
Grade 6

In Grade 6, students study people and places of the contemporary world. Societies selected for study are chosen from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Middle America, South America, Southwest Asia-North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of selected societies. Students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies and identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. The concepts of limited and unlimited government are introduced, and students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religious institutions. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of the selected societies and identify different points of view about selected events.

To support the teaching of the essential knowledge and skills, the use of a variety of rich primary and secondary source material such as biographies and autobiographies; novels; speeches and letters; and poetry, songs, and artworks is encouraged. Selections may include *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*. Motivating resources are also available from museums, art galleries, and historical sites.

Adapted to the Physical Environment

When people settle new areas they may change their ways of doing things in response to physical characteristics of places. People who live in areas without trees adapt to their environment by building houses of sod or stone. Those who live in heavily wooded areas build their homes of logs or sawed lumber.

Belief Systems Beliefs relate to religion, customs, values, attitudes, ideals, and world views. Belief systems include the beliefs and values shared by members of a racial, ethnic, or social group as well as those held by individuals. Belief systems develop over time and reflect the ideology, religion, politics, social structure, and economic activities of a particular group. Beliefs influence all decisions including economic ones.

Civic Participation Civic participation is being concerned with and involved in the public affairs of a community, state, nation, or world.

Command Economy A command economy is a system organized around a central authority which makes most of the major economic decisions. The economy of the former Soviet Union was a command economy.

Cultural Borrowing Cultural borrowing is the process by which a culture group adopts patterns of speech, actions, and artifacts which are characteristic of another culture group. Worldwide, about 10 percent of each culture is considered unique and 90 percent is borrowed from other cultures.

Culture Region A culture region is an area within which a particular culture system prevails. It is marked by all the characteristics of a culture including the ways people dress, the foods they eat, their belief systems, ways of earning a living, building styles, and so on. West Africa, Polynesia, and Middle America are examples of culture regions.

Culture Traits A single element of normal practice in a culture is a culture trait. For example, wearing a turban is a culture trait of some members of Muslim society. The tools used to eat (a fork or chopsticks) are a culture trait. Some culture traits are shared by different cultures.

Culture(s) Culture is the total pattern of human behavior and its products embodied in thought, speech, action, and artifacts and dependent upon man's capacity for learning and transmitting knowledge to succeeding generations through the use of tools, language, and systems of abstract

thought. It encompasses the body of customs, beliefs, social forms, and material traits which are distinct to a racial, ethnic, religious, or social group.

Democratic Forms of Government A democracy is a form of government in which the citizens are involved in making decisions either directly by voting or indirectly through their elected representatives. There are different types of democratic government. A direct democracy is a government in which citizens vote directly on each issue. A representative democracy is a government in which people elect representatives to manage the country and make laws.

The United States is a liberal democracy, that is, a democracy based on the protection of individual rights and on the consent of the governed to establish political authority. The United States is also a constitutional democracy because the U.S. Constitution established a limited government to protect individual rights and promote the common good.

Democratic Societies A democracy is a form of government in which the citizens are involved in making decisions either directly by voting or indirectly through their elected representatives. Different types of democratic societies emerge based on the type of governance:

- 1) A *direct democracy* is a government in which citizens vote directly on each issue. In such societies, citizens take a more active role in making decisions but the process may appear disorderly due to the broad base of public involvement.
- 2) A *representative democracy* is a government in which people elect representatives to manage the country and make laws. In such societies, citizens divest some of their decision making ability in the hands of the elected. This provides more order in society but limits the voice of the citizenry.
- 3) The United States is a *liberal democracy*, that is, a democracy based on the protection of individual rights and on the consent of the governed to establish political authority. In such a society, government responds to the needs of its citizens because a nonresponsive government loses support and may cease to exist.
- 4) The United States is also a *constitutional democracy* because the U.S. Constitution established a limited government in order to protect individual rights and promote the common good. In such a society, a balance exists between power afforded to the citizens and that afforded to the government.

Economic Factors Economic factors include the cost of design and development, construction, and operation, the access to essential resources of materials and knowledge, capital accumulation, investment needs, and proximity of

supply lines and transportation routes to raw materials and potential consumers. Such factors, as well as political issues such as the degree of government support for a project, influence economic decisions. Industry develops or adopts new technology for several reasons including the need to outdistance competition by producing new goods to capture new markets, or to produce better goods at less cost. Adoption may be further limited by concern over the impact of a technology on the environment or on the effects on labor. Investment in new technology can raise future standards of living. To predict the consequences of investment, individuals, businesses, and government must consider several factors.

Factors of Production Factors of production are resources needed to create products. They include land, capital or investments (money), labor, and entrepreneurship.

Frames of Reference People experience life from a variety of vantage points (frames of reference). Peasants in third-world countries perceive the world from their small villages. Business people negotiating trade deals in the boardrooms of international corporations perceive the world differently. The experiences of the coffee bean picker who helps procure the product rarely influences the decisions of the trader. People involved in each part of the process from coffee picking through curing, roasting, grinding, brewing, and drinking all engage the bean at different stages and express their involvement in the coffee business differently. By understanding how the frame of reference of different participants involved in growing, marketing, and purchasing coffee may affect the evidence they produce documenting their involvement, students gain a greater understanding of what happened and how it relates to current international events.

Historians and other social scientists also have a frame of reference, one based in the present. Their job is to sort through the evidence, prioritize it, distinguish important information from the less important, and interpret it. Those who study society reflect their times, and as a result, the interpretations of events change over time. Throughout the process, historians, geographers, sociologists, economists, and others must be aware that they view the events from the present, but they must avoid “present-mindedness,” judging the past or other cultures in relation to accepted behavior today within their society.

Free Enterprise System A free enterprise system is a market economy in which individuals depend on supply, demand, and prices to determine the answers to the four economic questions of “what to produce,” “how to produce,” “how much to produce,” and “for whom to produce.” The system has four characteristics: economic freedom, voluntary exchange, private property and the profit motive

Geographic Factors Several factors may influence the settlement and development of a place. Geographic factors include the physical characteristics of a place such as landforms, bodies and sources of water, vegetation, climate and weather patterns, and animal life. People who relocate to an area to farm prefer fertile land, abundant rainfall, and a moderate climate to a desert. Those who make their living fishing settle near bodies of water. Settlers often avoid mountainous areas or swamp land for various reasons.

Governments with Rule by One, Few, or Many

A government ruled by one is a monarchy or a dictatorship. In a monarchy, a single ruler controls government and claims the responsibility due to divine or hereditary right. Either birth or God determines who will rule, the people do not. Dictators or despots also maintain complete control of government in their countries. A government ruled by a few may involve a class or caste system where society is divided by wealth, inherited rank, privilege and profession. Government with rule by a few also occurs when a group of persons seize power after an overthrow of the previous government. The new rulers constitute a junta. A government ruled by many is a republic or a democracy.

Human Migration Human migration is the process of people moving from one place and relocating to another place intending to stay permanently or at least for a long period of time. Pull factors draw migrants from their original location. These include social, economic, and environmental attractions such as higher standards of living, better soil, peaceful relationships between culture groups, or warm weather. Push factors drive people from their original location, causing them to seek new ones. These include social, economic, and environmental forces such as war, depression, and cold weather.

Indicators of Economic Development

Economists look for patterns in human behavior which indicate how much money people will spend at what times in their lives and for what products. These patterns are called economic indicators. The ability to purchase, or purchasing power, changes as consumers age or move from hourly wage jobs to salaried positions. As their spendable income increases so does their ability to purchase goods and services. What they purchase changes depending on their age and stage in the life cycle. Young married couples are more likely to purchase a house while parents of high school students are trying to save for college. Life expectancy — the average number of years remaining in the life span of a person at a given age — also influences purchasing decisions, as does literacy — the ability to read and write.

Limited and Unlimited Governments In a limited government everyone, including all authority figures, must obey the laws. Constitutions, statements of rights, or

other laws define the limits of those in power so they cannot take advantage of their elected, appointed, or inherited positions. In an unlimited government, control is placed solely with the ruler and his/her appointees, and there are no limits imposed on his/her authority.

Location of Economic Activities Land use is classified by the type of activity conducted. The ways people satisfy their basic human needs by producing goods and services result in patterns of land use. These include agricultural, industrial, recreational, commercial, and residential uses. Economic links in the form of roadways, railways, and airways exist between the different types of economic activities. Links also exist between areas containing natural resources such as mining, fishing, or forestry products and manufacturing areas which process materials into finished products. Within towns and cities there are patterns of economic activity including central business districts, industrial areas, shopping areas, and entertainment and recreational areas. For efficiency, similar types of service activities cluster near industry or business. Fast-food restaurants exist within areas of dense population, shipyards and import/export industries exist near ship channels, and farm implement dealers and grain mills exist within farming communities. Transportation and communication networks do influence the location of economic activities to some degree, as do human and physical geographic factors.

Market Economy In a market economy, individuals depend on supply, demand, and prices to determine the answers to the four economic questions of “what to produce,” “how to produce,” “how much to produce,” and “for whom to produce.” A market economy is comparable to a free enterprise economy or system. The system has four characteristics: economic freedom, voluntary exchange, private property, and the profit motive.

Modified the Physical Environment When people settle new areas they may modify the physical environment to suit their needs. Farmers first clear land. In heavily wooded areas they girdle the trees to kill them and then plant their crops. Farmers in wet areas build draining systems to drain swamps or levees to hold flood water. In dry areas, irrigation allows farmers to modify the environment to suit their needs. In suburban and urban areas, pavement changes the way water runs off after rains. This often requires changes in draining systems. These are just a few ways humans modify the physical environment.

Non-renewable Resources A non-renewable resource is a finite resource that cannot be replaced once it is used (e.g. fossil fuels, minerals).

Physical Processes Physical processes are the operations that produce, maintain, and alter Earth’s physical sys-

tems. Physical processes can be grouped into four categories: those operating in the atmosphere (i.e. climate and meteorology), those operating in the lithosphere (e.g., plate tectonics, erosion, and soil formation), those operating in the hydrosphere (e.g., the circulation of the oceans and the water cycle), and those operating in the biosphere (e.g., plant and animal communities and ecosystems).

Points of View Social scientists and historians strive to understand what happened in the past or what motivates people today but they are often limited by incomplete evidence and conflicting viewpoints. To analyze available evidence they identify the different interests, opinions, and attitudes (points of view) reflected in the evidence. Thus reading and using evidence requires skill to recognize and understand the range of information contained. Those who master the process gain a greater understanding of the values, beliefs, political and national allegiances, economic and class status, and goals of those represented in the sources. For example, ethnic conflict involves more than racial differences. Members of ethnic groups pursue different interests derived from religious and cultural beliefs. It may be difficult to understand the status of women in traditional Muslim societies if a person's point of view does not encompass Muslim beliefs. Recognizing the point of view a member of another culture expresses begins by comprehending, not necessarily adopting, their outlook.

Primary and Secondary Sources Primary sources consist of evidence produced by someone who participated in an event or lived during the time being studied. A letter written to a friend or a map to a friend's house are both primary sources. Secondary sources include descriptions or interpretations prepared by people who were not involved in the events described. Researchers often use primary sources to understand past events but they produce secondary sources.

Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, and Quaternary Industries Industries differ in their involvement in the processing of natural resources, the production and marketing of goods, and the development of products and ideas. A *primary industry* exploits natural resources. Some examples of primary industries include fishing, farming, lumbering, and oil drilling. A *secondary industry* processes raw materials into finished products. These include steel plants or processing plants which turn agricultural products into canned or frozen goods. A *tertiary industry* exchanges and markets the products of the primary and secondary industries. They are involved in wholesaling and retailing functions, associated transportation and government services, and personal and professional services of all kinds. Teachers are part of the tertiary sector of the economy. *Quaternary industries* are those parts of the economy concerned with research, the gathering and dissemination of information, and admin-

istration. They are a specialized part of the tertiary sector of the economy.

Ramadan Ramadan is the holy month in the calendar of Islam. Moslems fast between sunrise and sunset each day during Ramadan.

Religious Ideas, Philosophical Ideas, and Cultures To believe means to accept the truth or actuality of something. When people believe in a number of related truths or tenets, the body of knowledge is a belief system. These beliefs come from and are affected by religious and philosophical ideas, and are difficult to change. Belief systems also prescribe appropriate behavior in a society, regulating such social behavior as dating and marriage customs and the role of women. Other belief systems regulate attitudes toward government and authority. Belief systems affect how groups of people view and use the environment. Some people believe that humans have dominion over nature (Maoris of New Zealand, most adherents of Judeo-Christian religions). Humans, they believe, are not part of nature but separate. Further, they believe that Earth was given to humans by God for their use. Other groups (Hindus, Buddhists, Confucianists) see people as part of, and at harmony with, nature.

Renewable Resources A renewable resource is a resource that can be regenerated (e.g., fish, timber, soil).

Responsibilities in Democratic Societies Citizens in a democratic society have a responsibility to all other citizens to ensure that the enjoyment of their individual rights does not impede the development of the common good of society. For American democracy to flourish, citizens must be aware of their rights and must exercise them responsibly. They must fulfill those responsibilities necessary to a self-governing, free, and just society. There are two categories of responsibilities:

Personal responsibilities, e.g., taking care of themselves, accepting responsibility for the consequences of their actions, taking advantage of the opportunity to be educated, and supporting their families;

Civic responsibilities, e.g., obeying the law; respecting the rights of others; being informed and attentive to the needs of their community; staying informed about issues impacting the decisions of elected leaders; paying attention to how well their elected leaders are doing their jobs; communicating with their representatives in their school, local, state, and national governments; voting; paying taxes; serving on juries; and serving in the armed forces.

Rights in Democratic Societies The liberal democratic tradition seeks to protect individual rights, the unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness listed in the Declaration of Independence. Personal rights in democratic societies include the freedom to travel, to live

where one chooses, to marry and have children, and to have freedom of thought. Political rights include the right to vote, petition, assemble, and speak or publish freely. Economic rights include the ability to own property, change employment, join a union, or start a business. Democratic governments protect all three types of rights but limits those which may harm or endanger members of the democracy. Documents governing democracies must be flexible to adapt to changing public opinion and to continually protect personal and public rights.

Scarcity Scarcity is the condition of not being able to have all of the goods and services one wants. Resources do not exist in sufficient quantities to satisfy all desires to use them. Individuals, governments, and businesses experience economic scarcity and therefore must make choices or trade-offs which have both present and future consequences. These are often unintended and can offset the initial effects of the decision. Rarely can one region or nation satisfy all demands. This forces regions and nations to trade goods and services. Nations profit when they possess rich natural resources and can process them and ship finished goods to other nations. The more demand there is for a resource the more a nation can profit from its own production. Yet, some under-developed nations are not able to develop their own resources because they lack the finances to support industries and lack the technology and expertise to process the raw materials into goods. Other nations often invest in industries, creating international companies to process and export the goods. In this instance, the country owning the resources does not profit as much as the country which invests in and processes the resources.

Technological Innovations Technological innovations are new ways of doing things which are based in a technology. An example is the telephone which revolutionized the way people communicated because it allowed people to hear the voices of friends and family living miles away. Travel became easier due to improvements in transportation which began with systems of canals and railroads and expanded to include automobiles, interstate roadway systems, and airlines with international flights. Computers and software revolutionized the ways people process information and communicate. Computers connected to the Internet allow people to share information and conduct personal and professional business nearly instantaneously and relatively inexpensively. The demands of new technologies and their applications promote further innovation to meet changing needs.

Thematic Maps The two categories of maps are reference maps and thematic maps. A thematic map shows a specific spatial distribution, theme, or topic such as population density, cattle production, climates of the world, or distribution of world religions. A reference map shows the locations of things. Road maps or maps in atlases are refer-

ence maps.

Totalitarian Totalitarian government is a type of unlimited government which attempts to control all facets of the lives of citizens. Independent associations are prohibited and government resorts to intimidation to impose rule. Examples of totalitarian regimes include the Soviet Union under Stalin, Germany under Hitler, Cambodia under Pol Pot, Cuba under Castro, and Iraq under Saddam Hussein. These governments control education, art, literature, and mass communications and may even ban emigration.

Traditional Economy A traditional economy is a system in which the allocation of resources and other economic activities are affected by ritual, custom, or habit.

Transportation Corridors and Barriers

Transportation corridors are the routes by which people and freight move from one place to another. There are several modes of transportation but the major conveyances, automobiles, railroads, airplanes, and ships, haul the majority of people or freight. Other systems including pipelines, wire, and satellites move oil or gas, electricity, and information between points of production to points of distribution. Transportation is relatively easy in open areas where a right-of-way is obtained and becomes more difficult as geographic, political, and economic barriers force changes in direction or method of transportation. Landforms such as mountains, swamps, and oceans are physical barriers to some forms of transportation. Transfer points exist at terminals of railways or interstates where the material is transported from one mode of transportation to another. Local, regional, state, national, and international boundaries may influence the route of transportation corridors. Economic factors also drive the location of transportation corridors because the majority of traffic moves into and out of major ports, or industrial, political, and urban centers.

World Regions Regions are divisions of Earth space which are similar or linked in some way. The world can be divided into regions in a number of ways, such as by climate, vegetation, culture, or/and locational or environmental factors.

Yom Kippur and Rosh Hashanah Yom Kippur, also called the Day of Atonement, is the most important Jewish holiday and is a day of fasting to atone for sins. Rosh Hashanah is the feast of the Jewish New Year which occurs in September or October each year, eight days before Yom Kippur. The eight days between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are special days of penance.