Choices That Lasted

Washington's decisions and the presidency they shaped

8.C.5.1 "Assess the legacy of President Washington on the nature of the presidency and the executive branch. Describe the purpose of the Cabinet as established by Washington and its role in today's executive branch..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline four choices Washington made, then circle one consequence of each choice. Use your marks to trace how his decisions shaped federal power and people's lives.

Setting the Presidency in Motion

1. In 1794, western Pennsylvania farmers protested a federal tax on whiskey, sometimes threatening tax collectors. President George Washington called up state militias to enforce the law. The uprising collapsed with little fighting. His response showed that the new federal government could enforce its laws, although critics saw the tax as unfair to small farmers. Washington also began meeting regularly with the heads of executive departments, creating a Cabinet to give him specialized advice. Today, Cabinet members advise the president, and department leaders oversee agencies that carry out federal policy.

2. Washington sought one federal approach to relations with Native nations, but it combined promises with pressure. His government made treaties that marked Tribal lands and proposed that Native communities adopt farming practices favored by U.S. officials, an approach called assimilation. After U.S. troops defeated a Native alliance, the 1795 Treaty of Greenville required several Native nations to give up large areas of present-day Ohio while recognizing their claim to other lands. U.S. officials promised to respect those boundaries, but settlers continued to cross them. For Native nations, this policy meant lost land and threatened independence.

3. After two terms, Washington chose not to run again in 1796. He wanted to show that a president could surrender power peacefully, unlike a monarch. His decision helped establish a two-term custom, though it did not become a legal limit until the Twenty-Second Amendment was ratified in 1951. In his Farewell Address, Washington warned that political factions could put party loyalty above the public good and that permanent foreign alliances could pull the nation into conflicts. He also argued that morality supported self-government because citizens and leaders needed to act with honesty and responsibility.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Washington's Cabinet help him lead, and what role do Cabinet members have today?

2. What did Washington's response to the Whiskey Rebellion show about federal power? Why did some people object to the tax?

3. How did Washington's approach to Native nations combine promises with pressure, and what was one result for Native nations?

4. How did Washington's choice not to seek a third term and his Farewell Address advice aim to protect self-government?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you advise a new president facing protests over a federal law and pressure from settlers to take Tribal land. Write one paragraph recommending how to handle both problems, using two Washington-era examples. Explain one benefit of your plan and one risk or limit.

ANSWER KEY

Choices That Lasted

GRADE 8 · 8.C.5.1

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline four choices Washington made, then circle one consequence of each choice. Use your marks to trace how his decisions shaped federal power and people's lives. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Washington's Cabinet help him lead, and what role do Cabinet members have today?	**Department heads gave Washington specialized advice. Today, Cabinet members advise the president, and department leaders oversee agencies that carry out federal policy.**
2	What did Washington's response to the Whiskey Rebellion show about federal power? Why did some people object to the tax?	**Calling up militias showed that the federal government could enforce its laws. Critics thought the whiskey tax was unfair to small farmers.**
3	How did Washington's approach to Native nations combine promises with pressure, and what was one result for Native nations?	**Treaties marked Tribal lands, but U.S. officials also urged Native communities to adopt farming practices they favored. The Treaty of Greenville required land cessions, and settlers crossed boundaries the United States had promised to respect.**
4	How did Washington's choice not to seek a third term and his Farewell Address advice aim to protect self-government?	**Leaving office showed that a president could give up power peacefully. Washington warned that factions could put party above the public good and permanent alliances could draw the nation into conflicts. He argued that honest, responsible behavior supported self-government.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Tell the president to enforce the federal law while protecting peaceful protest. During the Whiskey Rebellion, Washington called up militias, showing that federal law had force, but some farmers saw the tax as unfair. The president should listen to complaints before using force. For the land dispute, honor treaty boundaries instead of giving in to settlers. The Treaty of Greenville recognized some Native lands, yet settlers crossed those lines after Native nations had already lost land. This plan protects federal authority and Tribal rights, but it cannot erase distrust caused by settlers' past violations of boundaries.

Accept different recommendations if they address both problems, accurately use two Washington-era examples, and explain a benefit and a risk or limit. Do not treat the recognition of Tribal lands as canceling the land losses required by the Treaty of Greenville.