Allies With Goals

Native alliances in the American Revolution

5.C.4.5.D "Native alliances (e.g., Stockbridge Indian regiment of Minutemen, Oneida scouts)"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one way Stockbridge fighters helped the Patriots and one way Oneida allies helped, circle a reason Native people considered alliances, and number a risk Native allies faced after the war.

Choosing an Alliance

1. In 1775, fighting broke out between Great Britain and the American colonies. The colonists who fought for independence were called Patriots. Native nations faced hard choices. Some people supported the Patriots, others supported Britain, and some tried to stay out of the war. Leaders weighed old agreements, trade ties, and the safety of their homelands. An alliance meant working with one side, but it did not erase a nation's own goals.

2. Near Boston, Stockbridge fighters from a Native community in Massachusetts joined the Patriot side. Some served with colonial militia, alongside Minutemen, who could gather quickly when called. Stockbridge fighters used their knowledge of local paths to scout, or look for signs of enemy movement. They also fought in battles. Their choice to help the Patriots was one way to defend their community's interests during a dangerous war.

3. Farther west, many Oneida people also allied with the Patriots. Oneida scouts carried news about British troop movements to Patriot commanders. At the Battle of Oriskany in 1777, Oneida fighters helped Patriot forces. Not every Oneida person made the same choice. After the war, Native allies still faced pressure on their lands. Their help had mattered to the Patriot war effort, but an alliance did not guarantee that their homelands would be protected.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Stockbridge fighters help the Patriots in two ways?

2. How did Oneida allies help Patriot forces in two ways?

3. What did Stockbridge and Oneida allies have in common? Name one difference in how they helped.

4. Why did helping the Patriots not guarantee safety for Native allies' homelands?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence message from a Stockbridge fighter or an Oneida scout to a Patriot commander. Include one way your group helped, one goal your community might have had, and one concern about the alliance.

ANSWER KEY

Allies With Goals

GRADE 5 · 5.C.4.5.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one way Stockbridge fighters helped the Patriots and one way Oneida allies helped, circle a reason Native people considered alliances, and number a risk Native allies faced after the war. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Stockbridge fighters help the Patriots in two ways?	**They scouted for signs of enemy movement and fought in battles.**
2	How did Oneida allies help Patriot forces in two ways?	**Scouts carried news of British troop movements, and fighters helped Patriot forces at Oriskany.**
3	What did Stockbridge and Oneida allies have in common? Name one difference in how they helped.	**Both helped the Patriots. The passage describes Stockbridge fighters scouting near Boston and Oneida fighters helping at Oriskany.**
4	Why did helping the Patriots not guarantee safety for Native allies' homelands?	**Native allies still faced pressure on their lands after the war.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I am an Oneida scout, and I carry news of British troop movements to your commanders. I hope this alliance will help protect my community's homeland. Even if we help the Patriots win, I worry that others may still press for our land.

Accept passage-supported actions and reasonable community goals or concerns. Students should not suggest that all members of a Native nation made the same choice.