

# History

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## **artifact**

An object made by people; historians often study artifacts left behind by people who lived long ago.

## **change over time**

Can be caused by changes in communication, innovations/inventions, traditions, homes, recreation, and transportation

## **explore**

To search the unknown

## **historical event**

An important event or occurrence that has taken place in the past

## **historical period or era**

A time period in history distinguished by certain characteristics (e.g., Age of Exploration, Colonization)

## **history**

The story or record of what happened in the past

## **immigrant**

A person who comes to live in a country from his or her home country

## **indigenous peoples**

People living or occurring naturally in an area

## **multiple causes**

More than one reason for an event (e.g., reasons for the American Revolution, Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Civil-Rights Movement)

## **Native American**

Also known as American Indians or by specific group names (e.g., Cherokee, Iroquois, Mandan, Navaho)

## **patriotic**

Loyal to one's country

## **perceptions of people**

A person's unique understanding, insight, or comprehension; perceptions of people sometimes influence the accounts of historical events.

## **primary source**

A firsthand account of an event or an artifact created during the period of history that is being studied (e.g., artifacts, diaries, photographs)

## **secondary source**

An account of the past based on information from primary sources and written by someone who was not an eyewitness to those events (e.g., textbooks, encyclopedias)

## **settlements**

Establishment of residence of people in a new area

## **slogan**

A phrase or motto that represents something or someone

## **symbol**

Something that stands for something else (e.g., flag, Uncle Sam, Statue of Liberty)

**Note: It is recommended that teachers identify and introduce key concepts and vocabulary related to each historical period (refer to topics in the *Core Content Guides*):**

- Land and People Before Columbus
- Age of Exploration
- Colonization
- War for Independence
- The Young Republic
- Westward Expansion
- Civil War
- Industrialism
- America in the 20th Century

# Geography

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## **absolute location**

The unique location of a place on the earth's surface (e.g., latitude and longitude measurements, address, and grid locations)

## **adapt**

To adjust to (e.g., putting on a coat in cold weather)

## **barriers**

Something that hinders

## **climate**

The weather of an area over a number of years (includes temperature, precipitation, wind and water currents)

## **depend**

To rely on (e.g., using land for farming)

## **fertile land**

Rich and productive land for growing crops

## **geography**

The study of Earth and the way people live on it and use it

## **human characteristics**

examples: language, religion, housing

## **human environmental interaction**

How people depend upon, adapt to, and modify their environment

## **land use**

examples: building developments, parks, cutting down rain forests for farming

## **landforms**

examples: mountain, valley, hill, plain, plateau

## **latitude**

An imaginary line or parallel measuring distance north or south of the equator (measured in degrees)

## **limit**

To confine or restrict (e.g., physical environment that limits human activities—mountains as barriers)

## **location**

The place, position, or boundaries where something is or can be located

## **longitude**

An imaginary line or meridian measuring distance east or west of the prime meridian (measured in degrees)

## **modify**

To change (e.g., building a dam)

## **movement**

How people in one place make contact with people from another place; people, ideas, information, and products are constantly moving around the world.

## **natural disasters**

Floods, droughts, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, etc.

## **natural resources**

Materials found in nature that people use to meet their needs and wants

## **physical characteristics**

examples: landforms, climate, water, vegetation, animals

## **physical environment**

All the physical surroundings (landforms, bodies of water, climate, and natural resources) in which people, plants, and animals live

## **physical map**

A map that highlights Earth's natural features

## **place**

A particular location that can be described by its human and/or physical characteristics (e.g., school, Rocky Mountains)

## **political map**

A map that shows the boundaries of states and countries

## **population**

The total number of people living in a particular area or place

## **promote**

To further the progress, to advance (e.g., physical environment that promotes human activities—rivers used as boundaries or transportation routes)

**region**

A large area with common features (geographic, cultural, economic) that set it apart from other areas

**relative location**

The location of a place in comparison to what it is near (e.g., next to, south of)

**settle**

To establish residence

**spatial factors**

Factors to consider when making decisions about where to locate human activities on the earth's surface (e.g., where to locate a playground, store, house)

**technology**

The design and use of tools, ideas, and methods to solve problems

**thematic map**

A map that shows a particular topic, such as a product map, climate map, population map, rainfall map

**Students should be able to use maps, globes, charts, and graphs to find and explain locations and to display information. Therefore, terminology of parts of a map and other tools should be familiar to the students (e.g., compass rose—a symbol on a map that shows direction; legend/key—explains what each symbol on a map means; scale—relationship between the distance shown on a map and the real distance on Earth).**

## Economics

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**banks**

A business that deals in money and credit

**barter**

To exchange goods and services for other goods and services

**business**

A company whose goal it is to make a profit

**consumer**

Any person or group that buys or uses goods and services to satisfy personal needs and wants

**economics**

The study of how individuals and societies make choices about ways to use scarce resources to fulfill their wants and needs

**economic choices**

Making decisions about what goods and services are produced and consumed

**economy**

The way people use resources to meet their needs

**exchange**

To give in return for something else

**financial institutions**

Examples: banks, credit unions, mortgage companies

**free enterprise**

An economic system in which people are free to operate their businesses as they see fit

**goods**

Objects or things that can satisfy people's wants

**government service (public)**

Services provided by the government and paid for by taxes (e.g., fire fighting, law enforcement [police])

**limited resources**

Resources that are not in great supply, not plentiful

**market**

Freely chosen activity between buyers and sellers of goods and services

**money**

A medium for exchange

**opportunity cost**

What is given up when an economic choice is made; the next best alternative

**private services**

Private businesses that offer services for profit (e.g., grocery store, veterinarian)

**producer**

A person who makes a good or provides a service

**profit**

The difference between revenues and the costs entailed in producing or selling a good or service

**scarcity**

The problem of limited resources

**services**

Actions that can satisfy people's wants

**specialization**

The situation in which people produce a narrower range of goods or focus on a particular good; results in interdependence with other products

**taxes**

Payment of money that citizens and businesses must make to help pay the costs of government

**wants and needs****• wants**

Things people would like to have but do not need to live

**• needs**

Things people must have in order to live

## Culture and Society

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**beliefs**

Something that is believed, a conviction

**competition**

Act of competing, rivalry

**compromise**

The settling of a dispute by each side's, agreeing to give up part of its demands

**conflict**

Opposition, different opinion, a state of disharmony

**cooperation**

Working together toward a common purpose

**culture**

The entire way of life of a people, including their customs, beliefs, and language

**custom**

An accepted practice followed by tradition

**elements of culture**

examples: language, music, art, dress, food, folk tales

**holidays**

Days set aside to commemorate/honor special people or events

**perspective**

Point of view—the position from which a person looks at an issue or situation

**prejudice**

A negative opinion formed without proof

**social groups**

examples: family, schools, teams, clubs

**social institutions**

government, economy, education, family, religion

**stereotypes**

A set of assumptions about people in a given category, either positive or negative, often based on half truths and nontruths

# Government and Civics

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## **amendment**

An addition to the Constitution

## **American freedoms**

examples: freedom of religion (Citizens can worship any religion or none at all.); freedom of speech (Citizens can express their beliefs and ideas.); freedom of petition the government (Citizens can ask the government to make changes.)

## **Bill of Rights**

The first ten amendments to the Constitution, ratified in 1791

## **branches of government**

Legislative, executive, and judicial

## **citizen**

A person born in a country or who chooses to become a member of that country by law

## **common goals**

Shared purpose, objectives

## **democracy**

A government in which the people take part

## **election**

Process of choosing by voting

## **executive branch**

The part of government that carries out the laws

## **government**

An authority that acts on behalf of a group of people

## **governor**

The head of the executive branch at the state level

## **judicial branch**

The branch of government that decides the meaning of the laws and settles disputes

## **laws**

Rules of action or conduct made by governments

## **legislative branch**

The law-making part of government with the power to raise the money needed to run the government (e.g., national level—Congress; state level—General Assembly)

## **levels of government**

Local, state, and national

## **maintain order**

To provide organization and safety for citizens

## **mayor**

The head of the executive branch at the local level (town or city)

## **peer group**

A group of people of similar age or social position

## **Preamble**

The introduction to the Constitution; explains the purpose of the Constitution

## **president**

The head of the executive branch at the national level

## **rights**

Freedoms or protections guaranteed by the U.S. government for all citizens

## **responsibilities**

Things that citizens should or must do in order to support the government (e.g., voting, paying taxes, obeying the law)

## **rules**

Statements of what may or may not be done

## **society**

A group of people who inhabit a common territory and have a common culture

## **security**

Safety, freedom from risk or danger

## **U.S. Constitution**

In the United States, the supreme law and plan of the national government, adopted in 1789