Pride and Division

Read how national pride shaped the Era of Good Feelings.

8.C.7.1.C "Describe how the Era of Good Feelings was marked by a sense of nationalism and patriotism."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two actions that show national pride, circle words that suggest unity across states or parties, and write 1 beside a detail that shows a limit to that unity.

A Nation Feeling Connected

1. In 1817, President James Monroe traveled through New England, where many voters had once opposed his political party. Crowds welcomed him anyway, and a Boston newspaper called the hopeful mood an "Era of Good Feelings." The United States had recently fought the War of 1812 against Britain. Many Americans took pride in their country for standing up to a powerful nation. Monroe's welcome suggested that some people were willing to think of themselves as Americans first, not only as supporters of a party or residents of a region.

2. National pride also appeared in plans to connect and strengthen the country. The federal government helped pay for the National Road, which linked eastern towns to lands farther west. A road across state lines could carry travelers, mail, and goods, making distant places feel more connected. In 1816, Congress passed a tariff, a tax on imported goods, partly to protect American factories from foreign competition. Supporters saw both the road and the tariff as ways to build a stronger nation, not just help one state.

3. The friendly name did not mean that everyone agreed. In 1819, an economic crash cost many Americans jobs and savings. The next year, Congress argued bitterly over whether Missouri would enter the Union as a state that allowed slavery. The Missouri Compromise of 1820 settled the immediate question, but it did not end the conflict over slavery. Some leaders also disputed how much power the federal government should have. The era combined real expressions of patriotism with serious divisions that national pride could not erase.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the welcome Monroe received in New England show a sense of national unity?

2. Why might supporters have viewed the National Road as a patriotic project?

3. How could the tariff of 1816 express nationalism, even though it taxed imported goods?

4. How does the debate over Missouri complicate the name "Era of Good Feelings"?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are traveling on the National Road in 1820 and meet people from two different states. Write four sentences about how that meeting could show national pride, using one detail from the passage, and explain why the era's unity was incomplete.

ANSWER KEY

Pride and Division

GRADE 8 · 8.C.7.1.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two actions that show national pride, circle words that suggest unity across states or parties, and write 1 beside a detail that shows a limit to that unity. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the welcome Monroe received in New England show a sense of national unity?	**People in a region that had opposed Monroe's party welcomed him, suggesting that national identity could matter more than party loyalty.**
2	Why might supporters have viewed the National Road as a patriotic project?	**It connected places across state lines and helped travelers, mail, and goods move between them, strengthening the country as a whole.**
3	How could the tariff of 1816 express nationalism, even though it taxed imported goods?	**Supporters wanted to protect American factories from foreign competition and strengthen the nation's economy.**
4	How does the debate over Missouri complicate the name "Era of Good Feelings"?	**The bitter debate over slavery showed that national pride did not erase serious divisions.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

At a stop on the National Road, I met a farmer from Maryland and a merchant from Ohio who talked about selling goods to one another. The road carried travelers and goods across state lines, and we felt proud that our country could connect distant places. We spoke as Americans, not only as people from separate states. Still, our conversation grew tense when we discussed the debate over whether Missouri would allow slavery, showing that our unity had limits.

Accept other passage-based explanations of nationalism and patriotism, including pride after the War of 1812 or support for American factories. The open response should use an imagined meeting, include an accurate passage detail, and acknowledge a division described in the passage.