Rules and Resistance

How British policies stirred colonial dissent

5.C.3.1 "Analyze how growing political and economic tensions led to dissent among colonists by explaining 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 Britain's reasons for its actions, circle the actions it took, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside three reactions from colonists to show how the policies led to dissent.

After the War

1. In 1763, Britain had won the French and Indian War, but paying for the war left it deep in debt. British leaders wanted the colonies to help cover the cost of soldiers who remained in North America. They also wanted to collect money they believed was being lost to smuggling. These choices brought new attention to rules about colonial trade and to taxes paid by colonists.

2. At a busy colonial port, a merchant might watch a British customs officer inspect a ship's cargo. Britain had long required colonists to follow trade rules, including rules about which goods could be shipped and where. After the war, officers enforced these rules more strictly and collected duties, or taxes, on some imported goods. Some merchants resented the inspections and costs. Other colonists protested taxes passed without their elected representatives in Parliament.

3. The Proclamation of 1763 drew another line of conflict. It told colonists not to settle west of the Appalachian Mountains. British leaders hoped this limit would reduce fighting with Native nations after the war. Yet some colonists wanted western farmland, and others had already claimed land there. They resented being told to stay east. Together, tighter trade enforcement, tax collection, and the settlement limit stirred dissent, or public opposition, toward British rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Britain's debt after the war affect its decisions about the colonies?

2. Why might stricter enforcement of trade rules have caused merchants to resent British rule?

3. Why did some colonists protest the taxes Britain collected?

4. How did the Proclamation of 1763 turn a British goal into a reason for colonial dissent?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a port merchant and a farmer who hopes to move west speaking after the war. Write four sentences of dialogue, two from each person, that show why each disagrees with a different British policy and how the war shaped those policies.

ANSWER KEY

Rules and Resistance

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Britain's reasons for its actions, circle the actions it took, and write 1, 2, and 3 beside three reactions from colonists to show how the policies led to dissent. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Britain's debt after the war affect its decisions about the colonies?	**Britain wanted the colonies to help pay for soldiers and sought more money by enforcing trade rules and collecting taxes.**
2	Why might stricter enforcement of trade rules have caused merchants to resent British rule?	**Customs officers inspected ships more closely and collected duties, adding costs for merchants.**
3	Why did some colonists protest the taxes Britain collected?	**They objected to taxes passed without their elected representatives in Parliament.**
4	How did the Proclamation of 1763 turn a British goal into a reason for colonial dissent?	**Britain hoped to reduce fighting with Native nations by limiting settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains. Colonists who wanted or claimed land there resented the limit.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Merchant: “Britain is checking my cargo more closely because it wants to stop smuggling and collect money after the war.” Farmer: “Britain says its settlement limit will prevent more fighting after the war, but I want land west of the mountains.” Merchant: “I resent the inspections and the duties I must pay on goods.” Farmer: “I resent being told I cannot settle on land I hoped to farm.”

Accept responses that accurately connect each British policy to a postwar goal and explain a distinct reason for each colonist's dissent. Students need not claim that all colonists opposed British rule.