

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Old Empires, New Ideas: A 5th Grade Revolution Analysis

Logistics of supply lines, the role of espionage, and French naval strategy provide an assessment of how the colonies secured an unlikely victory.

1. The culper ring was an invisible ink-using spy network that assisted George Washington. Why was using secret intelligence more critical for the Continental Army than for the British?

Answer: B) Colonists were outnumbered and needed to predict British movements to survive.

Because the Continental Army was smaller and less equipped, they relied on 'asymmetric warfare' and intelligence to avoid direct traps and strike when the British were vulnerable.

2. The involvement of the French Navy at the Battle of the Chesapeake was a minor detail that had very little impact on the British surrender at Yorktown.

Answer: B) False

The French Navy was essential; they blocked the British escape by sea and prevented reinforcements from reaching Lord Cornwallis, forcing his surrender.

3. Before the Revolution, many colonies acted like independent countries. To win, they had to embrace _____, a concept where different groups join together for a shared purpose.

Answer: C) Unified Resistance

The 'Join or Die' slogan by Benjamin Franklin emphasized that the colonies' greatest weakness was their division, and their greatest strength was unity.

4. Baron von Steuben, a Prussian military officer, joined the Americans at Valley Forge. What was his primary contribution to the 'Hard' conditions of the winter camp?

Answer: D) He standardized drills and sanitation to turn militia into a professional army.

Steuben's systematic training and manual of regulations transformed the struggling Continental Army into a disciplined force capable of matching British regulars.

5. While many fought for 'liberty,' James Armistead was an enslaved man who served as a _____, highlighting the complex contradiction of fighting for freedom while slavery still existed.

Answer: A) Double agent spy

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James Armistead Lafayette provided crucial intelligence to the Americans while pretending to be a spy for the British, showing that the fight for 'liberty' involved many who were not yet free.

6. The 'Olive Branch Petition' was a document sent by the Second Continental Congress as a final attempt to avoid a full-scale war with Britain.

Answer: A) True

Even as fighting began, many colonists were hesitant to break away and sent this petition to King George III seeking a peaceful resolution, which he rejected.

7. Mercantilism was the economic system where Britain used the colonies to get raw materials. How did this lead to the 'Hard' decision to revolt?

Answer: B) It created a system where colonies could only enrich the 'Mother Country,' limiting their own growth.

Mercantilism felt like an economic trap; the Navigational Acts forced colonists to sell only to Britain, which many saw as a violation of their economic rights.

8. The Proclamation of 1763 angered many colonists because it prohibited them from settling west of the _____, despite their help in winning that land during the French and Indian War.

Answer: B) Appalachian Mountains

Britain wanted to avoid further conflict with Native Americans and keep the colonists coastal where they were easier to tax and control, leading to deep resentment.

9. Loyalists were colonists who supported the Declaration of Independence and wanted to create a new, separate government immediately.

Answer: B) False

Loyalists, or Tories, remained loyal to the British Crown and King George III, often fearing that a revolution would lead to chaos or that Britain was too powerful to defeat.

10. Following the war, the new nation faced a 'Hard' challenge. What was the primary weakness of the first government, the Articles of Confederation?

Answer: B) The National Government was too weak to collect taxes or enforce laws.

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The fear of tyranny was so strong that they created a government that could not tax or raise an army effectively, leading to the eventual creation of the U.S. Constitution.