Tools for Two Crises

How different foreign policy tools serve different purposes

USG.C.7.2.D "Describe the tools used to carry out United States of America's foreign policy, including diplomacy, economic aid, military aid, humanitarian aid, treaties, sanctions, and military intervention."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB As you read, circle the seven foreign policy tools and underline one action that shows how each tool works. Use your marks to compare what the tools do.

A Storm and a Standoff

1 Imagine that the fictional coastal country of Lydora has lost access to its main port after a major storm. At the same time, its leaders fear that a neighboring country may send armed ships into disputed waters. The United States cannot solve both problems with one tool. Through diplomacy, U.S. officials meet with both governments to discuss safe passage for ships and ways to avoid a clash. They might negotiate a treaty, a formal agreement that the governments accept, setting rules for sharing information about ship movements. A treaty takes negotiation and must follow each country's approval process.

2 Getting the port working again requires different kinds of help. Economic aid could provide funds to repair docks and support local businesses after the storm. This aid aims to strengthen an economy over time, rather than meet only immediate needs. Humanitarian aid could deliver clean water, emergency food, and medical supplies to people whose homes were damaged. Meanwhile, if Lydora requests help protecting its coast, military aid could provide training and patrol equipment to Lydora's armed forces. In that case, Lydora's forces would use the equipment; U.S. troops would not be fighting on their behalf.

3 The United States could also respond if the neighboring government sends armed ships into Lydora's waters despite warnings. Sanctions might restrict that government's access to U.S. banks or trade, creating economic pressure to change its behavior. If violence begins and leaders decide that other measures are not enough, military intervention would mean using U.S. armed forces directly, such as sending ships to defend Lydora's coast. That step carries serious risks, including a wider conflict. These tools can be combined, but they do different jobs: talks seek agreement, aid provides resources, sanctions impose costs, and intervention uses force.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How would diplomacy work in Lydora's dispute, and how would a treaty differ from the talks?

2. Why would repairing docks be economic aid, while delivering clean water to families would be humanitarian aid?

3. How would the proposed military aid differ from military intervention?

4. How could sanctions try to change the neighboring government's actions without using armed force?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A fictional country suffers a severe drought while its neighbor threatens to block trucks carrying food across their shared border. In one paragraph, propose three different U.S. foreign policy tools, including one to meet immediate needs and one to address the border dispute; describe a specific action and its purpose for each.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USG.C.7.2.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

As you read, circle the seven foreign policy tools and underline one action that shows how each tool works. Use your marks to compare what the tools do. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How would diplomacy work in Lydora's dispute, and how would a treaty differ from the talks?	**U.S. officials would meet with both governments to discuss safe passage and avoid a clash. A treaty would be a formal agreement setting rules for sharing ship-movement information.**
2	Why would repairing docks be economic aid, while delivering clean water to families would be humanitarian aid?	**Dock repairs support the economy over time. Clean water meets an immediate need for people affected by the storm.**
3	How would the proposed military aid differ from military intervention?	**Military aid would give Lydora's forces training and equipment to use themselves. Military intervention would use U.S. armed forces directly.**
4	How could sanctions try to change the neighboring government's actions without using armed force?	**Restrictions on access to U.S. banks or trade could create economic pressure to change its behavior.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The United States could send humanitarian aid, such as emergency food and water, to keep families safe during the drought. U.S. diplomats could meet with both governments to negotiate passage for food trucks across the border. If the neighbor continues to block shipments, the United States could impose sanctions that limit its access to U.S. banks, pressuring its leaders to reopen the crossing. These steps address urgent hunger and the border dispute without using U.S. forces.

Accept other accurate combinations of three distinct tools if each action fits the drought or border dispute and its purpose is clear. Distinguish aid to another country's armed forces from direct use of U.S. armed forces.