

# Common Sense

Thomas Paine

## Why is the island/continent comparison more persuasive than simply saying England is far away?

### TOTAL TIME

### PASSAGE

|            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| 30 minutes | The island and the continent |
|------------|------------------------------|

### FIND THE ANCHOR TEXT

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

|                    |                                                                                                   |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SECTION / LOCATION | Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs                                                 |
| START              | there is something very absurd, in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island. |
| END                | England to Europe, America to itself.                                                             |
| PASSAGE ID         | sec-cs-03                                                                                         |

### THE MOVE

Use scale and natural analogy to make a political arrangement seem absurd

### WHY THIS PASSAGE

The island/continent comparison converts political dependence into a problem of physical scale and geography. Paine makes continued rule look unnatural before discussing detailed policy, using an image readers can grasp immediately.

### MARK

Circle the words naming island, continent, Europe, and America. Underline the political conclusion Paine draws from those physical relationships. Star the comparison that makes the arrangement seem most absurd.

## NOTICE

- What factual geographic relationship does the analogy begin with?
- What political conclusion does Paine ask geography to support?
- Why is a scale comparison easier to feel immediately than a long constitutional argument?

## THINK

Answer provisionally: Why is the island/continent comparison more persuasive than simply saying England is far away? Choose the strongest interpretation you can defend from this passage alone.

## WRITE

Write a short evidence-based response to: Why is the island/continent comparison more persuasive than simply saying England is far away? Use at least two details from the assigned passage and explain how they support your interpretation.

## CLOSE

Name the single detail that most changed or sharpened your interpretation, and explain why.

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>STRONG ANSWER</b> | The island/continent analogy makes dependence feel physically disproportionate and unnatural. Geography supplies an immediate visual argument that a remote island ruling a continent is absurd. |
| <b>EVIDENCE</b>      | Use the scale comparison and Paine's political conclusion drawn from it.                                                                                                                         |
| <b>WATCH FOR</b>     | Do not pretend geography alone logically proves independence. Explain why the analogy is rhetorically powerful even though it simplifies politics.                                               |
| <b>SOLO</b>          | Read the exact passage independently.                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>SUPPORTED</b>     | Use narration and sentence highlighting while reading the same passage.                                                                                                                          |
| <b>LISTENING</b>     | Listen to the exact passage; visual following is optional. Same question and evidence demand.                                                                                                    |

## STUDENT PAGE · SAME PASSAGE, SAME THINKING

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### Why is the island/continent comparison more persuasive than simply saying England is far away?

|              |                                                                                                   |
|--------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| START ANCHOR | there is something very absurd, in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island. |
| END ANCHOR   | England to Europe, America to itself.                                                             |

Use the Anchor Text Table of Contents in the Enhanced Reader to open the START anchor. Then use the dropdown to select the END anchor.

#### OPEN THE MARKED PASSAGE IN TUMBLELIT

SOLO: read independently. SUPPORTED: use narration + highlighting. LISTENING: listen to the exact passage. The question and evidence task stay the same.

1. MARK - Circle the words naming island, continent, Europe, and America. Underline the political conclusion Paine draws from those physical relationships. Star the comparison that makes the arrangement seem most absurd.
2. NOTICE - What factual geographic relationship does the analogy begin with? What political conclusion does Paine ask geography to support? Why is a scale comparison easier to feel immediately than a long constitutional argument?
3. THINK - Answer provisionally: Why is the island/continent comparison more persuasive than simply saying England is far away?
4. WRITE - Write a short response using at least two pieces of evidence from this passage.

Use evidence from the assigned passage. Show what you noticed and how the text supports your interpretation.