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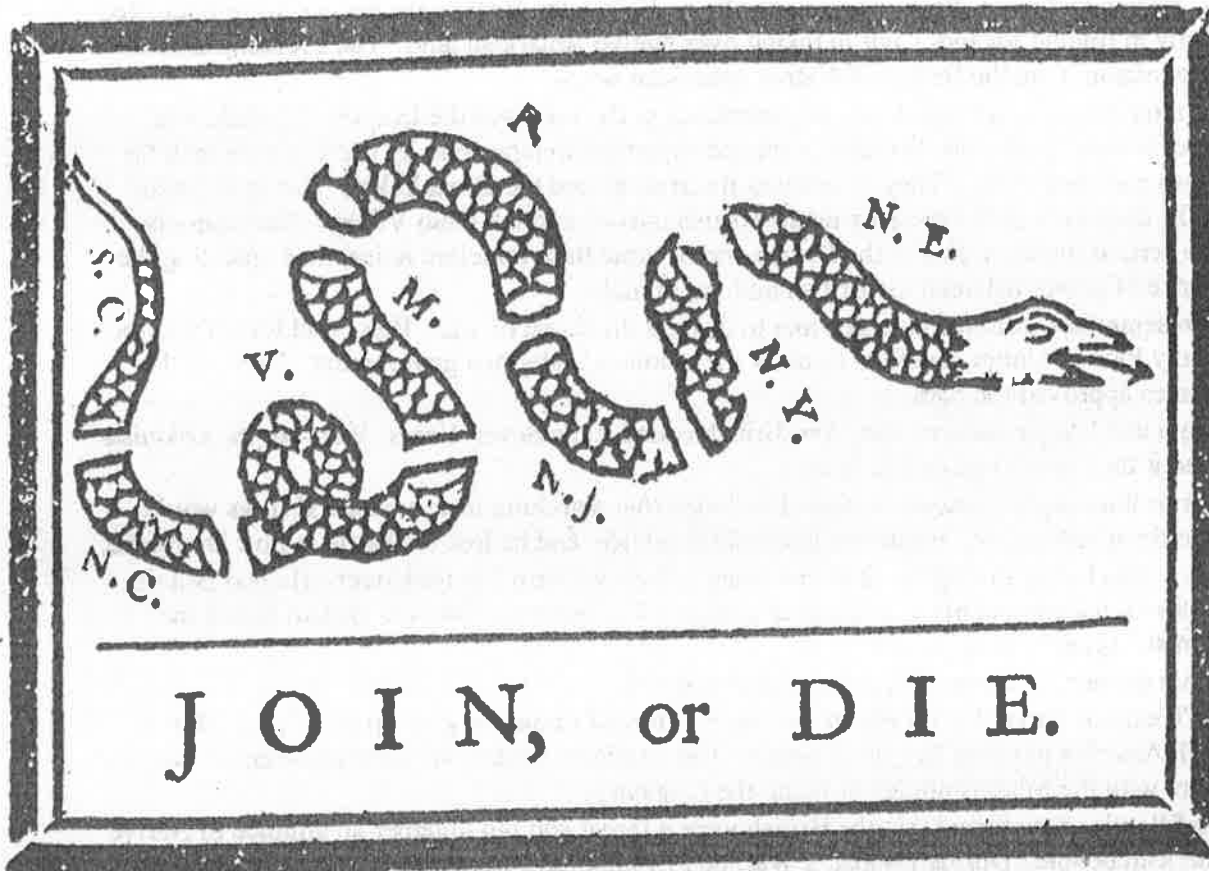
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### Unity or Division?

This is believed to be the first political cartoon published in the United States. It was drawn by Benjamin Franklin and appeared in his *Pennsylvania Gazette* on May 9, 1754, just before delegates of the colonists met at the Albany Congress. Franklin hoped it would influence the delegates to support his Plan of Union. Eleven years later, when the British passed the Stamp Act, the cartoon was used in flags and posters to support collaboration against British efforts to tax the colonies.

Study the cartoon below, then answer the questions that follow.



Library of Congress

1. Notice the letters next to each piece of the snake. What do these letters stand for?
2. Why does the snake have 8 pieces, not 13?
3. What message was Franklin's cartoon delivering to the delegates to the Albany Congress?
4. When Ben Franklin drew this cartoon, many people mistakenly believed that if a snake were cut into pieces, the pieces could weave themselves back together. Knowing that this is incorrect, write a new caption for the cartoon to replace "Join or Die." Explain the meaning of your new caption.