

## Context clues

### Grade 5 Reading Worksheet

**Context clues** are hints that help us understand unknown words. Different types include:

- **Definition Clues:** The word is defined nearby
- **Antonym Clues:** A nearby word means the opposite
- **Synonym Clues:** A nearby word means almost the same thing
- **Example Clues:** An example nearby helps explain the word
- **Inference Clues:** What the text says and what you already know can be used to figure out the word



**As you read, look for clues to figure out the meaning of the bold words.**

The United States of America didn't always exist. For most of the 1700s, the American colonies were ruled by Great Britain. The British government had **sovereignty**, or total control, over the colonies. The colonists who lived in America had to obey British laws, even though they didn't have a say in creating them.



Eventually, the American colonists became frustrated. They began to **resent** British rule. Instead of feeling loyalty and respect for their rulers, they felt angry and bitter. Their resentment grew when things happened that they didn't like, such as new taxes on everyday items, like sugar or stamps.

Leaders in the colonies encouraged colonists to **mobilize**. They called on people to prepare, gather their supplies and take action against the British government. These leaders started to train local armies and tried to gain support from as many colonists as possible.

As feelings of unhappiness grew, conflict became **inevitable**, and fighting could no longer be avoided. Battles broke out between the British troops and the local colonists in several towns. To make themselves stronger, the colonies formed a **coalition**, which is a group of people who join together for a common cause. The colonists also received support from France. The colonists hoped this would increase their chances of winning independence and becoming their own country!

Use context clues to fill in the blanks below:

1. I think **sovereignty** means

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I think this because the text says

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2. I think **resent** means

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I think this because the text says

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3. I think **mobilize** means

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I think this because the text says

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4. I think **inevitable** means

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I think this because the text says

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5. I think **coalition** means

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I think this because the text says

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## Answers

Sample Responses:

1. I think **sovereignty** means total control.  
I think this because the text says, "sovereignty, or total control over the colonies."
2. I think **resent** means to feel angry or bitter about something.  
I think this because the text says, "Instead of feeling loyalty and respect for their rulers, they felt angry and bitter."
3. I think **mobilize** means to prepare and take action.  
I think this because the text says, "They called on people to prepare, gather their supplies and take action..."
4. I think **inevitable** means certain to happen.  
I think this because the text says, "conflict became inevitable and fighting could no longer be avoided."
5. I think **coalition** means a group working together for a common purpose.  
I think this because the text says, "a coalition, which is a group joined together for a common cause."