Ideas for Union

How one confederacy shaped a colonial debate

5.C.2.4.D "Evaluate the influence of the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy on colonial attempts to unite."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details showing how the Haudenosaunee Confederacy could influence colonial ideas about union, and circle one detail that limits how far that influence went.

An Example Colonists Could See

1. Long before the British colonies tried to work together, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy joined several Native nations. By the 1700s, it included the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora. Each nation kept its own leaders and affairs, while leaders met to make decisions on matters they shared. To nearby colonists, this was a living example of separate communities finding ways to act together.

2. At a meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1744, a Haudenosaunee speaker named Canassatego urged British colonies to unite. He pointed to the strength his nations gained by joining together. Colonists faced disputes over land, trade, and defense, so cooperation could matter to them. His message did not mean the colonies already had a shared government. It offered them a reason to consider one.

3. In 1754, colonial delegates met in Albany to discuss defense and relations with Native nations. Benjamin Franklin proposed the Albany Plan of Union, which called for a common council while colonies kept their own assemblies. Franklin had written about the Haudenosaunee example when arguing that colonies could unite. Colonial assemblies and British officials rejected the plan. The Confederacy influenced the debate, but the colonies did not copy its government or adopt Franklin's plan.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How could the way Haudenosaunee nations made shared decisions help colonists imagine a union?

2. How did Canassatego try to influence colonial leaders, and what reason did he give?

3. How did Franklin use the Haudenosaunee example to support a colonial union?

4. Why would it be inaccurate to say the colonies adopted the Haudenosaunee system in 1754?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a delegate at Albany in 1754. In three sentences, propose a way colonies could cooperate on defense or trade, explain how the Haudenosaunee example supports your idea, and name one limit to the comparison.

ANSWER KEY

Ideas for Union

GRADE 5 · 5.C.2.4.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details showing how the Haudenosaunee Confederacy could influence colonial ideas about union, and circle one detail that limits how far that influence went. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How could the way Haudenosaunee nations made shared decisions help colonists imagine a union?	**The nations met to decide shared matters while keeping their own leaders. Colonies could likewise work together while keeping their assemblies.**
2	How did Canassatego try to influence colonial leaders, and what reason did he give?	**He urged the colonies to unite and pointed to the strength Haudenosaunee nations gained by joining together.**
3	How did Franklin use the Haudenosaunee example to support a colonial union?	**He wrote about the Confederacy as an example showing that separate communities could unite.**
4	Why would it be inaccurate to say the colonies adopted the Haudenosaunee system in 1754?	**The colonies did not copy its government, and colonial assemblies and British officials rejected Franklin's plan.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The colonies could choose a council to plan defense when a threat affects more than one colony. The Haudenosaunee show that separate nations can meet about shared concerns while keeping their own leaders. My plan would unite British colonies for defense, not make them part of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy.

Accept answers that connect Haudenosaunee cooperation or Canassatego's advice to colonial ideas about union. Students should distinguish influence from copying or adopting a plan.