Whose Voice Counts?

Trace an idea from Hooker's sermon to Connecticut's plan for government.

5.C.2.1.D "Thomas Hooker's influence in formulating the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two ideas Hooker shared about government, then circle two rules in the Orders that put those ideas into practice. Write matching numbers beside each idea and rule.

A Sermon and a Plan

1. In the 1630s, settlers in three Connecticut River towns, Hartford, Windsor, and Wethersfield, faced a question: who should make rules for their communities? Thomas Hooker, a minister in Hartford, spoke about government in a 1638 sermon. He argued that a ruler's authority should rest on the people's consent. He also said people should have a voice in choosing their leaders.

2. In 1639, representatives of the three towns agreed to the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, a written plan for government. The Orders called for regular elections and set rules for meetings where leaders would make decisions. They gave towns a role in sending representatives. These rules fit Hooker's ideas about consent and choosing leaders, but Hooker did not write the Orders by himself.

3. The Orders did not give every person a vote. Women could not vote, and men had to meet certain requirements to be voters. Still, the plan placed the choice of leaders in the hands of eligible voters rather than a distant ruler. Hooker's sermon helps explain why this kind of government appealed to the settlers, even though no record proves he wrote the document.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Hooker said a ruler's authority should rest on the people's consent. Which rule in the Orders gave towns a way to take part in government?

2. Which rule in the Orders connects most directly to Hooker's idea that people should have a voice in choosing leaders? Explain the connection.

3. Why is it more accurate to say Hooker influenced the Orders than to say he wrote them?

4. How did the voting rules limit the reach of Hooker's idea about the people's consent?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are advising the three towns before they approve the Orders. In three sentences, propose a new rule for how eligible voters could share their views between elections, explain how it builds on Hooker's idea about consent, and make clear that the rule is your proposal.

ANSWER KEY

Whose Voice Counts?

GRADE 5 · 5.C.2.1.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two ideas Hooker shared about government, then circle two rules in the Orders that put those ideas into practice. Write matching numbers beside each idea and rule. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Hooker said a ruler's authority should rest on the people's consent. Which rule in the Orders gave towns a way to take part in government?	**The Orders let towns send representatives to take part in government.**
2	Which rule in the Orders connects most directly to Hooker's idea that people should have a voice in choosing leaders? Explain the connection.	**Regular elections let eligible voters choose their leaders.**
3	Why is it more accurate to say Hooker influenced the Orders than to say he wrote them?	**The Orders fit ideas from Hooker's sermon, but he did not write them by himself, and no record proves he wrote the document.**
4	How did the voting rules limit the reach of Hooker's idea about the people's consent?	**Not everyone could vote. Women could not vote, and men had to meet certain requirements.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would ask each town to hold a public meeting where eligible voters could share concerns before leaders made a new rule. Town representatives would bring those concerns to the next meeting of the government. This is my proposal, not a rule in the Orders, and it would help leaders hear the views of the people they govern.

Accept accurate links between Hooker's ideas and the Orders' elections or town representatives. For Your Turn, accept a clearly new rule that gives eligible voters a voice between elections and is identified as a proposal.