Unity Under Strain

Read how national pride and sectional conflict shaped a new era.

8.C.7 "Examine the political, economic and social transformations during the "Era of Good Feelings." Analyze how the War of 1812 confirmed the independence of the United States of America. Summarize the causes of the war..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the two causes of the War of 1812. Circle the McCulloch ruling, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Missouri Compromise, then draw an arrow from each to one result described in the passage.

A Nation Pulling Together and Apart

1. In 1812, American ships carried goods across the Atlantic, but Britain restricted U.S. trade while fighting France. British warships also stopped American vessels and forced some sailors into British service, a practice called impressment. These attacks on trade and sailors helped cause the War of 1812. The war ended in 1815 without major border changes. Still, Americans had fought Britain again and preserved their independence. When a British attack on Fort McHenry failed, Francis Scott Key wrote lyrics about the flag still flying. Those words later became the national anthem.

2. After the war, national pride helped shape the Era of Good Feelings, when one major party dominated national politics. Supporters hoped a national bank and improved roads would connect the economy, though prosperity was uneven. In 1819, the Supreme Court ruled in McCulloch v. Maryland that Maryland could not tax the federal bank; a state could not use taxes to weaken a federal institution. In 1823, President Monroe warned Europe against new colonies in the Americas. His Monroe Doctrine protected U.S. interests in the Western Hemisphere while avoiding Europe's conflicts.

3. National unity had limits. As settlers moved west, Southern leaders wanted slavery allowed in new territories to protect their political power, while many Northerners opposed its expansion and urged national limits. In 1820, Congress passed the Missouri Compromise: Missouri entered as a slave state and Maine as a free state, keeping the Senate balanced. It also barred slavery north of 36°30′ in the Louisiana Purchase, except in Missouri. This bargain delayed a larger clash over slavery, but its dividing line showed how deeply the sections disagreed about the nation's future.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did British actions help cause the War of 1812, and what did the war show about U.S. independence?

2. How did the anthem's image of the flag fit the national mood after the war?

3. How did the McCulloch ruling and the Monroe Doctrine each protect a U.S. interest?

4. How did the Missouri Compromise ease conflict for a time while showing that conflict could continue?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you edit a newspaper in 1823. Write a five-sentence editorial arguing whether the nation truly feels united. Connect the War of 1812 to one later federal action, explain how the Missouri Compromise complicates your claim, and use at least two precise facts from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

Unity Under Strain

GRADE 8 · 8.C.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline the two causes of the War of 1812. Circle the McCulloch ruling, the Monroe Doctrine, and the Missouri Compromise, then draw an arrow from each to one result described in the passage. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did British actions help cause the War of 1812, and what did the war show about U.S. independence?	**British trade restrictions and impressment helped cause the war. By fighting Britain again and preserving its independence, the United States showed it could endure as an independent nation.**
2	How did the anthem's image of the flag fit the national mood after the war?	**The flag still flying after the attack on Fort McHenry represented national endurance and reflected the pride that shaped the Era of Good Feelings.**
3	How did the McCulloch ruling and the Monroe Doctrine each protect a U.S. interest?	**McCulloch stopped a state from taxing and weakening the federal bank. The Monroe Doctrine warned Europe against new colonies in the Americas to protect U.S. interests in the Western Hemisphere.**
4	How did the Missouri Compromise ease conflict for a time while showing that conflict could continue?	**Admitting one free state and one slave state kept the Senate balanced and delayed a larger clash. The dividing line over slavery showed that the sections still disagreed about its expansion.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The flag still flying above Fort McHenry gives Americans reason to celebrate our independence. Fighting Britain again showed that our nation could survive an attack. President Monroe's warning to European powers turns that national spirit into a policy meant to protect our interests in the Americas. Yet the Missouri Compromise balanced Maine and Missouri only by drawing a line over slavery in western land. A nation that must divide its territory this way cannot call its unity secure.

For the arrows, accept any accurate result stated in the passage for each circled action. Editorials may argue that unity is real, fragile, or incomplete if they support the claim with passage facts and address the sectional conflict.