

The World at Your Fingertips

TERMS & NAMES

history
geography
government
citizen
economics
scarcity
culture
culture trait

MAIN IDEA

Social studies includes information from five fields of learning to provide a well-rounded picture of the world and its peoples.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Understanding your world is essential if you are to be an informed citizen of a global society.

DATELINE

EXTRA

SAN FRANCISCO, USA, JUNE 26, 1945

Fifty nations signed a charter today to establish a new organization called the United Nations. The organization will go into effect October 24.

The United Nations is a successor to the old League of Nations, founded after World War I to prevent another world war, which it failed to do.

The purpose of the new organization is to maintain peace and develop friendly relations among nations.

The member nations hope to cooperate to solve economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian problems and to promote respect for human rights and freedom.



Region • Flags of member countries fly in front of the United Nations headquarters in New York City. ▲

The Peoples of the World

For centuries, people in different parts of the world have been trying to get along with one another, not always with success. Part of the problem is a lack of understanding of other people's ways of life. Certain advances in communication and transportation, such as the Internet and high-speed planes, have brought people closer together. So have increased international trade and immigration. Knowledge of other societies can be a key to understanding them.

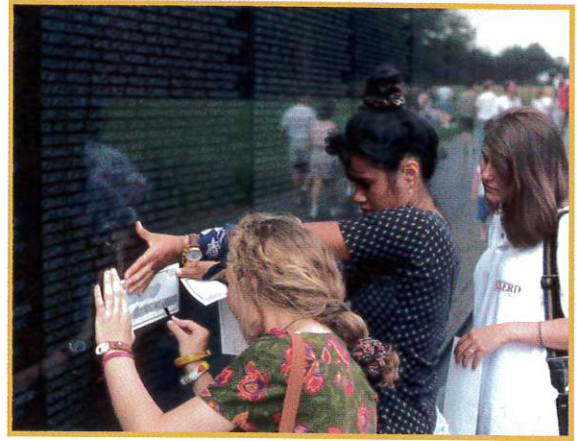
TAKING NOTES

Use your chart to take notes about these terms.

Term	Definition
history	
geography	

Learning About the World

Social studies is a way to learn about the world. It draws on information from five fields of learning—geography, history, economics, government, and culture. Each field looks at the world from a different angle. Consider the approaches you might use if you were starting at a new school. Figuring out how to get around would be learning your school's geography. Asking other students where they come from is learning their history. Making choices about which school supplies you can afford to buy is economics. Learning the school rules is learning about its government. Clubs, teams, styles of clothing, holidays, and even ways of saying things are part of the school's culture.



Place • The five fields of learning in social studies are well represented in daily life. ▲

Connections to Science

Historians of the Earth

Geologists are scientists who study how Earth was formed and how it has changed over time. There are many kinds of geologists. Some geologists study the materials that make up Earth and processes, such as erosion, that change Earth. Other geologists are interested in the history of Earth. They study fossils, which are the remains of animals and plants that lived millions of years ago.

History and Geography

Knowing history and geography helps orient you in time and space. **History** is a record of the past. The people and events of the past shaped the world as it is today. Historians search for primary sources, such as newspapers, letters, journals, and other documents, to find out about past events.

A VOICE FROM TODAY

How can we know who we are and where we are going if we don't know anything about where we have come from and what we have been through, the courage shown, the costs paid, to be where we are?

David McCullough, Historian

Vocabulary

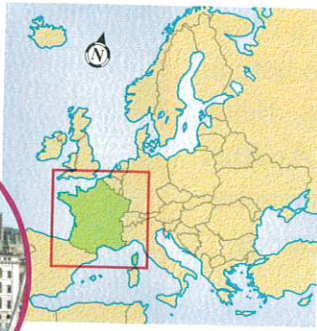
orient: to become familiar with a situation

The Five Themes of Geography **Geography** is the study of people, places, and the environment. Geography deals with the world in spatial terms. The study of geography focuses on five themes: location, region, place, movement, and human-environment interaction.





Place • France has a dry climate in the south, and a wetter climate in the north, with prosperous farms and thriving cities. ▲



Region • France is part of Europe. ▲



Location • France is located in western Europe. ▲

Human-Environment Interaction • Irrigation is important in the south of France. ▼



Movement • France has a large immigrant population. ▲

Location tells where a place is. Several countries that have features in common form a region. Place considers an area's distinguishing characteristics. Movement is a study of the migrations of people, animals, and even plants. Human-environment interaction considers how people change and are changed by the natural features of Earth.

Government

Every country has laws and a way to govern itself. Laws are the rules by which people live. **Government** is the people and groups within a society that have the authority to make laws, to make sure they are carried out, and to settle disagreements about them. The kind of government determines who has the authority to make the laws and see that they are carried out.

BACKGROUND

Local, state, and national governments provide needed services, such as schools, parks, electricity, and roads.

Vocabulary

totalitarian government: a government in which the rulers have total control

Limited and Unlimited Governments In a limited government, everyone, including those in charge, must obey the laws. Some of the laws tell the government what it cannot do. Democracies and republics are two forms of limited government. In a democracy, the people have the authority to make laws directly. In a republic, the people make laws through elected representatives. The governments of the United States, Mexico, and India are examples of republics.

Rulers in an unlimited government can do whatever they want without regard to the law. Totalitarianism is a form of unlimited government. In a totalitarian government the people have no say. Rulers have total control.

Citizenship A **citizen** is a legal member of a country. Citizens have rights, such as the right to vote in elections, and duties, such as paying taxes. Being born in a country can make you a citizen. Another way is to move to a country, complete certain requirements, and take part in a naturalization ceremony.



Vocabulary

naturalization:
the process of
becoming a citizen

Economics

Looking at the long list of flavors at the ice cream store, you have a decision to make. You have only enough money for one cone. Will it be mint chip or bubble gum flavor? You will have to choose. **Economics** is the study of how people manage their resources by producing, exchanging, and using goods and services. Economics is about choice.

Some economists claim that people's desires are unlimited. Resources to satisfy these desires, however, are limited. These economists refer to the conflict between people's desires and their limited resources as **scarcity**.

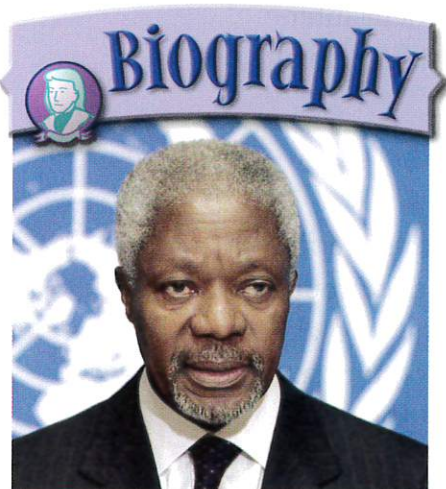
Resources Economists identify three types of resources: natural, human, and capital. Natural resources are gifts of nature, such as forests, fertile soil, and water. Human resources are skills people have to produce goods and services. Capital resources are the things people make, such as machines and equipment, to produce goods and services.

Kinds of Economies

Blue jeans are a product. Who decides whether to make them and how many to make and what price to charge? In a command economy, the government decides. In a market economy, individual businesses decide, based on what they think consumers want.

Levels of Development Different countries and regions have different levels of economic development. In a country with a high level of development, most people are well educated, have good health, and earn decent salaries. Services such as clean running water, electricity, and transportation are plentiful. Technology is advanced, and businesses flourish.

Movement • One way people become American citizens is by participating in a naturalization ceremony. ▲



Kofi Annan (b. 1938)

Kofi Annan (KOH•fee AN•uhn) was born in Ghana, West Africa. He is the seventh Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN). Annan studied economics in the United States and Switzerland. In 1972, he earned a graduate degree in management from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Annan is a passionate reformer. He cares deeply about HIV/AIDS funding, conflict resolution, educational reform, and ending poverty. In 2001, Annan and the UN jointly received the Nobel Peace Prize.

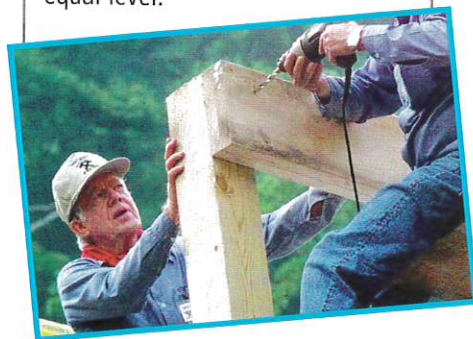
Reading Social Studies

A. Contrasting
How does a market economy differ from a command economy?



Habitat for Humanity International Since 1984 former President Jimmy Carter, below, has worked with Habitat for Humanity International. Habitat is a charity that builds and restores homes for people in need. The houses have a low cost, and the new homeowners pay for them over time.

The homeowners also help build their own houses. Carter explains that taking part gives people self-respect: "The people who will live in the homes work side-by-side with the volunteers, so they feel very much that they are on an equal level."



Vocabulary

literacy:
ability to read and write

life expectancy:
average number of years people live

A country with a low level of development is marked by few jobs in industry, poor services, and low literacy rates. Life expectancy is low. These countries are often called developing countries.

Culture

Some people wear saris. Others wear T-shirts. Some people eat cereal and milk for breakfast. Others eat pickled fish. Some people go to church on Sunday morning. Others kneel and pray to Allah five times a day. All these differences are expressions of **culture**. Culture consists of the beliefs, customs, laws, art, and ways of living that a group of people share.

Religion is part of most cultures; so is a shared language. The ways people express themselves through music, dance, literature, and the visual arts are important parts of every culture; so are the technology and tools they use to accomplish various tasks. Each kind of food, clothing, or technology, each belief, language, or tool shared by a culture is called a **culture trait**. Taken together, the culture traits of a people shape their way of life.

Reading Social Studies

B. Recognizing Important Details

What are three characteristics that can define a culture?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

Terms & Names

1. Explain the significance of:
- | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|-------------------|
| (a) history | (b) geography | (c) government | (d) citizen |
| (e) economics | (f) scarcity | (g) culture | (h) culture trait |

Using Graphics

2. Use a chart like this one to list the five themes of geography and their characteristics.

Theme	Characteristics

Main Ideas

3. (a) What five areas of learning does social studies include?
 (b) What are the three main kinds of resources, and how is each one defined?
 (c) What is the difference between limited and unlimited government?

Critical Thinking

4. Making Inferences

Does the United States have a shared, or common, culture?

Think About

- ♦ what you eat and wear, where you live, how you spend your free time
- ♦ who else shares these activities with you

ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Reread the section on citizenship. Make a **poster** showing the rights and responsibilities of a citizen.