Decisions That Spread

Trace the goals and consequences of Jefferson's policies

8.C.6.3 "Examine the policies of President Thomas Jefferson by describing significant decisions to promote a western expansionist policy through the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory and authorization of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline these four decisions in the passage: the Louisiana Purchase, authorization of the Corps of Discovery, proposals for Tribal removal, and the Embargo Act. Number them 1 through 4, and circle a goal or effect linked to each one.

Jefferson's Decisions, Many Consequences

(1) In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson bought the Louisiana Territory from France. The purchase nearly doubled the size of the United States and gave the nation control of New Orleans, a vital port for farmers shipping crops down the Mississippi River. Jefferson wanted room for western settlement and safer access to trade along the river. He then authorized the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery to explore the new territory and seek a route to the Pacific Ocean. The expedition recorded rivers, plants, and animals and met with Native nations whose lands Americans now claimed.

(2) For Native nations, expansion meant a different future. Jefferson urged some Native leaders to exchange their eastern homelands for land west of the Mississippi River. His administration also pressed tribes to give up land for settlers. These early removal proposals did not create Indian Territory or force every tribe to move during his presidency. Decades later, the federal government forced many tribes west and designated lands there as Indian Territory. Jefferson's policies helped start a process that opened land to American settlers while threatening Native peoples' homes and independence.

(3) Across the Atlantic, British warships seized American ships and sailors during the wars in Europe. Jefferson responded by signing the Embargo Act of 1807, which stopped American ships from sailing to foreign ports to trade. He hoped cutting off trade would pressure Britain to respect American rights without a war and shield American ships from attack. With fewer imported goods available, Americans had a reason to make more products at home. Yet the embargo also damaged American merchants and farmers who depended on overseas sales, and Britain did not quickly change its policies.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What two goals did Jefferson pursue through the Louisiana Purchase?

2. How did authorizing the Corps of Discovery support Jefferson's plans for western expansion?

3. How did Jefferson's approach to Tribal lands help begin a process that led to Indian Territory?

4. Why did Jefferson choose the embargo, and what were two contrasting effects at home?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five- or six-sentence editorial judging whether Jefferson's policies brought the same benefits to all groups. Use evidence about western expansion, Tribal removal proposals, and the embargo, including at least one intended goal and one cost.

ANSWER KEY

Decisions That Spread

GRADE 8 · 8.C.6.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline these four decisions in the passage: the Louisiana Purchase, authorization of the Corps of Discovery, proposals for Tribal removal, and the Embargo Act. Number them 1 through 4, and circle a goal or effect linked to each one. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What two goals did Jefferson pursue through the Louisiana Purchase?	**He wanted room for western settlement and safer access to trade through New Orleans and the Mississippi River.**
2	How did authorizing the Corps of Discovery support Jefferson's plans for western expansion?	**The expedition explored the region, sought a route to the Pacific, and gathered information about its land and Native nations.**
3	How did Jefferson's approach to Tribal lands help begin a process that led to Indian Territory?	**He urged some Native leaders to exchange eastern homelands for western land and pressed tribes to give up land for settlers. Decades later, the federal government forced many tribes west and designated lands there as Indian Territory.**
4	Why did Jefferson choose the embargo, and what were two contrasting effects at home?	**He hoped to pressure Britain and protect American ships without war. Fewer imports encouraged manufacturing, but lost overseas sales hurt merchants and farmers.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jefferson's policies did not bring the same benefits to everyone. He bought the Louisiana Territory to make room for settlement and protect trade through New Orleans. The Corps of Discovery gathered information that could help Americans move west. But Jefferson also urged Native leaders to exchange their homelands for western land, threatening their independence. His embargo aimed to protect American ships and pressure Britain, while fewer imports gave Americans a reason to make goods at home. Merchants and farmers paid a heavy price when they lost overseas sales.

Accept other passage-supported wording for goals and effects. Distinguish Jefferson's early removal proposals from the later forced removals and designation of Indian Territory.