From Protest to Independence

How colonists built support for the American Revolution

5.C.3.3 "Explain efforts to mobilize support for the American Revolution. Compare the role of the Sons of Liberty, the Committees of Correspondence, and the Minutemen..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action by each of the three groups, and circle the words that show how fighting changed the conflict. Write 1 beside the tax complaint and 2 beside Paine's argument for independence.

How Support for Revolution Grew

1. In the 1760s and 1770s, many colonists protested taxes set by Britain's Parliament. Colonists did not elect members of Parliament, so they cried, "No taxation without representation!" The Sons of Liberty organized protests and boycotts of British goods. In Boston, some members dumped tea into the harbor in 1773 to protest a tea tax. Their public actions pushed more neighbors to take sides.

2. Protest was only one way to build support. Committees of Correspondence sent letters between towns and colonies, sharing news about British actions and plans for resistance. The Minutemen had a different job. These local militia members trained to respond quickly if fighting began. While committees connected people with messages, Minutemen prepared to defend their communities with weapons.

3. In April 1775, British troops marched to Concord, Massachusetts, to seize colonial military supplies. Shots were fired at Lexington, and fighting broke out again at Concord. As British troops retreated to Boston, militia members attacked them along the road. News of these clashes drew more colonists into armed resistance. In 1776, Thomas Paine's pamphlet *Common Sense* argued that the colonies should govern themselves. It helped many people support independence instead of only protesting British policies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did colonists use the cry "No taxation without representation" to protest Parliament's taxes?

2. How did the Sons of Liberty, Committees of Correspondence, and Minutemen each help colonists in a different way?

3. How did the British march and the fighting at Lexington and Concord push colonists toward armed resistance?

4. How did *Common Sense* change the goal that many colonists supported?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are writing to your town in 1776. Write a four-sentence message urging your neighbors to support independence, using the tax complaint, actions by two different groups, the fighting at Lexington and Concord, and Paine's idea.

ANSWER KEY

From Protest to Independence

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action by each of the three groups, and circle the words that show how fighting changed the conflict. Write 1 beside the tax complaint and 2 beside Paine's argument for independence. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did colonists use the cry "No taxation without representation" to protest Parliament's taxes?	**Colonists had to pay taxes set by Parliament even though they could not elect its members.**
2	How did the Sons of Liberty, Committees of Correspondence, and Minutemen each help colonists in a different way?	**The Sons of Liberty organized public protests and boycotts. The committees shared news and plans by letter. The Minutemen trained to respond quickly if fighting began.**
3	How did the British march and the fighting at Lexington and Concord push colonists toward armed resistance?	**British troops marched to seize military supplies, and fighting followed at Lexington and Concord. News of the clashes drew more colonists into armed resistance.**
4	How did *Common Sense* change the goal that many colonists supported?	**Paine argued that the colonies should govern themselves. His pamphlet helped many colonists support independence instead of only protesting British policies.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

We pay taxes set by a Parliament we cannot elect, and that is unfair. The Sons of Liberty have protested those taxes, while the Committees of Correspondence have shared news so towns can act together. After British troops tried to seize supplies at Concord, fighting at Lexington and Concord showed that this conflict had become a war. As Thomas Paine argued in *Common Sense*, we should govern ourselves, so let us support independence.

Accept different wording that accurately distinguishes each group's role and connects the fighting to growing armed resistance. The final message should make its own case for independence using all five requested elements.