Paths to Union

Compare how different groups joined forces and shared decisions.

8.C.1.1.F "Compare the Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) Confederacy with early attempts to unite the colonies."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each union's purpose, and circle the words that tell who chose its shared leaders or representatives. Use your marks to compare the unions.

Three Ways to Join Forces

1. Long before the thirteen British colonies existed, five Haudenosaunee nations joined in a confederacy: the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca. The Tuscarora joined later. Their Great Law of Peace provided a way to settle conflicts among member nations and act together on important matters. Each nation kept its own leaders and local affairs. In a shared council, chiefs selected by clan mothers worked toward agreement through discussion. This was an enduring alliance among Indigenous nations, not a plan written by a king or colonial assembly.

2. In 1643, four English colonies in New England formed the New England Confederation: Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven. They hoped to coordinate defense against perceived threats from neighboring Indigenous peoples and European rivals. The colonies kept their own governments but sent representatives to a joint commission. Commissioners could discuss shared concerns and agree on joint action, including military support. Like the Haudenosaunee, these colonies tried to cooperate while keeping local control. Unlike the Haudenosaunee council, this commission represented colonial governments rather than independent Indigenous nations.

3. At Albany in 1754, delegates from seven British colonies discussed another plan for union. Benjamin Franklin helped write the Albany Plan, which proposed a Grand Council chosen by colonial assemblies and a president general appointed by the British Crown. The proposed government would coordinate defense and relations with Indigenous nations, while colonies kept their own governments. Unlike the Haudenosaunee council, this plan gave the Crown a role in selecting a central leader. The colonial assemblies did not approve it, so the proposed union never took effect.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the New England Confederation both allow members to act together without giving up local control?

2. How did the people represented in the Haudenosaunee council differ from those represented in the New England commission?

3. Compare how leaders were chosen for the Haudenosaunee council and the government proposed in the Albany Plan.

4. How did the outcome of the Albany Plan differ from that of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Three school clubs want to plan one shared event without giving up control of their own activities. In four sentences, recommend a decision-making feature from the Haudenosaunee Confederacy or one colonial union, compare it with a different feature from another union in the passage, and explain why your choice fits the clubs.

ANSWER KEY

Paths to Union

GRADE 8 · 8.C.1.1.F

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each union's purpose, and circle the words that tell who chose its shared leaders or representatives. Use your marks to compare the unions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the New England Confederation both allow members to act together without giving up local control?	**Both had a shared council or commission to address common concerns, while member nations or colonies kept control of their local affairs.**
2	How did the people represented in the Haudenosaunee council differ from those represented in the New England commission?	**The Haudenosaunee council represented independent Indigenous nations. The New England commission represented English colonial governments.**
3	Compare how leaders were chosen for the Haudenosaunee council and the government proposed in the Albany Plan.	**Clan mothers selected chiefs for the Haudenosaunee council. Under the Albany Plan, colonial assemblies would choose the Grand Council, and the British Crown would appoint a president general.**
4	How did the outcome of the Albany Plan differ from that of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy?	**The Haudenosaunee formed an enduring alliance. Colonial assemblies did not approve the Albany Plan, so its proposed union never took effect.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The clubs should use the Haudenosaunee council's practice of discussing plans until they reach agreement. Each club could still run its own activities while its representatives discuss the shared event. The Albany Plan instead included a president general appointed by the British Crown, alongside a council chosen by colonial assemblies. A leader appointed from outside the clubs would give them less say than working toward agreement together.

Accept other accurate comparisons supported by the passage. For Your Turn, look for a practical recommendation, a comparison with another union, and a reason tied to the clubs' need for local control.