

Hidden War Efforts

Evaluate how people supported causes during the Civil War.

VS.7.g "evaluating the experiences and contributions of Indigenous people and enslaved and free Blacks and their allies during the war including, but not limited to Elizabeth Van Lew and Mary Bowser."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline actions that people took during the war. Circle words or phrases that show why an action mattered or was risky.

Many Ways to Help

- ① During the Civil War, Indigenous people did not all make the same choice. Some supported the Union, while others supported the Confederacy. Many had to think about protecting their families, land, and communities during a war they did not start. Indigenous soldiers, scouts, guides, and workers used their knowledge and skills to help the side they chose. Their experiences show that the war affected many communities.
- ② Enslaved Black people sought freedom by escaping to Union lines whenever they could. They shared information, worked for the Union army, and, after the United States allowed it, many joined Black army units. Free Black people also raised money, recruited soldiers, and cared for troops. These actions helped the Union gain workers, soldiers, knowledge, and support, even while Black people faced racism and danger.
- ③ Two Richmond allies of the Union showed how information could matter. Elizabeth Van Lew, a white woman who opposed slavery, helped Union prisoners and passed information to Union leaders. Mary Bowser, a formerly enslaved Black woman, worked in the Confederate president's household and reported information she learned. Their secret work was risky. Together, their actions helped the Union understand Confederate plans and showed that allies could challenge the Confederacy in different ways.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What made choosing a side difficult for many Indigenous people? Why did this matter?

2 Give one way enslaved Black people supported the Union and one way free Black people supported the Union.

3 Which detail shows that Mary Bowser's work was dangerous? Explain your choice.

4 How did Elizabeth Van Lew and Mary Bowser help the same cause in different ways?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences that evaluate two contributions from the passage. Name two people or groups, describe what each did, and tell why their contributions mattered during the war.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline actions that people took during the war. Circle words or phrases that show why an action mattered or was risky. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What made choosing a side difficult for many Indigenous people? Why did this matter?	They had to think about protecting their families, land, and communities. The war affected their communities even though they did not start it.
2	Give one way enslaved Black people supported the Union and one way free Black people supported the Union.	Enslaved Black people escaped to Union lines, shared information, worked for the Union army, or joined Black army units. Free Black people raised money, recruited soldiers, or cared for troops.
3	Which detail shows that Mary Bowser's work was dangerous? Explain your choice.	Mary Bowser worked in the Confederate president's household and reported information she learned. Secretly sharing information from that place was risky.
4	How did Elizabeth Van Lew and Mary Bowser help the same cause in different ways?	Both helped the Union get information. Van Lew helped Union prisoners and passed information to Union leaders, while Bowser reported information she learned in the Confederate president's household.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Indigenous scouts and guides helped the side they chose by using knowledge of the land. Mary Bowser gathered information inside the Confederate president's household, although this work was dangerous. These contributions mattered because leaders could use knowledge to make plans during the war.

Accept any accurate two contributions from the passage and a reasonable explanation of why they mattered. The response must include exactly three sentences, two people or groups, their actions, and an evaluation.