From Protest to Parliament

Trace Ghana's path from colonial rule to independence.

MWH.C.7.5.B "Describe the struggle for self-government in Ghana, including the influence of Kwame Nkrumah."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one limit on self-government in the Gold Coast, circle three actions people took to change colonial rule, and number three turning points in the order they occurred.

How the Gold Coast Became Ghana

1. In 1948, a crowd gathered in the British colony of the Gold Coast after police fired on unarmed African veterans marching to present a petition. The veterans sought promised payments and better treatment. Anger over the shootings spread into riots, adding to complaints about high prices and colonial rule. Although some Africans held seats on governing councils, British officials still controlled major decisions. The United Gold Coast Convention, or UGCC, demanded greater African control. British authorities arrested six of its leaders, including Kwame Nkrumah, after the unrest. The arrests made the struggle for self-government harder to ignore.

2. Nkrumah believed the UGCC was moving too slowly. In 1949, he left it and formed the Convention People's Party, or CPP, which demanded self-government without delay. The party built support among workers, young people, and others who wanted a louder political voice. In 1950, Nkrumah called for Positive Action, a campaign of strikes, boycotts, and public protest. Colonial officials imprisoned him, but prison did not end his influence. His party continued organizing, turning demands for independence into a mass political movement. Supporters faced a difficult question: how could they push for change while working within institutions still shaped by Britain?

3. In 1951, elections for a new legislative assembly gave the CPP a decisive victory, even while Nkrumah was in prison. British officials released him, and he took a leading role in the new government. He became prime minister in 1952, but Britain had not yet granted full independence. The CPP won further elections, strengthening its claim that voters wanted self-government. On March 6, 1957, the Gold Coast became independent as Ghana, with Nkrumah as prime minister. The struggle had moved through protest, imprisonment, organizing, and elections. Each step helped transfer political power from colonial officials to Ghanaian leaders.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What limited self-government in the Gold Coast, and how did the UGCC respond?

2. How did Nkrumah's approach differ from the UGCC's, and what did he do about it?

3. How did the CPP continue the struggle after colonial officials imprisoned Nkrumah?

4. How did election results help move the Gold Coast toward independence?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 95 word museum label titled "From Protest to Parliament" that explains how the struggle moved toward self-government. Include two different methods independence supporters used, one British response, and Nkrumah's influence, using at least three specific facts from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

From Protest to Parliament

HIGH SCHOOL · MWH.C.7.5.B

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one limit on self-government in the Gold Coast, circle three actions people took to change colonial rule, and number three turning points in the order they occurred. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What limited self-government in the Gold Coast, and how did the UGCC respond?	**British officials controlled major decisions despite African seats on governing councils. The UGCC demanded greater African control.**
2	How did Nkrumah's approach differ from the UGCC's, and what did he do about it?	**He thought the UGCC was moving too slowly. He formed the CPP in 1949 to demand self-government without delay.**
3	How did the CPP continue the struggle after colonial officials imprisoned Nkrumah?	**The CPP kept organizing and building a mass movement for independence.**
4	How did election results help move the Gold Coast toward independence?	**The CPP's 1951 victory brought Nkrumah into a leading government role. Further victories strengthened the CPP's claim that voters wanted self-government before independence in 1957.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

From Protest to Parliament: In the Gold Coast, British officials held major power even though some Africans served on governing councils. The UGCC pushed for greater African control, but Nkrumah wanted faster change and formed the CPP in 1949. His supporters used strikes and boycotts during Positive Action. Colonial officials imprisoned Nkrumah, yet the CPP kept organizing. Its 1951 election victory showed that protest could become political power. Further victories strengthened the case for independence, which arrived in 1957 when the colony became Ghana.

Accept different choices of turning points if students number them in chronological order. For the museum label, look for an explanation connecting methods, the British response, and Nkrumah's influence to the transfer of political power.