

Grades 5–8 SOCIAL STUDIES



Social Studies

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Character Education

Responsibility

Lately you don't seem to have enough time to do everything you have to do or want to do. You have cut back on your sleep to fit everything in. Now you are always tired and grumpy, and you aren't keeping up with your studies.

Below is a list of activities you have to do or want to do during the week. Make a schedule for Monday–Friday that includes all the activities you can reasonably manage. Then explain in a paragraph what you will do about the remaining activities.

study for science test (test Thursday)

write history paper (due Friday)

soccer practice 2:45–4 P.M. each day

movies with Pat

start science project

volunteer at hospital

help paint my room

tutor Josh in Spanish

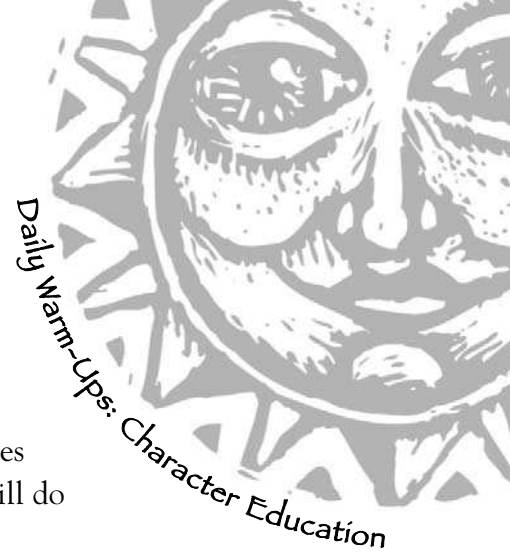
finish reading novel for class (oral report Thursday)

student council meeting 3:30–5 P.M. Tuesday

play tryouts 3:30–5 P.M. Thursday

dentist appointment 4 P.M. Monday

piano lesson 5:30–6 P.M. Friday



Friendship

Imagine that you write an advice column for the school newspaper. You have received the following letter:

I have a problem. I have been friends with someone for a long time, ever since we were little. But now I have some new friends who don't think my old friend is cool. I have a lot in common with my new friends, but my old friend and I have been through a lot together.

I'm torn between all these friends! What should I do?

Friendly

Write your advice to Friendly.



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Geography



Geography and Human Culture

Think about the world. What one place on the entire planet is best suited for people to live? The answer is . . . nowhere. Every place has advantages and disadvantages. One place may have a great climate but be subject to earthquakes and hurricanes. Another may be safe from storms but have a large number of disease-carrying insects. Other places may be too wet, too dry, too cold, or too hot.

But people live in all these places. People live in the extreme north, where the temperature is below freezing for nine months of the year. They live in the Gobi Desert, where less than 10 cm (4 in) of rain falls every year and temperatures range from -40°C to 45°C . And they live in all the hot, cold, wet, dry, storm-swept regions in between.

In order to live in all these places, people have to adapt. They develop clothes, tools, housing, and lifestyles that fit the environment. They also change the environment. For example, in areas with low rainfall, water from rivers may be used to irrigate fields.

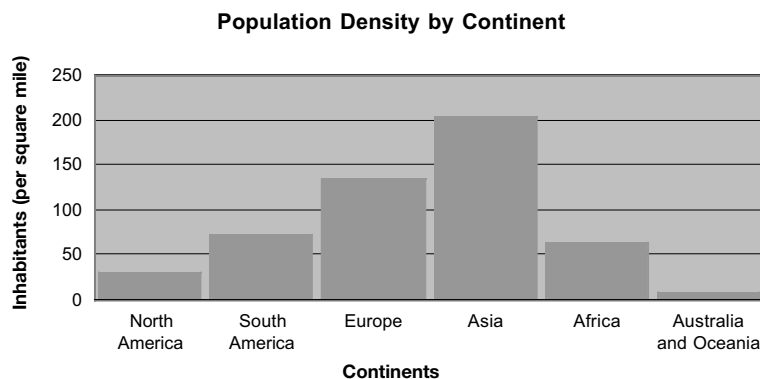
Think of all the ways you know of that people adapt themselves to their environment, and how they adapt the environment to themselves. List as many as you can.



Population Density

Geographers use bar charts to compare a set of individual items. The bar's length shows how it compares to the other items in the set.

Look at the bar chart below. Then answer the questions that follow.



1. What do the bars of the chart show?
2. Is the information on the bars true for every square mile on each continent?
3. According to the chart, which continent is the most densely populated?
4. According to the chart, which continent is the least densely populated?
5. Do you think that this type of chart is a good way to show this information?
Why or why not?

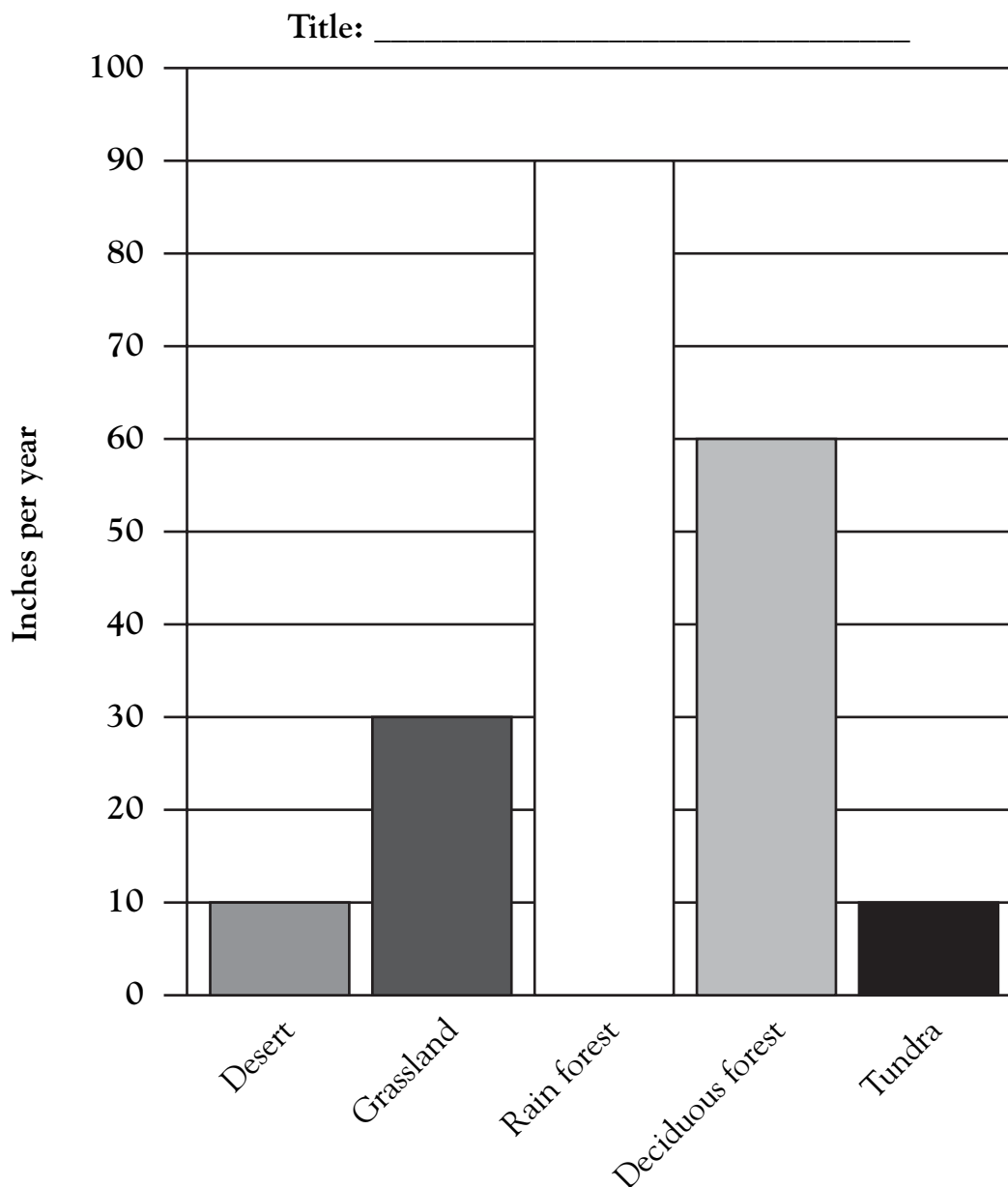




Biomes and Bar Charts

The world can be divided into biomes. **Biomes** are areas with similar climate, plants, and animals.

The graph below tells about some aspect of different biomes. Unfortunately, the title of the graph is missing. Look at the labels on the axes and the heights of the different bars. Think about what you know about the different biomes. Now, what do you think this graph shows? When you have the answer, use it to give the graph a good title. Write your title on the line.



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U.S. History



Revolutionary Leaders

By the late 1700s, many people in the American colonies were unhappy with British rule. A handful of individuals had the vision and the courage to do something about it.

Unscramble the groups of letters below to find the names of some key figures in the American Revolution.

1. NOJ H AMDSA _____
2. USLAME SMDAA _____
3. JAMINNBE LINKFARN _____
4. NOHJ CHOCKAN _____
5. CPKARTI RYEHN _____
6. MSAOTH EEFFJNORS _____
7. AEJMS IOST _____
8. SMATHO NEPAI _____
9. ALPU EEERRV _____
10. RGGEO TONSHINWAG _____



Fill in the chart below by writing “yes” or “no” as appropriate, based on the situation in America in 1787 at the time of the Constitutional Convention.

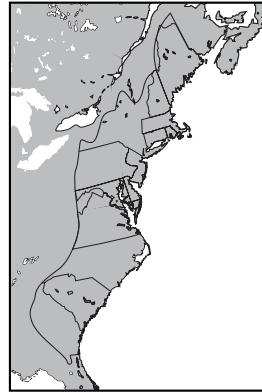
Based on the completed chart, what major differences were there between North and South in 1787? Where will these differences lead in the nineteenth century? Write one or two sentences for your answer.

	Economy based on slavery?	Large slave population?	Wants slaves to count as property for taxes?	Wants slaves to count as votes in Congress?
North				
South				



Reasons for Colonization

Before the American Revolution, there were thirteen British colonies in America. The colonies were different from one another in many ways. One difference was in the reason each colony was started. Some were started by people dealing with religious problems. Some were started to solve economic problems. Some were started for both economic and religious reasons.



The thirteen colonies are named below. From the box, choose the reason each one was started. Write the letter of the reason on the line next to each colony.

a. economic problems b. religious problems c. both economic and religious problems

- ___ 1. Connecticut
- ___ 2. Delaware
- ___ 3. Georgia
- ___ 4. Maryland
- ___ 5. Massachusetts
- ___ 6. New Hampshire
- ___ 7. New Jersey
- ___ 8. New York
- ___ 9. North Carolina
- ___ 10. Pennsylvania
- ___ 11. Rhode Island
- ___ 12. South Carolina
- ___ 13. Virginia (Jamestown)

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World History



Decoration in Islamic Architecture

Islamic architecture varies widely from country to country. It is affected by local traditions, climate, building materials, and so on. But one element unifies all these different styles: surface decoration. Walls, floors, and ceilings are often patterned. The pattern may be inlaid in stone, carved, painted, or tiled. Some designs are clearly based on geometry. Some incorporate calligraphy, or decorative writing. Some use floral motifs. They often interlace and use varying colors and textures to create a sense of depth and movement.

However, images of people and animals are rarely used in this type of decoration. They are never found on buildings used for religious purposes. Based on what you know about Islam, write one or two sentences explaining this.



Peru: What Is It?

Most countries have landmarks. They can be buildings or natural features. They are sites that people around the world identify with that country.

This is a description of a Peruvian landmark. Read the description. Then name the landmark being described.

This ancient ruined city is perched 2,400 m (8,000 ft) above sea level, high in the Andes Mountains. Built between 1460 and 1470, it once held about 200 buildings, mostly residences. The stones of the buildings were cut with bronze or stone tools and smoothed with sand. The blocks fit together tightly without mortar. Even today, it is not possible to squeeze a knife blade between the blocks. About 1,200 people lived here. They grew maize and potatoes on terraces around the city, using irrigation to reduce erosion and increase the area available for cultivation.

There are many mysteries to this mountaintop city. We still don't know why it was built, what it was used for—or what happened to destroy it. But long before the Spanish arrived in Peru, it had already faded. By the time Pizarro arrived in Cuzco in 1532, the city had long been forgotten.

What is it?

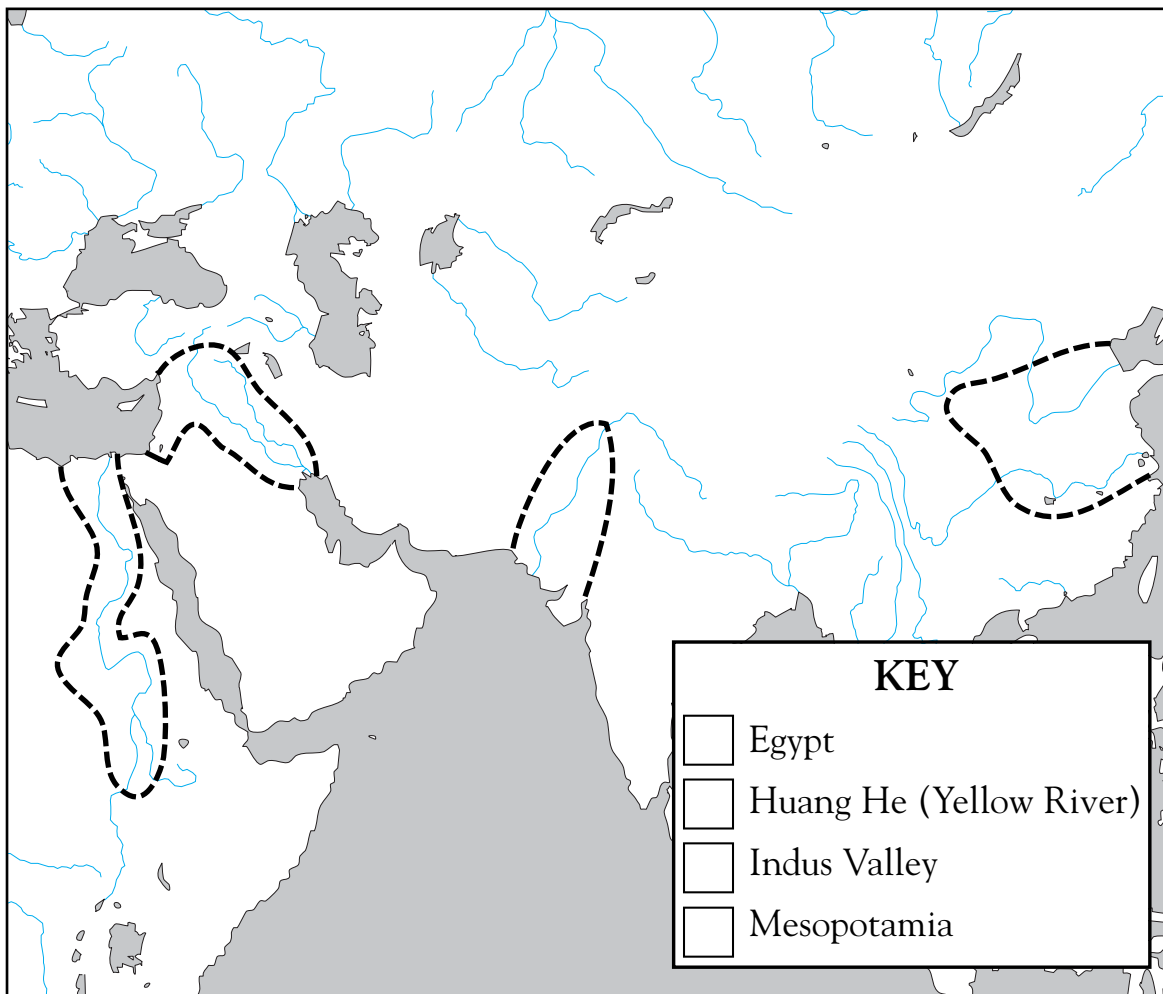


Peoples of the Rivers

The world's earliest civilizations developed along rivers. In northern Africa, the kingdom of Egypt developed along the banks of the Nile River. In southwestern Asia, Mesopotamia lay between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. The first Chinese culture developed along the Huang He, or Yellow River. In southern Asia, the Indus River was the site of the Indus Valley civilization. It centered on the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.

The map below shows the areas of these early civilizations. Color ancient Egypt orange. Color Mesopotamia blue. Color the Indus Valley red. Color the Huang He region yellow. Do not forget to fill in the key and give the map a descriptive title.

Title: _____



Who Am I?

Read the passage about an important Egyptian. Then answer the question that follows.

I was born in Egypt around 1504 B.C.E. My father was Pharaoh Thutmose I. When my father died, my half brother, Thutmose II, became pharaoh. I married Thutmose and took the title Great Royal Wife. After three years as pharaoh, Thutmose died. The new pharaoh was his son Thutmose III, his son by another wife.

As Thutmose III's aunt and stepmother, I was chosen to act as regent until the boy king came of age. I wanted to be more than that, though; I wanted to be pharaoh myself. I had myself crowned pharaoh in 1473 B.C.E. Since there was no word in Egyptian for a female ruler, I was known as the king. I wore a false beard as the symbol of the pharaoh's power. This was to show that I was the ruler, not the ruler's wife or mother.

As pharaoh, I started many grand building projects. They included monuments, temples, and shrines. Some of them still stand today.

In 1458 B.C.E., I disappeared from view in Egypt. My nephew and stepson, Thutmose III, regained the title of pharaoh. He had some of my monuments destroyed. On others, my name was chipped away, and his own name was carved into the stone instead.

Who am I? _____

