

INTERPRETING POLITICAL CARTOONS

Performance Standard 16BUS.E

Answer questions about the meaning and intended use of a political cartoon as it relates to the American Revolution accordingly:

- *Knowledge*: Describe the political events, figures, and ideas in the political cartoon, “Join, or Die;”.
- *Reasoning*: Interpret the message in the political cartoon in terms of events leading to the American Revolution.
- *Communication*: Answer questions about the political cartoon in a way that provides evidence of knowledge and reasoning processes.

Procedures

1. *In order to understand the development of significant political events (16B)*, students should experience sufficient learning opportunities to develop the following skills:
 - Analyze political events, figures, and ideas that led to the American Revolution; and
 - Interpret political cartoons.Note : Students should complete a unit on colonial America, including the political events leading up to the American Revolution
2. Provide each student with a copy of the “Interpreting Political Cartoons” task sheet and the cartoon entitled, “Join, or Die.” Have students review and discuss the assessment task and how the rubric will be used to evaluate their work.
3. Have students study the cartoon for several minutes prior to attempting to answer the questions.
4. Instruct students to complete the questions in the spaces provided on their task sheet.
5. (Optional) Have each student explain the meaning of the cartoon and how it might have been effective in rallying the colonies to unite.
6. Evaluate each student’s work using the Social Science Rubric as follows and add the scores to determine the performance level:
 - *Knowledge*: The identification of events, figures and ideas was complete and accurate:
 - 1) *Join, or Die*
 - 2) the colonies, that is, S.C. = South Carolina, N.C. = North Carolina, V. = Virginia, M. = Maryland, P. = Pennsylvania, N.J. = New Jersey, N.Y. = New York, and N.E. = New England
 - 3) *Some colonies were not included in the cartoon because not all of the colonies sent representatives to the council to write the Declaration of Independence.* (Georgia and Delaware)
 - 4) *The entire snake appears to represent the 13 colonies.*
 - *Reasoning*: The interpretation of ideas in the cartoon was thorough and accurate:
 - 5) *The caption explains that the colonies cannot live as separate entities and that they must join together to survive.*
 - 6) *“b” The colonies must unite or perish.*
 - *Communication*: The knowledge and reasoning in all the answers to the questions were completely and effectively communicated.

Examples of Student Work follow

Resources

- Copies of the “Join, or Die” cartoon and interpreting Political Cartoons” task sheet
- Social Science Rubric

Time Requirements

- One class period

Name _____ Date _____

INTERPRETING POLITICAL CARTOONS

In the spring of 1754, England and France were on the verge of war, and America was to be the battleground for this conflict. England's chain of thirteen colonies skirted the Atlantic Coast while France claimed the territory along the St. Lawrence River valley and across the Appalachians. As English settlers began moving west, they were being attacked by the French and their Native American allies.

To cement an alliance with the Iroquois Indians, seven English colonies sent delegates to a meeting in June that year in Albany, New York. Ben Franklin, one of the delegates from Pennsylvania, also had a proposal in mind. He suggested a plan that "one general government may be formed in America including all of the said colonies." Although the group adopted Franklin's Albany Plan of Union, the plan was never carried out.

Hoping that people would support the plan, Franklin published the cartoon, "Join or Die." It was one of the earliest **political cartoons** produced by an American. A political cartoon uses pictures, symbols, and words to make a statement about current political issues or events.

Respond to and complete the following questions:

- 1) State the title or caption of the cartoon.

- 2) What does each of the segments represent?
 - a) S.C.

 - b) N.C.

 - c) V.

 - d) M.

 - e) P.

 - f) N.J.

 - g) N.Y.

 - h) N.E.

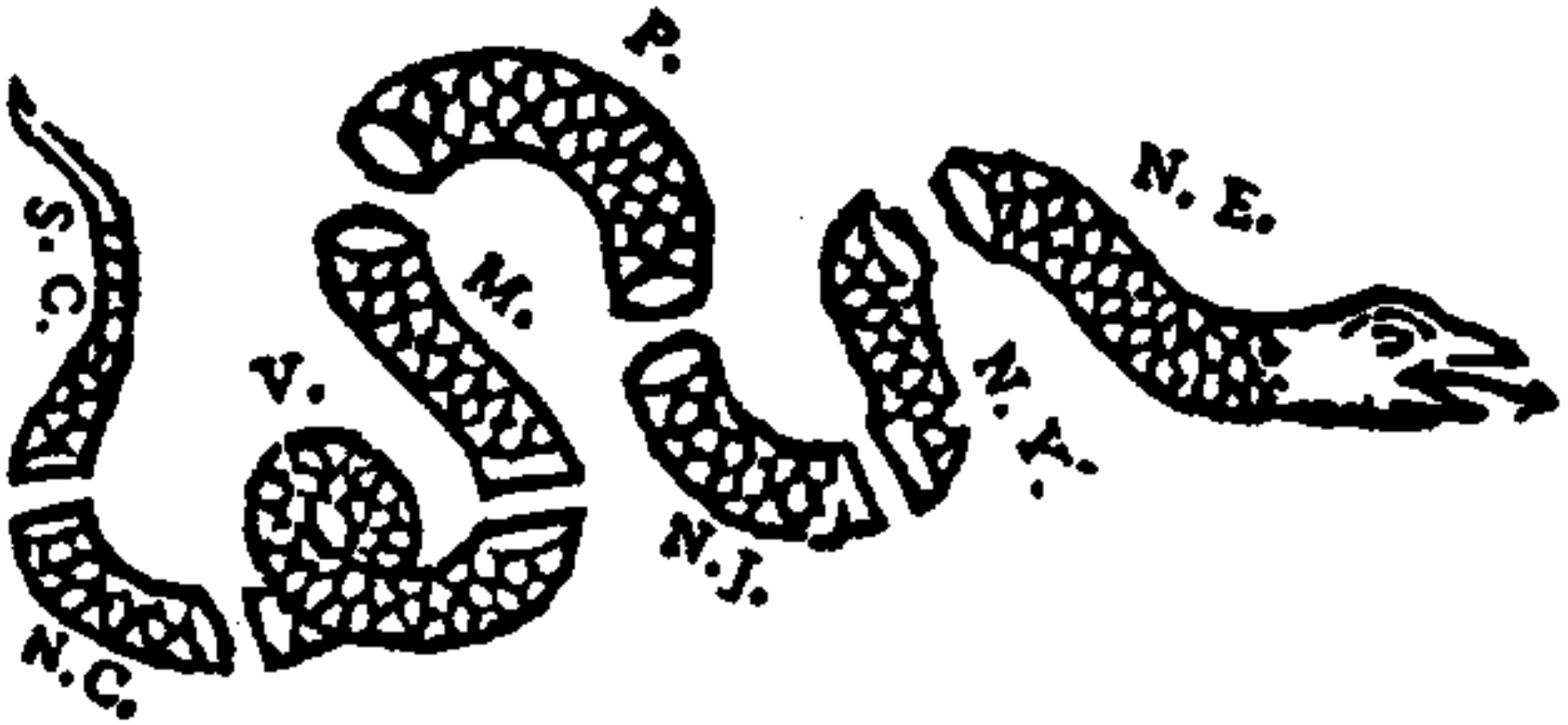
3) List the colonies that are not included in the cartoon.

4) What does the entire snake appear to represent in the cartoon?

5) What does this caption explain about the drawing of the snake? In other words, what meaning do you get from the entire cartoon – both drawing and caption?

6) Which statement best describes the message of the cartoon?

- a) Never cut up a snake.
- b) The colonies must unite or perish.
- c) If a snake grows back together, the colonies will be strong.



J O I N, or D I E.

POLITICAL CARTOON

In the spring of 1754, England and France were on the verge of war, and America was to be the battleground for this conflict. England's chain of 13 colonies skirted the Atlantic Coast while France claimed the territory along the St. Lawrence River valley and across the Appalachians. As English settlers began moving west, they were being attacked by the French and their Native American allies.

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Hoping that people would support the plan, Franklin published the cartoon shown on the other sheet of this assessment. It was the first American **political cartoon** ever. A political cartoon uses pictures, symbols, and words to make a statement about current political issues or events.

Respond to and complete the following questions:

1) State the title or caption of the cartoon.

Join or Die

2) What does each of the segments represent?

a state - aka - a colony

3) Why are some of the colonies not included in the cartoon?

They might have already joined with another colony (state)

4) What does the entire snake appear to represent in the cartoon?

The way the colonies are separated from each other (state)

5) What does this caption explain about the drawing of the snake? In other words, what meaning do you get from the entire cartoon - both drawing and caption?

If the colonies don't unite they will die

6) Which statement best describes the message of the cartoon?

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b) The colonies must unite or perish.

c) If a snake grows back together, the colonies will be strong.

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Respond to and complete the following questions:

1) State the title or caption of the cartoon.

Join or Die

2) What does each of the segments represent? *one of the colonies*

3) Why are some of the colonies not included in the cartoon? *Because only seven colonies went to the meeting in Albany, New York.*

4) What does the entire snake appear to represent in the cartoon? *The seven colonies that went to the meeting with the Iroquois. (The head stands for New England)*

5) What does this caption explain about the drawing of the snake? In other words, what meaning do you get from the entire cartoon - both drawing and caption?

that if they don't unite they don't live.

6) Which statement best describes the message of the cartoon?

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