Defending a New Nation

How stronger land and sea forces protected the United States

5.C.7.2.A "ensured the new nation's ability to defend itself by strengthening the army and navy"

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle two threats to the new country. Underline one action that strengthened the army and one that strengthened the navy, then write A or N beside each action.

Protecting the United States

1. In the early 1790s, the United States was a new country with a small army and almost no navy. Its merchant ships carried goods across the ocean, but pirates near North Africa could seize them. Fighting over land in the West also showed that soldiers needed better training. Without ways to protect its people and trade, the country could struggle to remain independent.

2. President George Washington supported a stronger army. In 1792, the government organized soldiers into the Legion of the United States. General Anthony Wayne trained these troops to work together. Congress also approved building six warships in 1794 to protect American trade from attacks at sea. As the ships were built, the country gained a way to defend trade by water.

3. Under President John Adams, trouble with France put American merchant ships at risk. French ships seized American vessels, and Congress created the Department of the Navy in 1798. The United States sent armed ships to protect trade and prepared more soldiers in case fighting spread to land. Adams also sought peace with France. Stronger forces helped the country defend its independence without a full-scale war.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Anthony Wayne's work help make the army stronger?

2. What danger did Congress hope to address by approving six warships?

3. During the trouble with France, how did the United States prepare to defend itself by both sea and land?

4. Why could a stronger army and navy help the new country remain independent?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise a new country facing raids on farms inland and attacks on ships carrying food. Write three sentences that propose an army action and a navy action, and explain how both would help the country stay independent.

ANSWER KEY

Defending a New Nation

GRADE 5 · 5.C.7.2.A

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle two threats to the new country. Underline one action that strengthened the army and one that strengthened the navy, then write A or N beside each action. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Anthony Wayne's work help make the army stronger?	**He trained soldiers in the Legion of the United States to work together.**
2	What danger did Congress hope to address by approving six warships?	**Attacks at sea threatened American merchant ships and trade.**
3	During the trouble with France, how did the United States prepare to defend itself by both sea and land?	**It sent armed ships to protect trade and prepared more soldiers in case fighting spread to land.**
4	Why could a stronger army and navy help the new country remain independent?	**They helped the country protect its people and trade from threats on land and at sea.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would train soldiers to protect farms from inland raids. I would send armed ships to guard boats carrying food. Together, these actions would help people get the food they need and keep the country from depending on another nation for protection.

Accept any passage-supported explanation that connects stronger land and sea forces to protection. For Part 3, look for distinct army and navy actions and an explanation of how they support independence.