Turning the Tide

Three American contributions to Allied victory

USH.C.3.2.D "Explain how the American Expeditionary Forces, economic support, and the production of armaments helped turn the tide of war, leading to an Allied victory."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail about each contribution: AEF troops, economic support, and armament production. Circle a phrase near each detail that shows how it helped the Allies.

How the Allies Kept Fighting

1. In the summer of 1918, German attacks had driven deep into France. British and French troops had fought for years, and their armies were strained. The American Expeditionary Forces (AEF), led by General John J. Pershing, brought fresh soldiers to the Western Front. More than a million American troops had reached France by summer's end. American units helped stop a German attack at the Second Battle of the Marne. Later, American forces launched the Meuse-Argonne Offensive as part of a broader Allied push. Their arrival strengthened Allied lines and made it harder for Germany to win before its forces ran out of strength.

2. Soldiers could not fight without steady supplies, and American economic support helped the Allies keep fighting. Even before entering the war in 1917, the United States sold goods to Britain and France. After entry, the U.S. government made large loans to Allied governments, which could then pay for food, fuel, and other necessities. American farms sent wheat and other food across the Atlantic. These resources helped Allied armies and civilians endure a long war while Germany struggled with shortages. Money and food did not win battles by themselves, but they helped keep Allied forces supplied as those forces pressed forward in 1918.

3. Factories provided another part of the shift. U.S. workers produced rifles, machine guns, ammunition, and explosives for the war effort. War production also expanded shipbuilding, helping move people and cargo across the Atlantic despite the threat of German submarines. American troops still used many French and British artillery pieces and aircraft, so U.S. armaments were not the only weapons behind victory. Yet rising American production helped replace supplies used in battle and supported continued attacks. Together, fresh AEF troops, economic aid, and armaments gave the Allies more ways to sustain their offensives. Germany signed an armistice in November 1918.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the arrival of AEF troops make Germany's position more difficult in 1918?

2. How did U.S. loans and food shipments help Allied forces continue fighting?

3. How did American armament production help the Allies keep attacking?

4. Why does the passage describe Allied victory as the result of several contributions rather than AEF troops alone?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you must protect one U.S. contribution from interruption in 1918: AEF troops, economic support, or armament production. In five or six sentences, defend your choice and explain why the other two still mattered, using at least three details from the passage.

ANSWER KEY

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HIGH SCHOOL · USH.C.3.2.D

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one detail about each contribution: AEF troops, economic support, and armament production. Circle a phrase near each detail that shows how it helped the Allies. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the arrival of AEF troops make Germany's position more difficult in 1918?	**Fresh American troops strengthened Allied lines, helped stop a German attack at the Second Battle of the Marne, and took part in the Allied push.**
2	How did U.S. loans and food shipments help Allied forces continue fighting?	**Loans helped Allied governments pay for necessities, while food shipments helped sustain armies and civilians through the long war.**
3	How did American armament production help the Allies keep attacking?	**U.S. factories made weapons and ammunition, and rising production helped replace supplies used in battle.**
4	Why does the passage describe Allied victory as the result of several contributions rather than AEF troops alone?	**Fresh troops strengthened the armies, but loans and food kept them supplied, while armament production replaced weapons and ammunition used in battle. Together, these contributions supported continued offensives.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would protect economic support first because an army needs steady supplies to keep fighting. U.S. loans helped Allied governments pay for necessities, and American farms sent food across the Atlantic. Without that support, fresh AEF soldiers might have struggled to sustain their attacks. The AEF still mattered because its troops strengthened Allied lines and helped stop a German attack at the Second Battle of the Marne. Armament production mattered too because factories replaced weapons and ammunition used in battle.

Accept other choices in Part 3 if the student explains a plausible effect of an interruption and uses passage details to show why all three contributions mattered. Responses should not claim that any single contribution won the war by itself.