# Routes to Freedom

Compare paths out of foreign rule in three regions.

**WH.6.7** "Describe the paths to decolonization and independence from colonial rule in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline two actions people took to seek independence in each paragraph, then circle the event that ended foreign rule there.

### Three Paths to Independence

1. In British-ruled India, independence activists used different tactics. Mohandas Gandhi led nonviolent protests and boycotts, urging people to refuse cooperation with colonial authorities. During World War II, Britain relied on Indian soldiers and resources while many Indians demanded self-rule. After the war, British leaders agreed to leave. In 1947, Britain divided the territory into India and Pakistan as independence arrived. This division, called Partition, forced millions from their homes and brought widespread violence. Independence followed years of organizing, but it came at a terrible cost.

2. In the British colony of the Gold Coast, independence grew through public organizing and elections. Kwame Nkrumah and the Convention People's Party called for self-government. Strikes and protests increased pressure on British officials, while election victories gave the party seats in a new legislature. British authorities gradually transferred power rather than leaving after a war of independence. In 1957, the Gold Coast became the independent nation of Ghana. Political pressure and electoral gains had both helped bring about that change.

3. Syria's path differed because France governed it under a League of Nations mandate, a form of foreign control established after World War I. Syrians opposed French rule through demonstrations, political negotiations, and, at times, armed resistance. France promised independence during World War II but resisted giving up military control. In 1945, French forces attacked Damascus amid growing tensions. International pressure then mounted, and the last French troops left Syria in 1946. Independence followed years of resistance and a shift in international power.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did activists challenge British rule in India, and what decision brought independence?

2. How did both public pressure and elections help the Gold Coast become Ghana?

3. How did resistance within Syria and pressure from outside Syria shape its independence?

4. Compare the paths of India and the Gold Coast. Name one method they shared and one difference in how independence arrived.

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a colony where residents can elect a local assembly, but foreign troops still control its ports. In four sentences, propose a path to independence using two different methods from the passage, explain how they could help, and name one obstacle.

# Routes to Freedom



## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions people took to seek independence in each paragraph, then circle the event that ended foreign rule there. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | How did activists challenge British rule in India, and what decision brought independence? | **Activists organized nonviolent protests and boycotts. After World War II, British leaders agreed to leave.** |
| 2 | How did both public pressure and elections help the Gold Coast become Ghana? | **Strikes and protests pressured British officials, while election victories gave independence supporters seats in the legislature.** |
| 3 | How did resistance within Syria and pressure from outside Syria shape its independence? | **Syrians resisted French rule through demonstrations, negotiations, and sometimes armed action. Later, international pressure mounted, and French troops left in 1946.** |
| 4 | Compare the paths of India and the Gold Coast. Name one method they shared and one difference in how independence arrived. | **Both used public protest. Britain divided its Indian territory into India and Pakistan as independence arrived, while it gradually transferred power in the Gold Coast.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Residents could elect pro-independence representatives to give their demands an official voice. They could also hold peaceful protests against foreign control of the ports. Together, these actions might push the foreign government to negotiate a troop withdrawal. One obstacle is that officials might accept the election results but refuse to give up the ports.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons and plausible proposals. In Part 3, look for two distinct methods, an explanation of how each could help, and a specific obstacle.