Words Across Borders

Political choices and diplomacy during the American Revolution

5.C.4.5.B "politics and diplomacy (e.g., Patrick Henry, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Nancy Ward "Nanyehi")"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one action each person took to influence others. Circle the people or groups each person tried to influence so you can compare politics and diplomacy.

Different Paths to Change

1. In 1775, delegates in Virginia argued about how to respond to British rule. Patrick Henry spoke at a meeting and urged them to prepare to fight. His words tried to change a political decision within the colony. Politics includes making decisions for a community. Henry did not make a treaty with another country. He tried to persuade people who could vote on Virginia's next steps.

2. While some leaders argued at home, others built ties abroad. Benjamin Franklin traveled to France to seek help for the American cause. In 1778, France signed treaties with the United States, including one that made them allies. John Adams also served overseas. In 1783, he helped negotiate the Treaty of Paris with Britain. That treaty ended the war and recognized the United States as independent.

3. Nancy Ward, also called Nanyehi, was a Cherokee leader during this time. The Cherokee were a separate nation with their own interests, not a group represented by the new United States. Ward urged Cherokee leaders to seek peace with settlers. She also warned settlers about a planned Cherokee attack in 1776. Her actions show that diplomacy could involve Native nations and settlers, not only countries across the ocean.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Patrick Henry try to influence a political decision in Virginia?

2. How did Franklin's work with France differ from Adams's work with Britain?

3. How did Nancy Ward try to shape relations between Cherokee people and settlers?

4. Henry and Ward both spoke to leaders in their own communities. What different actions did they urge those leaders to take?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two neighboring communities disagree about using a shared river. In four sentences, advise a leader how to use both politics and diplomacy, drawing on one action by Patrick Henry and one action by Nancy Ward or Benjamin Franklin.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 5 · 5.C.4.5.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one action each person took to influence others. Circle the people or groups each person tried to influence so you can compare politics and diplomacy. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Patrick Henry try to influence a political decision in Virginia?	**He spoke to Virginia delegates and urged them to prepare to fight British rule.**
2	How did Franklin's work with France differ from Adams's work with Britain?	**Franklin sought French help, and France became a U.S. ally. Adams helped negotiate a treaty with Britain that ended the war and recognized U.S. independence.**
3	How did Nancy Ward try to shape relations between Cherokee people and settlers?	**She urged Cherokee leaders to seek peace and warned settlers about a planned attack.**
4	Henry and Ward both spoke to leaders in their own communities. What different actions did they urge those leaders to take?	**Henry urged Virginia delegates to prepare to fight. Ward urged Cherokee leaders to seek peace with settlers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The leader should first ask their community to agree on a fair plan for using the river. Patrick Henry tried to persuade Virginia's decision makers, so the leader could make a clear case at a community meeting. Next, the leader should meet with the other community to discuss sharing the water. Nancy Ward urged Cherokee leaders to seek peace with settlers, so the leader should listen and look for an agreement.

Accept different river-sharing plans if the response explains a political action within one community and a diplomatic action between communities. Historical references should accurately describe the named figures' actions.