

Claims From History

Trace how evidence and reasoning support a historical claim.

7.20.E “formulate and communicate visually, orally, or in writing a claim supported by evidence and reasoning related to a social studies topic; and”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline the author’s claim, circle each fact used as evidence, and number the sentences that explain how the facts support the claim.

The CCC: Work and Conservation

- ① In 1933, during the Great Depression, the United States created the Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC. The program hired young men who struggled to find work. They lived in camps and worked on forests, parks, and soil conservation projects. A historian might argue that the CCC was an effective response to two problems at once: unemployment and damaged land. This claim does not say the program solved every problem. It says the CCC made meaningful progress in both areas.
- ② Evidence supports the claim about land. CCC crews planted more than three billion trees across the nation. They also built trails, park facilities, and firebreaks, which are cleared strips that can slow wildfires. These projects produced changes that remained after a worker left a camp. Evidence also supports the claim about unemployment. At its height, the CCC enrolled hundreds of thousands of men, giving them paid work, meals, housing, and job training during a severe economic crisis.
- ③ Strong reasoning connects these facts to the claim. Planting trees and building firebreaks directly improved natural areas and helped protect them from erosion or fire. Paying workers and providing training gave unemployed men immediate support and useful experience. Still, a careful argument includes limits. CCC jobs were temporary, and many people, including women, could not enroll. Those limits matter, but the large number of projects and workers makes the claim that the CCC was effective reasonable.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 State the author's central claim in your own words.

2 Give two facts from the passage that support the author's claim. Include one fact about conservation and one fact about employment.

3 Explain how planting more than three billion trees supports the claim that the CCC was effective.

4 Identify one limitation of the CCC from the passage. Explain how this limitation makes the author's claim more careful.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence argument about whether the CCC's conservation work or its employment support was more lasting. State a claim, use two details from the passage as evidence, and explain how the details support your claim.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline the author's claim, circle each fact used as evidence, and number the sentences that explain how the facts support the claim. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	State the author's central claim in your own words.	The CCC was an effective program because it addressed unemployment and damaged land at the same time.
2	Give two facts from the passage that support the author's claim. Include one fact about conservation and one fact about employment.	Conservation: CCC crews planted more than three billion trees or built trails, park facilities, and firebreaks. Employment: at its height, the CCC enrolled hundreds of thousands of men and provided paid work, meals, housing, and training.
3	Explain how planting more than three billion trees supports the claim that the CCC was effective.	Planting trees improved damaged land and could help protect it from erosion, so it is evidence that the CCC made meaningful conservation progress.
4	Identify one limitation of the CCC from the passage. Explain how this limitation makes the author's claim more careful.	CCC jobs were temporary, or women could not enroll. This shows the program did not solve unemployment for everyone, even though it was effective in important ways.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The CCC's conservation work was more lasting than its employment support. Crews planted more than three billion trees and built trails, park facilities, and firebreaks. These projects remained after workers left their camps. Because CCC jobs were temporary, the environmental improvements lasted longer than the workers' employment.

Accept equivalent claims when students use at least two accurate passage details and explain a logical connection between the evidence and claim. For the open response, accept either position if the reasoning accurately uses the passage.