**Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense***

Read the following excerpt from Paine’s *Common Sense,* and answer the questions that follow using textual evidence.

Excerpt from *Common Sense,* 1776:

But Britain is the parent country, say some. Then the more shame upon her conduct. Even brutes do not devour their young; nor savages make war upon their families…Europe, and not England, is the parent country of America. This new world hath been the asylum for the persecuted lovers of civil and religious liberty from every Part of Europe.

Small islands not capable of protecting themselves, are the proper objects for kingdoms to take under their care; but there is something very absurd, in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island. In no instance hath nature made the satellite larger than its primary planet, and as England and America, with respect to each Other, reverses the common order of nature, it is evident they belong to different systems: England to Europe, America to itself.

1. How does Paine argue that England has been a poor “parent country”?
2. How does Paine disprove the argument that England is America’s “parent country”?
3. What analogy (comparison used as an example) does Paine use to describe the problem with England controlling America?
4. How does Paine use the “common order of nature” to explain the relationship between Britain and America?