Turning the Tide

How battles, leadership, and alliances shaped independence

5.C.4.4 "Analyze the relationships of significant military and diplomatic events of the Revolutionary War. Explain how the Battle of Bunker Hill, although a Patriot loss, confirmed colonial commitment to the patriot cause..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three events that changed the Patriots' chances of winning. Circle an effect of each event, then give each event and its effect the same number.

From Setbacks to Independence

(1) At Bunker Hill in 1775, British troops won, but Patriot fighters stood against repeated attacks and caused heavy British losses. Their stand showed that colonists would keep fighting, even when they lost. In late 1776, Thomas Paine's *The Crisis* urged civilians and soldiers not to give up. Washington then boldly led his army across the icy Delaware River and surprised Hessian soldiers, paid to fight for Britain, at Trenton. The victory lifted Patriot spirits.

(2) In 1777, American victories in the Battles of Saratoga showed France that the Patriots could defeat a British army. France later joined the war as an ally. That winter, soldiers at Valley Forge faced freezing weather, hunger, and a shortage of clothing. Washington kept the army together and supported training that helped soldiers fight as one disciplined force. Though Valley Forge was not a battle, the army came out better prepared.

(3) French help mattered at Yorktown in 1781. French soldiers fought alongside the Americans, while French warships blocked British escape by sea. Surrounded by American and French troops on land and blocked at sea, British general Lord Cornwallis surrendered his army. Fighting continued, but Yorktown made a British victory much less likely. In the Treaty of Paris in 1783, Britain recognized the United States as an independent nation. The treaty made freedom official.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did Bunker Hill and Trenton both encourage Patriots, even though the results were different?

2. How did Paine's writing and the victories at Saratoga help the Patriots in different ways?

3. How did Washington's leadership at Valley Forge change the army despite the harsh conditions?

4. How did French help at Yorktown connect to the United States becoming a free nation?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a museum can display only two event labels about how the Patriots gained independence. Choose two different events from the passage and write three sentences explaining how they connect, with a specific detail about each event.

ANSWER KEY

Turning the Tide

GRADE 5 · 5.C.4.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three events that changed the Patriots' chances of winning. Circle an effect of each event, then give each event and its effect the same number. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Bunker Hill and Trenton both encourage Patriots, even though the results were different?	**At Bunker Hill, Patriots lost but showed they would keep fighting. At Trenton, Washington's surprise victory lifted Patriot spirits.**
2	How did Paine's writing and the victories at Saratoga help the Patriots in different ways?	**Paine urged civilians and soldiers not to give up. Saratoga showed France that the Patriots could defeat a British army, helping bring France into the war.**
3	How did Washington's leadership at Valley Forge change the army despite the harsh conditions?	**Washington kept the army together and supported training. The soldiers became a more disciplined force that was better prepared to fight.**
4	How did French help at Yorktown connect to the United States becoming a free nation?	**French troops and warships helped trap Cornwallis, who surrendered. Yorktown made a British victory much less likely, and the Treaty of Paris later recognized the United States as independent.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At Saratoga, Patriot victories showed France that the Americans could defeat a British army. France later sent soldiers and warships that helped trap Cornwallis at Yorktown. His surrender made a British victory much less likely.

Accept any three-sentence response that names two different events, gives an accurate detail about each, and explains a reasonable connection between them.