

Name _____

DIRECTIONS: Read the passage. Then answer the questions. Use textual evidence to support your answers.

It is true that the powers of Europe may carry on maritime wars with the Union; but there is always greater facility and less danger in supporting a maritime than a continental war. Maritime warfare only requires one species of effort. A commercial people which consents to furnish its government with the necessary funds, is sure to possess a fleet. And it is far easier to induce a nation to part with its money, almost unconsciously, than to reconcile it to sacrifices of men and personal efforts. Moreover, defeat by sea rarely compromises the existence or independence of the people which endures it. As for continental wars, it is evident that the nations of Europe cannot be formidable in this way to the American Union. It would be very difficult to transport and maintain in America more than 25,000 soldiers; an army which may be considered to represent a nation of about 2,000,000 of men. The most populous nation of Europe contending in this way against the Union, is in the position of a nation of 2,000,000 of inhabitants at war with one of 12,000,000. Add to this, that America has all its resources within reach, whilst the European is at 4,000 miles distance from his; and that the immensity of the American continent would of itself present an insurmountable obstacle to its conquest.

From *Democracy in America* by Alexis DeTocqueville

1. Briefly summarize the main idea of the text.

2. What evidence in the text supports your analysis?

ANSWERS

1. It is easier for a European country to conduct a maritime war with the U.S. than a land war.
2. Maritime wars are cheaper; people are more likely to part with money than with human lives; being defeated in a maritime war doesn't compromise the independence of the losing side; the nations of Europe are smaller and have far fewer people than America, making a land war impractical.