions, accept equivalent wording grounded in the passage.