Costs and Control

How British laws affected colonial trade and local decisions

8.C.1.3.B "Describe the effect on colonial economics and local self-government created by the series of trade restrictions and imposed taxes, such as the Sugar Act, Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, and Quartering Act."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail that shows an economic effect of a British law. Circle each detail that shows an effect on local self-government, then use your marks to explain how costs and control were connected.

Who Paid, Who Decided?

1. Imagine a Boston shopkeeper opening a crate of imported goods. British trade rules already limited which ships could carry colonial goods and where some goods could be sold. The Sugar Act of 1764 tightened collection of duties on imported molasses, a key ingredient in rum. Its duty rate was lower than an earlier rate, but stronger enforcement made avoiding payment harder. A merchant who paid the duty faced higher costs and might raise prices. The Stamp Act of 1765 required paid stamps on newspapers, legal documents, and many other printed items, adding costs to business and daily life.

2. In 1767, the Townshend Acts placed duties on imported glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea. Importers paid the duties, and buyers could face higher prices when those costs were passed along. Parliament planned to use some revenue to pay royal officials, reducing their dependence on colonial assemblies for salaries. The Quartering Act of 1765 required colonial governments to provide supplies for British troops and arrange lodging in barracks. If barracks lacked room, troops could be housed in inns and other specified lodgings. Paying for supplies put pressure on colonial budgets.

3. Colonial assemblies were elected locally and had long voted on taxes and spending. Many colonists argued that Parliament had no right to tax them when they had no elected representatives there. Assembly members also objected when British rules directed how they should spend local money or reduced their control over officials' pay. Colonists sent petitions, organized boycotts of British goods, and challenged the taxes in public debate. These actions did not erase the costs right away, but they showed how economic burdens and disputes over local self-government had become linked.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did stronger enforcement of the Sugar Act affect a merchant who imported molasses?

2. How did the Stamp Act add costs to colonial life, and why might colonists object to Parliament imposing those costs?

3. How could the Townshend Acts affect both buyers and a colonial assembly's power over officials?

4. How did the Quartering Act affect colonial budgets and local decisions about spending?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four- or five-sentence speech from the viewpoint of a colonial assembly member. Explain one economic effect of each of two laws in the passage, tell how at least one law challenged local self-government, and propose a response described in the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Costs and Control

GRADE 8 · 8.C.1.3.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each detail that shows an economic effect of a British law. Circle each detail that shows an effect on local self-government, then use your marks to explain how costs and control were connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did stronger enforcement of the Sugar Act affect a merchant who imported molasses?	**Stronger enforcement made the duty harder to avoid. Paying it raised the merchant's costs and might lead to higher prices.**
2	How did the Stamp Act add costs to colonial life, and why might colonists object to Parliament imposing those costs?	**Paid stamps added costs to newspapers, legal documents, and other printed items. Colonists objected because they had no elected representatives in Parliament to vote on the tax.**
3	How could the Townshend Acts affect both buyers and a colonial assembly's power over officials?	**Buyers could face higher prices if importers passed along the duties. Revenue used to pay royal officials would make those officials less dependent on assemblies for salaries.**
4	How did the Quartering Act affect colonial budgets and local decisions about spending?	**Providing supplies for British troops put pressure on colonial budgets. The requirement directed colonial governments to spend money on supplies rather than leaving that choice entirely to local assemblies.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Neighbors, the Stamp Act can make newspapers and legal documents cost more. The Quartering Act also strains our assembly's budget because we must supply British troops. We elect this assembly to decide how local money is spent, yet Parliament imposes these costs without our representatives there. Let us petition Parliament to repeal these laws. We can also boycott British goods to show that these decisions harm our communities.

Accept accurate economic effects and explanations of reduced local control supported by the passage. For the speech, check for two distinct laws, an economic effect for each, a self-government connection, and a response named in the passage.