



Questions on Benjamin Franklin's cartoon

1. Describe the cartoon, including the caption.
2. How many pieces is it divided into and what do they represent?
3. This cartoon appeared in the *Pennsylvania Gazette* in 1754. What event was occurring in the colonies at that time?
4. What was the message of the cartoon in regards to the event from #1?
5. What later event saw this cartoon and its message reused?
6. Why might the colonists have chosen to recycle this cartoon?
7. This cartoon has been used during another domestic American conflict in the 19th century, name it.
8. Where have you most recently seen a version of the either the caption or cartoon?
Remake your own cartoon by redrawing or recaptioning.

Answers

1. A snake is cut into pieces and the caption reads, "Join, or die"
2. Eight, the position of each colony in the snake corresponds to the geographic position of the colonies along the American coast, with the snake's tail pointing south and the head pointing north. The colonies, from tail to head (south to north), are: South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and New England (New England referred to the colonies of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire).
3. The French and Indian War
4. The colonists needed to join together in order to win the conflict.
5. The American Revolution
6. The message of colonial unity was important to success against the British.
7. The American Civil War
8. Answers will vary