Choices and Consequences

Trace the effects of policies during Trump's first administration.

USH.C.9.3 "Examine the significant events during the first Donald J. Trump administration. Analyze the Trump administration's policies and the effects they had on the United States of America and the rest of the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each administration action, circle a U.S. effect, and number an effect beyond the United States. Use your marks to trace how decisions led to outcomes.

Policies Across Borders

1. During Donald Trump's first administration (2017 to 2021), trade became a test of who pays for a policy. In 2018, the United States placed tariffs, or taxes on imports, on many Chinese goods, aiming to pressure China over trade practices. China answered with tariffs on American products, including farm goods. Some U.S. producers gained protection from foreign competition, but many importers faced higher costs. The federal government paid aid to farmers harmed by lost sales to China.

2. Climate policy raised a different question: how does a national decision affect a shared problem? In 2017, Trump announced that the United States would leave the Paris Agreement, an international pact to limit global warming. The withdrawal took effect in 2020. His administration argued the pact placed unfair costs on U.S. businesses. The decision ended U.S. participation in the pact, while critics warned it weakened U.S. leadership in climate talks and made joint action harder.

3. In 2020, COVID-19 spread across the United States and the world. The Trump administration restricted entry for some travelers, declared a national emergency, and launched Operation Warp Speed to speed vaccine development. The program helped fund research and manufacturing, and the first vaccines received U.S. emergency authorization in December 2020. At the same time, U.S. deaths rose and businesses closed or cut jobs. The pandemic showed that a policy could produce a major advance without ending a crisis.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How were the tariffs meant to affect China, and what cost did U.S. importers face?

2. How did China's response affect U.S. farmers, and how did the federal government respond?

3. Why did the administration support leaving the Paris Agreement, and what international effect did critics predict?

4. How did Operation Warp Speed affect vaccine development, and what shows that it did not end the U.S. crisis in 2020?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose one policy in the passage that you would revise. In one paragraph, explain your change using a U.S. effect and an effect beyond the United States, then compare it with one other policy in the passage.

Choices and Consequences

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each administration action, circle a U.S. effect, and number an effect beyond the United States. Use your marks to trace how decisions led to outcomes. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How were the tariffs meant to affect China, and what cost did U.S. importers face?	**The tariffs aimed to pressure China over trade practices. Many U.S. importers faced higher costs.**
2	How did China's response affect U.S. farmers, and how did the federal government respond?	**China taxed American farm goods, harming farmers' sales to China. The federal government paid aid to affected farmers.**
3	Why did the administration support leaving the Paris Agreement, and what international effect did critics predict?	**The administration argued that the pact placed unfair costs on U.S. businesses. Critics warned that leaving would weaken U.S. leadership in climate talks and make joint action harder.**
4	How did Operation Warp Speed affect vaccine development, and what shows that it did not end the U.S. crisis in 2020?	**It helped fund vaccine research and manufacturing. U.S. deaths rose, and businesses closed or cut jobs.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would revise the tariff policy by using narrower tariffs on goods tied to specific trade disputes. The tariffs were meant to pressure China, but they raised costs for U.S. importers. China also taxed American farm goods, harming farmers' sales. Unlike leaving the Paris Agreement, which affected climate cooperation, the tariffs prompted a direct trade response. Narrower tariffs might keep pressure on China while reducing harm to U.S. buyers and farmers.

Accept revisions that use accurate passage evidence, explain a U.S. effect and an effect beyond the United States, and make a meaningful comparison. Distinguish critics' predicted effects of leaving the Paris Agreement from measured outcomes.