

Tariffs Divide Regions

Analyze how one federal policy affected different sections before the Civil War.

8.7.A “analyze the impact of tariff policies on sections of the United States before the Civil War;”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline evidence about the North, circle evidence about the South, and number evidence about the West to track how tariffs affected each section.

One Tax, Different Effects

- ① Before the Civil War, Congress used tariffs, or taxes on imported goods, to raise money and influence trade. A tariff made imported cloth, iron, and tools cost more. Northern factory owners often supported high tariffs because their products faced less competition from British imports. Many Northern wage workers also hoped protected factories would provide jobs. Yet higher prices could affect buyers in every region. The same policy could therefore seem helpful to one group and costly to another.
- ② Southern planters usually opposed high tariffs. They sold cotton abroad and bought many manufactured goods from Britain and other countries. A tariff raised the price of imports they purchased. Planters also feared that Britain might buy less American cotton or place taxes on it in response. In 1832, South Carolina declared federal tariffs unconstitutional and attempted to nullify, or cancel, them within the state. The Nullification Crisis showed how strongly some white Southerners believed tariff policy harmed their section.
- ③ Western views were mixed. Farmers and settlers bought imported tools and household goods, so high tariffs could raise their costs. At the same time, some westerners supported tariffs because tariff revenue helped the federal government pay for projects such as roads and canals. Others expected growing American factories to buy western food and raw materials. Debates over tariffs did not cause the Civil War by themselves, but they added to sectional conflict by making many people see federal economic policy as favoring another region.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did many Northern factory owners support high tariffs, while Southern planters usually opposed them?

2 How could a tariff affect buyers in every region, even if they did not own a factory or plantation?

3 What does South Carolina's attempt to nullify federal tariffs show about how some white Southerners viewed tariff policy?

4 Why were western views on tariffs mixed? Give one reason some westerners opposed tariffs and one reason others supported them.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four- to five-sentence claim explaining how high tariffs increased sectional conflict before the Civil War. Use evidence about at least two regions, and explain how the tariff affected each region differently.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline evidence about the North, circle evidence about the South, and number evidence about the West to track how tariffs affected each section. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did many Northern factory owners support high tariffs, while Southern planters usually opposed them?	Northern factory owners faced less competition from British imports. Southern planters paid more for imported goods and feared harm to cotton trade.
2	How could a tariff affect buyers in every region, even if they did not own a factory or plantation?	A tariff raised the prices of imported goods such as cloth, iron, tools, and household items.
3	What does South Carolina's attempt to nullify federal tariffs show about how some white Southerners viewed tariff policy?	They believed federal tariffs harmed the South so strongly that they tried to cancel the tariffs within their state.
4	Why were western views on tariffs mixed? Give one reason some westerners opposed tariffs and one reason others supported them.	Some opposed tariffs because imported tools and household goods cost more. Others supported them because tariff revenue could help pay for roads and canals, and factories could buy western products.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

High tariffs increased sectional conflict because regions experienced them differently. Northern factory owners supported them because tariffs reduced competition from British imports. Southern planters opposed them because imported goods cost more and they feared harm to cotton trade. Westerners disagreed because tariffs raised consumer costs, but tariff revenue could support roads and canals.

Accept claims that explain contrasting regional effects, not just that regions disagreed. Evidence must accurately connect tariffs to Northern factory protection, Southern costs or trade fears, or mixed western interests.