

Courage and Citizenship

Examine civic virtue and civil disobedience in early U.S. history.

8.20 "Citizenship. The student understands the importance of voluntary individual participation in the democratic process. The student is expected to: evaluate the contributions of the Founding Fathers as models of civic virtue..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Part 1 READ AND MARK: Underline each action that models civic virtue or civil disobedience, circle each reason for civil disobedience, and number each stated impact of those actions.

Choosing Principle Over Comfort

- ① Citizenship in a democracy depends on people who place the public good above personal comfort or power. Several Founding Fathers offered models of civic virtue, meaning responsible service to the community. George Washington led the Continental Army, then resigned his military command after the Revolutionary War instead of keeping power. James Madison helped shape the Constitution and argued for a government with limits and representation. Their contributions mattered because they supported a system in which leaders were accountable to citizens and laws.
- ② In December 1773, protesters in Boston destroyed tea owned by the British East India Company. They opposed British control and the retained duty on tea, a tax imposed without colonial representation in Parliament. This event, called the Boston Tea Party, broke the law on purpose to challenge a policy protesters considered unjust. Britain answered with harsh Coercive Acts, which increased conflict between Britain and the colonies. The protest helped move many colonists toward resistance, but property destruction also carried serious consequences.
- ③ Henry David Thoreau used a different form of civil disobedience in 1846. He refused to pay a poll tax because he opposed the Mexican-American War and slavery. Officials jailed him for one night, although someone else paid the tax and he was released. In his essay "Civil Disobedience," Thoreau argued that people should not support injustice simply because a law requires it. His action did not immediately change national policy, but his ideas later influenced activists who used nonviolent resistance.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What civic virtue is shown by Washington's resignation of military command, and why did that action matter in a democracy?

2 Which founder is a stronger model of civic virtue, Washington or Madison? State your claim and support it with one detail from the passage.

3 Why did protesters carry out the Boston Tea Party, and what was one impact of their action?

4 How did Thoreau's refusal to pay the poll tax affect him immediately, and how did it have a later impact?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Part 3 YOUR TURN: Describe a peaceful way students could address a school rule they think is unfair. In four sentences, explain the rule, the action, the reason for it, one possible positive impact, and one possible consequence. Say whether the action shows civic virtue or civil disobedience.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Part 1 READ AND MARK: Underline each action that models civic virtue or civil disobedience, circle each reason for civil disobedience, and number each stated impact of those actions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What civic virtue is shown by Washington's resignation of military command, and why did that action matter in a democracy?	Washington gave up power instead of keeping it. His action supported accountable leaders and a system governed by citizens and laws.
2	Which founder is a stronger model of civic virtue, Washington or Madison? State your claim and support it with one detail from the passage.	Answers vary. Accept a claim supported by Washington's resignation of command or Madison's work on the Constitution and representative, limited government.
3	Why did protesters carry out the Boston Tea Party, and what was one impact of their action?	They opposed British control and the retained tea duty imposed without colonial representation. One impact was the Coercive Acts, increased conflict, or greater colonial resistance.
4	How did Thoreau's refusal to pay the poll tax affect him immediately, and how did it have a later impact?	He was jailed for one night and then released after someone else paid the tax. His ideas later influenced activists who used nonviolent resistance.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Students think the cafeteria rule against reusable water bottles is unfair because sealed bottles could reduce plastic waste. They could collect evidence, write a petition, and speak at a school board meeting. This civic virtue action uses responsible participation to seek a change. Leaders might revise the rule, or they might decide that the evidence does not support a change.

Accept equivalent wording for civic virtue, reasons, and impacts when supported by the passage. For the open response, accept a peaceful, realistic action that identifies the rule, reasoning, impact, consequence, and a justified label.