A Line West

Why the Proclamation of 1763 angered some colonists

5.C.3.1.B "resentment over the Proclamation of 1763 and its restriction of western settlement."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle the sentence that tells where colonists could not settle, and underline two details that explain why some colonists resented the rule.

A Boundary After the War

1. In 1763, Britain had just won a long war against France in North America. British leaders now had to govern a larger area. Fighting over land between settlers and Native nations worried them. King George III issued the Proclamation of 1763. It told colonists not to settle west of a line near the Appalachian Mountains. British leaders hoped this limit would reduce conflict on the frontier.

2. For some colonists, the new boundary felt like a door slammed shut. Families hoped to farm land farther west, where they imagined a fresh start. Others had already claimed western land or planned to sell it for a profit. These colonists could not legally settle there under the proclamation. They resented a rule that blocked plans they had made for their future.

3. The timing made the order sting even more. Some colonists had helped Britain fight the war against France and expected to gain access to western land afterward. Instead, Britain placed a new limit on settlement. British officials saw the limit as a way to prevent more fighting. Many colonists saw it as a decision made far away that ignored their hopes and claims.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why might a family that hoped to farm farther west resent the proclamation?

2. Why might someone who planned to sell western land for a profit resent the new boundary?

3. Why did the proclamation's timing make some colonists especially upset?

4. How did British leaders and many colonists view the settlement limit differently?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence letter from a colonist who hoped to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. Describe a specific plan the rule blocks, explain why you resent it, and acknowledge why British leaders made it.

ANSWER KEY

A Line West

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.1.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle the sentence that tells where colonists could not settle, and underline two details that explain why some colonists resented the rule. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why might a family that hoped to farm farther west resent the proclamation?	**It stopped the family from legally settling on the western land where they hoped to farm.**
2	Why might someone who planned to sell western land for a profit resent the new boundary?	**The rule blocked plans involving western land, including plans to sell it for a profit.**
3	Why did the proclamation's timing make some colonists especially upset?	**Some had helped Britain fight the war and expected access to western land afterward, but the proclamation limited settlement there.**
4	How did British leaders and many colonists view the settlement limit differently?	**British leaders hoped it would prevent fighting. Many colonists felt it ignored their hopes and claims to western land.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear British leaders, my family planned to build a farm west of the Appalachian Mountains after the war. Your proclamation stops us from settling there, and I resent losing the chance we had planned for. I know you hope the boundary will prevent fighting, but it blocks the farm we hoped to build.

Accept different specific plans involving western settlement. Letters should connect resentment to the settlement limit and identify preventing conflict as Britain's reason for it.