Washington's Parting Advice

Read and discuss ideas from the Farewell Address

5.C.7.1.C "read and discuss his Farewell Address."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Washington's own words in the passage. Circle one warning about parties and one warning about alliances so you can discuss his advice.

A Message for the Future

1 In 1796, George Washington planned to leave the presidency. Instead of giving a speech to a crowd, he shared his Farewell Address in a newspaper. He wanted Americans to think about the country's future. He wrote, "The unity of Government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you." His message asked people to protect the nation they had built together.

2 Washington worried that political parties could turn neighbors against one another. He warned about "the spirit of party," when people care more about defeating rivals than helping the country. He did not say that citizens must always agree. Instead, he wanted people to think about what happens when winning matters more than working together. This warning connects to his call for national unity.

3 Washington also gave advice about other countries. He wrote, "Observe good faith and justice towards all Nations; cultivate peace and harmony with all." He warned against permanent alliances that could pull the young country into other nations' struggles. Still, he said the United States should honor agreements it had already made. To Washington, seeking peace did not mean breaking promises or shutting out the world.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What did Washington want Americans to protect when he wrote about being "one people"? Use the passage to explain.

2. According to the passage, how could "the spirit of party" threaten Washington's hope for the country?

3. Why did Washington warn against permanent alliances while asking the nation to seek peace?

4. Did Washington's warning about permanent alliances mean the United States should break agreements it had already made? Explain using the passage.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine two groups at your school disagree about how to spend money for a shared event. In three sentences, describe their disagreement, name one idea from Washington's Farewell Address, and explain how both groups could use it.

ANSWER KEY

Washington's Parting Advice

GRADE 5 · 5.C.7.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Washington's own words in the passage. Circle one warning about parties and one warning about alliances so you can discuss his advice. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What did Washington want Americans to protect when he wrote about being "one people"? Use the passage to explain.	**He wanted Americans to protect their national unity and the country they had built together.**
2	According to the passage, how could "the spirit of party" threaten Washington's hope for the country?	**People might care more about defeating a rival party than helping the country, turning neighbors against one another.**
3	Why did Washington warn against permanent alliances while asking the nation to seek peace?	**He thought permanent alliances could pull the United States into other nations' struggles, even as it tried to live peacefully with them.**
4	Did Washington's warning about permanent alliances mean the United States should break agreements it had already made? Explain using the passage.	**No. The passage says he wanted the United States to honor agreements it had already made.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

One group wants music, while the other wants games for the school event. Washington's call for unity suggests that both groups should listen instead of treating each other as enemies. They could divide the money between music and games so everyone can enjoy the event.

For the marking job, accept either quoted passage in paragraph one or three, the party warning in paragraph two, and the permanent-alliance warning in paragraph three. For Your Turn, accept a different school disagreement if the response names an idea from the address and applies it to both groups.