Building a Stronger Union

Trade and stability in the early United States

5.C.5.3.A "the goals of a stronger union with respect to commerce and political stability"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two details showing how leaders hoped to improve trade. Circle two details showing how they hoped to keep the union stable.

Why Change the Government?

1. In the 1780s, a wagon of flour might cross from one state into another on its way to market. Under the Articles of Confederation, Congress could not set one rule for trade between states. States sometimes charged fees on goods from other states. A seller might pay more to move flour, and buyers might face higher prices. Leaders wanted a stronger union so trade could move more smoothly.

2. Money troubles also tested the new nation. Congress could ask states for funds, but it could not collect taxes directly from people. Without a steady supply of money, the national government struggled to pay its debts. In 1786, angry farmers in Massachusetts joined Shays' Rebellion after facing debts and heavy state taxes. The unrest made many leaders worry that the union might not stay stable.

3. In 1787, delegates met in Philadelphia to write a new Constitution. They gave Congress the power to regulate trade between states and with other countries. They also gave the national government a way to collect taxes. A president would carry out national laws, while courts would help settle disputes under those laws. The delegates hoped these changes would support trade and help the government respond to problems without letting any one part hold all power.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Why did leaders want to change how trade between states was handled?

2. How could Congress's new trade power help the flour seller in the passage?

3. How did the government's money problem make a stronger union a goal?

4. How could a president and national courts help keep the union stable?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two states charge different fees on cloth crossing their borders, and they disagree about a national trade law. Write four sentences explaining how a stronger union could improve cloth trade and settle the disagreement. Name one power of Congress and one job of the national courts.

ANSWER KEY

Building a Stronger Union

GRADE 5 · 5.C.5.3.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two details showing how leaders hoped to improve trade. Circle two details showing how they hoped to keep the union stable. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did leaders want to change how trade between states was handled?	**State fees could make goods cost more to move and buy. Leaders wanted trade to move more smoothly.**
2	How could Congress's new trade power help the flour seller in the passage?	**Congress could set rules for trade between states that made it easier for the seller to move flour to market.**
3	How did the government's money problem make a stronger union a goal?	**The government struggled to pay its debts because it could not collect taxes directly. The Constitution gave it a way to collect taxes.**
4	How could a president and national courts help keep the union stable?	**A president could carry out national laws, and courts could help settle disputes under those laws.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Fees at state borders could make cloth cost more for buyers. Congress could use its power to regulate trade between states and set a common rule for cloth shipments. That rule could make it easier for sellers to reach customers across state lines. If the states disagreed about the national law, national courts could help settle the dispute.

Accept trade marks about smoother trade or Congress's power to regulate it. Accept stability marks about collecting taxes, carrying out laws, or settling disputes.