

Era Chain Reactions

Trace how major events and movements shaped the United States through 1877.

8.1.A "identify the major eras in U.S. history through 1877, including colonization, revolution, creation and ratification of the Constitution, early republic, the Age of Jackson, westward expansion, reform movements, sectionalism, Civil War..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Number the 10 bold era names in chronological order. Underline phrases that give causes and circle phrases that give effects.

A Nation Changes

- ① During **colonization**, European nations established settlements along the Atlantic coast, seeking land, wealth, and trade. British taxes and limits on self-government angered many colonists, helping cause the **Revolution**. The successful war won independence and led states toward the **creation and ratification of the Constitution**. Ratification in 1788 created a new federal government. In the **early republic**, leaders organized courts, finances, and foreign policy while testing how the new system would work. They also faced debates about federal power and individual liberties.
- ② In the **Age of Jackson**, expanded voting rights for most white men increased political participation, while Andrew Jackson's policies strengthened the presidency. Indian removal opened southeastern land to white settlement but forced Native nations, including the Cherokee, west. **Westward expansion** accelerated after the Louisiana Purchase and other land gains. New farms, towns, and railroads grew, yet expansion also spread disputes over slavery. **Reform movements** sought to change society through abolition, women's rights, temperance, and public education campaigns.
- ③ **Sectionalism** deepened as northern and southern leaders clashed over slavery's expansion, economic interests, and political power. Compromises delayed conflict, but could not settle whether slavery would expand into western territories. After southern states seceded, the **Civil War** began in 1861. Union victory preserved the nation and destroyed slavery. During **Reconstruction**, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments ended slavery, defined citizenship, and protected voting rights for Black men. White resistance and weak enforcement limited these gains after 1877.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 List the four eras from the first paragraph in chronological order.

2 How did British policies help cause the Revolution, and what did the successful war lead states to do?

3 What did Indian removal cause, and what problem did westward expansion spread?

4 Name one cause of sectionalism. Then name two effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction described in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose three connected eras from the passage. Write exactly three sentences that explain a cause-and-effect chain between them, using at least two cause-and-effect words such as *caused*, *led to*, or *because*.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Number the 10 bold era names in chronological order. Underline phrases that give causes and circle phrases that give effects. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	List the four eras from the first paragraph in chronological order.	Colonization, Revolution, creation and ratification of the Constitution, early republic.
2	How did British policies help cause the Revolution, and what did the successful war lead states to do?	British taxes and limits on self-government angered colonists and helped cause the Revolution. The successful war won independence and led states toward creating and ratifying the Constitution.
3	What did Indian removal cause, and what problem did westward expansion spread?	Indian removal opened southeastern land to white settlement and forced Native nations west. Westward expansion spread disputes over slavery.
4	Name one cause of sectionalism. Then name two effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction described in the passage.	One cause was conflict over slavery's expansion, economic interests, or political power. Effects included Union victory preserving the nation, slavery ending, citizenship being defined, and voting rights for Black men being protected.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During colonization, British taxes and limits on self-government caused anger among many colonists. That anger led to the Revolution, which won independence. Independence led states to create and ratify the Constitution, forming a federal government.

Accept equivalent cause-and-effect wording when it is supported by the passage. For the open response, accept any accurate three-era chronological chain that includes at least two clear cause-and-effect connections.