The Road to Independence

Trace how British policies led to colonial resistance.

5.C.3 "Analyze the series of events and policies which led colonists to seek and declare independence. Analyze how growing political and economic tensions led to dissent among colonists by explaining the enforcement of trade restrictions and tax..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three British acts in the passage, then circle a colonial response to each one. Draw a line connecting each act to its response.

From Protest to Independence

1. After the French and Indian War, Britain owed money. It tightened trade rules and collected new taxes from colonists who had no vote in Parliament. The Proclamation of 1763 also blocked settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, angering families hoping to move. The Stamp Act taxed printed paper, while the Quartering Act required colonies to provide housing and supplies for British troops. Delegates at the Stamp Act Congress protested these policies.

2. Colonists tried different ways to resist. The Sons of Liberty organized protests and boycotts of British goods. Committees of Correspondence shared news between colonies, while the Minutemen trained to fight. British Townshend Duties taxed imported goods, and tension between soldiers and townspeople ended in the Boston Massacre. Later, the Tea Act helped spark the Boston Tea Party. Britain answered with the harsh Intolerable Acts, so colonies met at the First Continental Congress.

3. British troops marched to seize colonial weapons in 1775. Fighting at Lexington and Concord turned protest into armed rebellion. Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* urged independence, not just fair treatment from Britain. The cry "no taxation without representation" pointed to a larger struggle for self-rule. On July 4, 1776, Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence. It said people have equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and governments need the people's consent.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Britain collect new taxes after the French and Indian War, and why did colonists object?

2. How did the Committees of Correspondence and the Minutemen prepare colonists to resist in different ways?

3. How did the Tea Act lead to a protest and then to a meeting of colonial leaders?

4. How does the Declaration's idea of consent connect to the colonists' struggle for self-rule?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence message from a colonist to a neighbor in 1776. Explain why you support independence by linking two British actions to colonial responses, and use the Declaration's idea of consent to support your view.

ANSWER KEY

The Road to Independence

GRADE 5 · 5.C.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three British acts in the passage, then circle a colonial response to each one. Draw a line connecting each act to its response. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Britain collect new taxes after the French and Indian War, and why did colonists object?	**Britain owed money after the war. Colonists objected to being taxed when they had no vote in Parliament.**
2	How did the Committees of Correspondence and the Minutemen prepare colonists to resist in different ways?	**The committees shared news between colonies, while the Minutemen trained to fight.**
3	How did the Tea Act lead to a protest and then to a meeting of colonial leaders?	**The Tea Act helped spark the Boston Tea Party. Britain responded with the Intolerable Acts, which led colonies to meet at the First Continental Congress.**
4	How does the Declaration's idea of consent connect to the colonists' struggle for self-rule?	**The Declaration said governments need the people's consent. Colonists wanted a say in the laws and taxes that governed them.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbor, I want our colonies to govern themselves. When Britain taxed printed paper with the Stamp Act, our delegates protested at the Stamp Act Congress. When Britain passed the Tea Act, protesters dumped tea into Boston Harbor. A government needs the people's consent, yet we have no vote in Parliament.

For the marking job, accept any three British acts matched to responses stated in the passage, such as the Stamp Act and Stamp Act Congress, the Tea Act and Boston Tea Party, or the Intolerable Acts and First Continental Congress. For the message, accept other accurate links between British actions and colonial responses.