The Cost of Victory

How war debt changed trade and taxes in the colonies

5.C.3.1.A "the enforcement of trade restrictions and tax collection by England in response to its debt from the French and Indian War."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the sentence that explains Britain's debt. Circle two actions officers took to enforce trade rules, then number the Sugar Act and Stamp Act in the order they were passed.

A Closer Look at Colonial Trade

1. In 1763, Great Britain won the French and Indian War, but the long fight left its government deep in debt. British leaders wanted the North American colonies to help pay war costs and the cost of keeping soldiers there. Parliament of Great Britain, the country's lawmaking body, looked for money from colonial trade and taxes. It also wanted colonists to follow trade rules that had often been ignored.

2. At a busy colonial port, merchants loaded barrels and checked ships' papers. British trade laws limited where certain colonial products could be sold and required many shipments to use British or colonial ships. Some merchants broke these rules to earn more money. After the war, Britain sent more customs officers to inspect cargo, catch illegal trade, and collect duties, or taxes, on imports. Officers could seize goods brought in against the rules.

3. Parliament passed the Sugar Act in 1764. It lowered an older tax on foreign molasses, but officers enforced the new tax more closely so Britain could collect more money. In 1765, the Stamp Act required colonists to buy official stamps for newspapers, legal papers, and playing cards. Those payments also raised money for Britain. Many colonists protested because they had no elected representatives in Parliament to speak for them about these taxes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did British leaders push for stricter trade enforcement and new taxes after the French and Indian War?

2. Name one trade rule from the passage. How did customs officers enforce trade rules after the war?

3. Why could the Sugar Act bring in more money even though it lowered an older tax?

4. How did the Stamp Act collect money differently from the duties collected at ports?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence message from a colonial merchant to a friend in late 1765. Explain how war debt led Britain to enforce a trade rule and collect a tax, and describe one effect on your work.

ANSWER KEY

The Cost of Victory

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.1.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the sentence that explains Britain's debt. Circle two actions officers took to enforce trade rules, then number the Sugar Act and Stamp Act in the order they were passed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did British leaders push for stricter trade enforcement and new taxes after the French and Indian War?	**Great Britain was deep in debt and wanted the colonies to help pay war costs and the cost of keeping soldiers there.**
2	Name one trade rule from the passage. How did customs officers enforce trade rules after the war?	**Certain colonial products had limits on where they could be sold. Officers inspected cargo and could seize goods brought in against the rules.**
3	Why could the Sugar Act bring in more money even though it lowered an older tax?	**Officers enforced the new tax on foreign molasses more closely, so Britain could collect more of the money owed.**
4	How did the Stamp Act collect money differently from the duties collected at ports?	**The Stamp Act required colonists to buy stamps for items such as newspapers and legal papers. Port duties were taxes on imported goods.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Britain owes money after the French and Indian War, so customs officers now inspect my cargo to enforce trade laws. They can seize goods that break the rules, so I check where my goods may be sold. I also pay for stamps on legal papers under the Stamp Act, which adds to the cost of my work.

Accept either the limits on where certain products could be sold or the ship requirements as a trade rule. For the merchant message, look for an accurate link between war debt, trade enforcement, tax collection, and an effect on the merchant's work.