A United Response

Trace how the Intolerable Acts brought colonies together.

5.C.3.2.D "Describe how the passage of the Intolerable Acts (Coercive Acts) prompted the colonists to unite at the First Continental Congress."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two effects of the Acts on colonists, and circle two ways colonists acted together. Number these events in the passage from 1 to 3: Parliament passed the Acts, colonies chose delegates, and delegates met in Philadelphia.

From Boston to Philadelphia

1 In December 1773, protesters in Boston dumped British tea into the harbor to oppose a tax. Parliament answered in 1774 with laws colonists called the Intolerable Acts, also known as the Coercive Acts. One law closed Boston's port until the destroyed tea was paid for. Ships could not bring goods in or carry them out. Boston workers and shopkeepers faced lost income, and people in other colonies heard about their troubles.

2 Another law gave royal officials more control over Massachusetts and limited town meetings, where residents discussed local decisions. Many colonists outside Massachusetts worried that Parliament could take away their right to govern themselves, too. Instead of leaving Boston to face the laws alone, colonists elsewhere sent food and other supplies to its people. Leaders also chose delegates to meet and plan a response together.

3 In September 1774, delegates from twelve colonies met in Philadelphia at the First Continental Congress. Georgia did not send delegates. The delegates agreed to stop buying British goods and asked colonists to join the boycott. They also sent a petition to King George III asking him to protect colonial rights. By acting together, the colonies hoped Britain would change its laws rather than punish one colony at a time.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the port law help move colonists in other colonies toward a shared response?

2. How did the limit on town meetings give colonists outside Massachusetts a reason to join the response?

3. Why was choosing delegates from different colonies a stronger response than leaving Boston to face the Acts alone?

4. How did the First Continental Congress turn concern about the Acts into shared action?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a delegate writing to someone who thinks only Boston should respond to the Acts. Write a four-sentence message that uses two details about the Acts, explains why another colony should care, and proposes one shared action from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

A United Response

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.2.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two effects of the Acts on colonists, and circle two ways colonists acted together. Number these events in the passage from 1 to 3: Parliament passed the Acts, colonies chose delegates, and delegates met in Philadelphia. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the port law help move colonists in other colonies toward a shared response?	**The port closure hurt Boston workers and shopkeepers. Colonists elsewhere heard about their troubles and sent food and supplies.**
2	How did the limit on town meetings give colonists outside Massachusetts a reason to join the response?	**They worried that Parliament might also take away their right to govern themselves.**
3	Why was choosing delegates from different colonies a stronger response than leaving Boston to face the Acts alone?	**Delegates could meet and plan a response together instead of leaving one colony to act alone.**
4	How did the First Continental Congress turn concern about the Acts into shared action?	**Delegates agreed on a boycott of British goods and sent a petition to King George III asking him to protect colonial rights.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

You may think these laws are only Boston's problem, but closing its port has cost workers and shopkeepers income. Parliament also limited town meetings in Massachusetts, so our own right to make local decisions may be at risk. Our colony should join the boycott of British goods agreed on at the First Continental Congress. Acting with other colonies gives us a shared way to press Britain to change its laws.

Accept responses that connect the Acts to concern or action beyond Boston and describe a shared response supported by the passage. For the open task, look for exactly four sentences, two accurate details about the Acts, a reason another colony should care, and one shared action.