

History

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

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

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

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

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