Trade and Territory

How commerce, finance, and naval power shaped a British empire

MWH.C.3.2.C "Describe England's fiscal, commercial, and technological innovations, including the culture of trade, England's military success in successive wars with France, and the consequent establishment of a British Empire in North America."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about trade, circle two ways the government supported war, and number two territorial gains from wars with France. Use your marks to trace how these developments were connected.

From London Docks to North America

1 At a London dock in the early 1700s, merchants inspected barrels of colonial tobacco and ordered ships to carry manufactured goods across the Atlantic. Trade was a familiar business in English ports, where investors shared risks and sought profits from distant markets. Parliament's Navigation Acts directed much colonial trade through English ships and ports, benefiting some English merchants while limiting colonial choices. Profits and customs duties helped support a growing state, but private trade did not pay for wars by itself. England needed a more dependable way to raise large sums quickly when fighting France.

2 After 1688, Parliament approved taxes and loans that allowed the government to borrow on the promise of future tax revenue. The Bank of England, founded in 1694, helped organize government loans. These fiscal changes gave lenders greater confidence and helped fund a larger navy. Technology mattered, too: expanded dockyards equipped and repaired warships, while improved navigation instruments helped crews measure latitude at sea. Money could keep ships supplied and sailors paid, and dockyards could return damaged vessels to service. Together, these advantages helped England, and after 1707 Great Britain, fight long wars against France overseas.

3 Victory did not come in a single battle. In the War of the Spanish Succession, which ended in 1713, Britain gained French territories including mainland Acadia, Newfoundland, and the Hudson Bay region. After the Seven Years' War ended in 1763, France ceded Canada to Britain. These gains expanded British control in North America and created more opportunities for British traders and settlers. They also intensified pressure on Indigenous peoples, whose lands were not simply empty prizes. Britain's empire grew from a linked process: trade encouraged investment, taxes and borrowing supported armed forces, and military victories brought new territory under British rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did England's culture of trade and the Navigation Acts support English merchants? What choice did the acts limit?

2. How did taxes, borrowing, and the Bank of England help Britain sustain wars with France?

3. Explain how one development in shipyards and one development in navigation helped Britain fight overseas.

4. How did the outcomes of two wars with France expand British control in North America?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a museum label of 75 to 100 words for a model British warship displayed beside a barrel of tobacco. Explain how trade, government borrowing, naval technology, and victories over France worked together to expand Britain's empire in North America, and include a consequence for Indigenous peoples.

ANSWER KEY

Trade and Territory

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.3.2.C

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about trade, circle two ways the government supported war, and number two territorial gains from wars with France. Use your marks to trace how these developments were connected. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did England's culture of trade and the Navigation Acts support English merchants? What choice did the acts limit?	**Investors sought profits from Atlantic trade, and the Navigation Acts directed much colonial trade through English ships and ports. The acts limited colonists' trading choices.**
2	How did taxes, borrowing, and the Bank of England help Britain sustain wars with France?	**Taxes backed government loans, and the Bank of England helped organize them. Borrowing helped fund a larger navy and keep ships supplied and sailors paid.**
3	Explain how one development in shipyards and one development in navigation helped Britain fight overseas.	**Expanded dockyards equipped and repaired warships, while improved instruments helped crews measure latitude at sea.**
4	How did the outcomes of two wars with France expand British control in North America?	**After the War of the Spanish Succession, Britain gained mainland Acadia, Newfoundland, and the Hudson Bay region. After the Seven Years' War, France ceded Canada to Britain.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The tobacco barrel shows why Atlantic trade mattered to English merchants: distant markets offered profits worth pursuing. The warship shows how Britain protected and expanded that trade. Taxes supported government borrowing, which helped pay sailors and supply ships during long wars with France. Dockyards repaired warships, and improved navigation instruments helped crews cross the ocean. British victories brought mainland Acadia, Newfoundland, the Hudson Bay region, and later Canada under British control. Traders and settlers gained new opportunities, but this growing empire increased pressure on Indigenous peoples and their lands.

Accept equivalent causal explanations grounded in the passage. For the museum label, check that all four specified factors are connected to expansion and that the consequence for Indigenous peoples is accurate.