Task 7.4

1. What were three reasons for the War of 1812? Explain

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2. Suppose George Washington has just given his Farewell Address. Complete the statement to explain the foreign policy he thinks the United States should pursue.

“I have declared a policy of neutrality and isolationism. This means

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3. Think of a time when you were stuck in the middle of a fight, do you think it is best to choose sides or let the two people work things out themselves? Explain.

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Name __________________________ Date: ___________________ Homeroom: ____________

**Directions:** Use RUNNERS as you read the text below, and answer the quick right at the end. You will have 8 minutes to complete the passage.

**Dilemma: What should President Monroe Do to Support the New Latin American Nations?**

James Monroe became president in 1817. After the excitement of the War of 1812, he was happy to return to the nation to its policy of isolationism. Americans began to turn their attention away from Europe to events happening in their own backyard. From Mexico to the tip of South America, colonial peoples were rising up in revolt against Spain.

**Latin America’s Revolutions** In Mexico, the revolt against Spanish rule was inspired by a priest names Miguel Hidalgo. On September 16, 1810, Hidalgo spoke to a crowd of poor Indians in the town of Dolores. “My children,” Hidalgo cried, “when will you recover lands stolen from your ancestors three hundred years ago by the hated Spaniards? Down with bad government! Death to the Spaniards!” Hidalgo’s speech, remembered today as the “Cry of Dolores,” inspired a revolution that lasted ten years. In 1821, Mexico finally won its independence from Spain.

Two other leaders liberated South America. In 1810, a Venezuelan named Simon Bolivar launched a revolution in the north with the cry: “Spaniards! You will receive death at our hands! Americans! You will receive life!” Jose de San Martin, a revolutionary from Argentina, led the struggle for independence in the south. By the end of 1825, the last Spanish troops had been driven out of South America.

**The New Latin American Nations** Many Americans were excited by what Congressman Clay described as the “glorious spectacle of eighteen millions of people struggling to burst their chains and be free.” The British also supported the revolutions, for their own reasons. Spain had not allowed other nations to trade with its colonies. Once freed from Spanish rule, the new Latin American nations were able to open their doors to foreign trade.

Other European leaders were not so pleased. Some even began to talk of helping Spain recover its lost colonies. In 1823 Britain asked the United States to join it in sending the message to these leaders, telling them to leave Latin America alone.

President James Monroe asked former presidents Thomas Jefferson and James Madison for advice. Should the United States do something to support the new Latin American nations? If so, what?
Quick Write:

1. Pretend you are a citizen living during the presidency of James Monroe. What should President Monroe do to support the new Latin American nations?
   A. Join an alliance with Great Britain to support Latin American independence
   B. Do not join an alliance with Great Britain, and warn Europe to stay out of Latin America
   C. Allow the Latin American countries to defend themselves
   D. Work to create an alliance with all of the Latin American countries to defend their independence against all European interference

2. Why might the United States have been interested in supporting the new Latin American nations in the early 1800s?
What Happened: The US Issues the Monroe Doctrine

Both Thomas Jefferson and James Madison liked the idea of joining with Britain to send a warning to the nations of Europe. Jefferson wrote to Monroe, “Our first and fundamental maxim [principle] should be, never entangle ourselves in the broils [fights] of Europe. Our second, never to suffer Europe to meddle with...America, North and South.”

President Monroe’s secretary of state\(^1\), John Quincy Adams, agreed with Jefferson’s principles. But he insisted that “it would be more candid [honest], as well as more dignified,” for the United States to speak boldly for itself. Though never a bold man himself, Monroe agreed.

In 1823, President Monroe made a speech to Congress announcing a policy that became known as the Monroe Doctrine\(^2\). Monroe stated that the nations of North and South America were “not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European powers.” The United States, he said, would view efforts by Europeans to take over “any portion of this hemisphere as dangerous to our peace and safety.”

Europeans denounced Monroe’s message as arrogant. “By what right,” asked a French newspaper, did the United States presume to tell other nations what they could do in “the two Americas”?

Americans, however, cheered Monroe’s message. It made them proud to see the United States stand up for the freedom-loving people of Latin America. If Europeans “attempt to control the destinies of South America,” boasted a Boston newspaper, “they will find...an eagle in their way.”

In the years ahead, the Monroe Doctrine joined isolationism as a basic principle of US foreign policy. The doctrine asserted that the United States would not accept European interference in American affairs. It also contained another, hidden message. By its very boldness, the Monroe Doctrine told the world that the United States was no longer a weak collection of quarreling states. It had become a strong and confident nation, a nation to be respected by the world.

With the Monroe Doctrine by his side, Uncle Sam puts out his hands warning to foreign powers to keep their “hands off” the Americas. Even though the Monroe Doctrine is over 180 years old, it still guides American presidents as they make foreign policy decisions.

\(^1\) Secretary of State\: The head of the State Department, who oversees matters relating to foreign countries. The Secretary of State is an important member of the president’s cabinet.

\(^2\) Doctrine\: a statement of official government policy, especially in foreign affairs
Name ___________________________ Date: ________________ Homeroom: ________________

1. In your own words explain what the Monroe Doctrine said. Then explain whether you think President Monroe pursued the best foreign policy option.

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Social Studies Skill: Interpreting Political Cartoons

What is it? Political cartoons appear on the editorial pages of newspaper. They may be funny, but their purpose is to carry a message or opinion. Cartoonists use symbols – animals, people, or objects – to communicate their point. Interpreting a political cartoons means

How to do it. Identify the symbols and characters in the cartoon. What does each stand for? Are there labels or captions to give you clues? Are the characters and symbols simplified or exaggerated to make a point? What details are emphasized? What action is taking place in the cartoon? Fit these pieces of information together to determine the message of the cartoon.

Try It. Interpret this political cartoon by answering the questions below.

1. What are the characters and symbols in the cartoon, and what does each one represent?

2. How do the words help you identify the cartoonist’s intention?

3. What action is taking place in the cartoon?

4. What opinion is the cartoonist expressing?
Document Analysis

Directions: The pages that follow contain several documents. Each document relates to a reason America felt it could interfere in Cuba. Carefully examine each document, then answer the questions that follow.

1. What are the characters and symbols in the cartoon, and what does each one represent?

2. How do the words help you identify the cartoonist's intention?

3. What action is taking place in the cartoon?

4. What opinion is the cartoonist expressing?
1. What are the characters and symbols in the cartoon, and what does each one represent?

2. How do the words help you identify the cartoonist’s intention?

3. What action is taking place in the cartoon?

4. What opinion is the cartoonist expressing?
The following is from a speech given by President James Monroe in 1823. It has been used to justify American wars in the Western Hemisphere (half of the world).

The Monroe Doctrine

“In the wars of the European powers in matters relating to themselves we have never taken any part, nor is it our policy so to do. It is only when our rights are invaded or seriously menaced that we make preparations for our defense. We are more connected to events on this hemisphere [half of the world]...

We will not interfere with European colonies that already exist. [But] any attempt by Europe to expand onto any portion of this hemisphere is dangerous to our peace and safety, and we shall change it.”

1. According to President Monroe, did the United States want to get involved with wars in Europe?

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2. According to President Monroe, in what part of the world is the United States “connect to events?”

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3. Did Monroe say that European countries couldn’t keep their colonies in the Western Hemisphere?

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4. Cuba is in the Western Hemisphere, but had been a Spanish colony for over a hundred years. Do you think that the Monroe Doctrine justified (allowed) the United States to interfere in Cuba?

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*TURN OVER*
5. The Monroe Doctrine affected foreign policy by
   a. Opposing any new European colonies in the New World
   b. Preventing President Monroe from running for re-election
   c. Encouraging new European colonies in the Americas
   d. Increasing the size of the U.S. army and navy

6. A major reason for the issuance of the Monroe Doctrine (1823) was to
   a. Discourage United States trade with Latin America
   b. Defend the Panama Canal from Great Britain
   c. Prevent further European colonization in the Caribbean
   d. Provide economic aid to Latin American nations

7. Mark an X along the spectrum to indicate where the Monroe Doctrine falls. Then write a sentence explaining your placement.

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The Monroe Doctrine
EXIT TICKET

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   d. Increasing the size of the U.S. army and navy

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   a. Discourage United States trade with Latin America
   b. Defend the Panama Canal from Great Britain
   c. Prevent further European colonization in the Caribbean
   d. Provide economic aid to Latin American nations
1. According to this document, what did President James Monroe want to do?

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2. Based on this document, list three things that the Monroe Doctrine said:
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