

Power Across the Ocean

Track how control, trade, and representation changed.

USI.5.e “explaining the changing political and economic relationships between the colonies and Great Britain including, but not limited to representative government and self-rule in the colonies.”

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show colonists practiced self-rule, circle details that show Britain controlled trade or taxes, and number the paragraphs 1 to 3 to track how the relationship changed.

From Local Decisions to Conflict

- ① In the 1600s, England started colonies in North America, but the ocean was wide and travel was slow. Colonists often handled local problems themselves. Virginia's House of Burgesses made local laws in 1619. In New England, some towns held meetings where eligible voters discussed and decided town business. These practices gave many colonists experience with representative government and self-rule.
- ② For many years, Britain let colonial assemblies manage many local matters. Britain still expected colonies to follow trade rules, including the Navigation Acts. These laws directed much colonial trade through England and helped Britain control trade. Because the rules were not always strongly enforced, colonial merchants and leaders grew used to making many economic and political decisions close to home.
- ③ After the French and Indian War, Britain needed money and tried to tighten control. Parliament passed new taxes, such as the Stamp Act, and colonists had no elected representatives in Parliament. Many colonists argued that taxes without representation were unfair. They protested, formed boycotts of British goods, and met in colonial groups to plan responses. The relationship changed from loose control to growing conflict over power, trade, and taxes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two ways colonists practiced self-rule before the conflict with Britain grew?

2 What did the Navigation Acts do, and how did weak enforcement affect colonists?

3 Why did many colonists think the Stamp Act was unfair?

4 How did the relationship between the colonies and Britain change after the French and Indian War? Use one British action and one colonial response.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you are a colonial shopkeeper after the Stamp Act. Write a four-sentence note to a cousin explaining why your experience with local self-rule affects your reaction to the new tax. Include representative government, the lack of colonial representatives in Parliament, and one action you might take.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show colonists practiced self-rule, circle details that show Britain controlled trade or taxes, and number the paragraphs 1 to 3 to track how the relationship changed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two ways colonists practiced self-rule before the conflict with Britain grew?	They made local laws through the House of Burgesses or colonial assemblies, and some towns held meetings where eligible voters decided town business.
2	What did the Navigation Acts do, and how did weak enforcement affect colonists?	The Navigation Acts directed much colonial trade through England so Britain could control trade. Weak enforcement helped colonists grow used to making economic decisions close to home.
3	Why did many colonists think the Stamp Act was unfair?	They had no elected representatives in Parliament, so they believed taxes without representation were unfair.
4	How did the relationship between the colonies and Britain change after the French and Indian War? Use one British action and one colonial response.	Britain tightened control by passing new taxes, such as the Stamp Act. Colonists protested, boycotted British goods, and met in groups to plan responses, causing growing conflict.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Cousin, Our town has long made many decisions close to home through local meetings and representatives. Now Parliament has placed a tax on printed paper even though we elect no representatives there. This seems unfair because people should have a voice in laws that tax them. I will join a boycott of British goods.

Accept equivalent details from the passage about local representative government, British trade or tax controls, and colonial responses. For the open response, check for four sentences and all three required ideas.