



Level 1



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Civics

To succeed together, citizens need to understand civic life and government.



Vocabulary: Civics

agricultural	having to do with farming
amendment	change or addition to a document
branch	one part of the government
campaign	activities to reach the goal of being elected
candidates	people who are trying to get elected
civic duties	the responsibilities of being a citizen
Constitution	document that tells a government how to do things
democracy	a government where the people rule
executive branch	carries out laws (President, Vice President)
federal	the central government of the United States
government	the way decisions for a country are made
immigrant	a person who moves to a new country to live
judicial branch	decides if laws are fair (Supreme Court)
jury	a group of people who make a decision in a courtroom case
legislative branch	makes laws (Congress)
majority	more than half of the people
taxes	money you have to pay to the government

A Constitution of Laws for the United States



The U.S. Constitution was written after the Revolutionary War in 1787.

After the Revolutionary War, leaders from the independent American states came together in 1787 to create a new **government**. They wrote a document that describes how the government should work. That document is called the United States **Constitution**. The U.S. Constitution tells Americans what their government can and cannot do. A Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to include ten **amendments** that protect important rights and freedoms for all Americans.

A Constitution of Laws for the United States

1	The Constitution has h	undreds of amendments.
	True	☐ False
2	It took months to finish	the Constitution.
	☐ True	False



What are the first words of the Constitution?Once upon a time....We the people....In the beginning....

A Democracy with Three Branches of Government



The United States Capitol houses the legislative branch of government.

The government of the United States is a **democracy**. In a democracy, the people choose who will work in the government. Three branches of government work together to create and enforce laws for the United States. Laws are written by congress in the **legislative branch**. A new law must be approved by the president in the **executive branch**. In the **judicial branch**, judges decide whether a law is fair for everyone. The three branches must work together to make laws and run the government.

A Democracy with Three Branches of Government

1	Each state has two sen	nators and two representatives in Congress.
	True	False
2	The Constitution begin	ns with the words "We the people."
	True	False



- Which branch of the federal government can be found in the U.S. Capitol building?
 - legislative branch
 - executive branch
 - judicial branch

Economics

Economics is the study of how people manage the sharing of things needed for life together.



Vocabulary: Economics

barter	trade with another person instead of paying with money
budget	a plan for spending your money
currency	the kind of money a country uses
fee	what you pay someone to do something for you
global	all over the world
interest	extra money when you pay off a debt
loan	money you borrow from a person or bank
natural resource	thing found in nature that is useful to humans, like wood
products	a thing that is made and then sold
profit	ending up with more money than you started with
stock share	a piece of a company that you own

Paying with Beads and Shells



Shells were used as money in ancient China.

Before using money, people got the things they needed by bartering. When people **barter**, one person gives something in exchange for something else. People traded with each other for food, clothing, and other things they needed. Now people can use money to buy things. Money has not always been coins and paper bills. About 3,000 years ago the Chinese used seashells as money.

Paying with Beads and Shells

1	Bartering is a kind of tr	rading.
	☐ True	False
2	Money has always bee	n coins and paper dollars.
	True	☐ False



- Who used shells like these as money?
 - ☐ Spanish explorers
 - people in ancient China
 - Roman soldiers

The Role of Money in an Economy



Each country has their own type of currency for money.

Each country has a system of money for buying things. The first coins were made out of metals like gold and silver. Paper money was invented later. Today, paper money and coins are used all over the world. Each country has their own type of **currency** for money. The currency of the United States is the dollar. Americans in all 50 states use the same kinds of dollar bills and coins.

____ True

The Role of Money in an Economy

1	Each state in America	has its own type of currency.
	True	False
2	_	
_	Each country has a sys	stem of money for buying things.

False

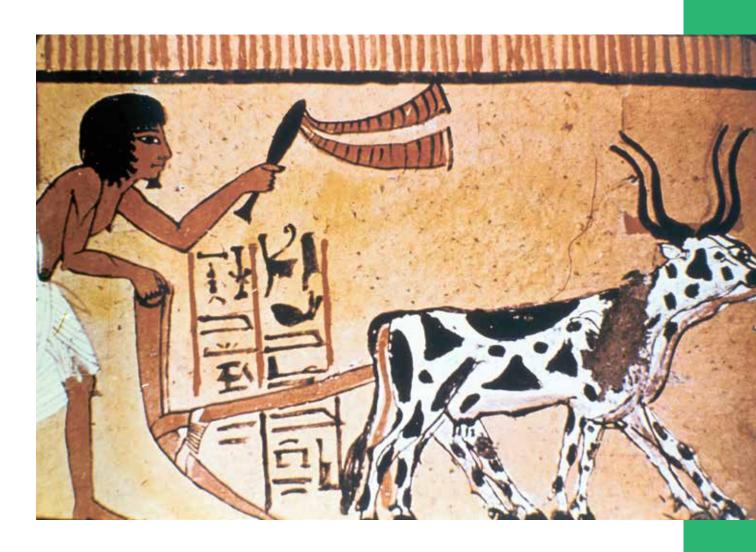


What does this picture show?
Money from different countries does not look the same.
Paper money looks the same everywhere.
Coins from around the world look the same.

HISTORY: PART 1

World History

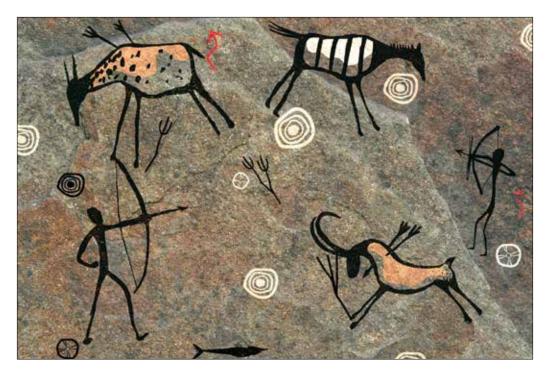
Learning our history helps us understand how and why the world got to be the way it is.



Vocabulary: World History

agriculture	the science or practice of farming
civilian	a person not in the military
civilization	the way of life in a particular place or time
colony	an area that is under political control of another country
continent	a large landmass on Earth, like Africa or Europe
empire	a group of countries controlled by one ruler or government
factory	building where things are made with machines
hieroglyphics	a language using pictures to represent words
Industrial Revolution	fast growth of industry using machines in the 1800s
merchant	someone who buys and then sells products
monument	a building or statue made in memory of a person or event
Native Americans	people whose ancestors lived in America before Europeans
philosophy	study of ideas about knowledge, truth, and meaning of life
sphere	a round object, like a ball
steamship	a ship that is powered by a steam engine
technology	using science for practical purposes
translated	words changed from one language to another
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Clues about Prehistoric Life



Cave drawings tell stories about ancient human life.

Humans have lived on Earth for a long time. Some early humans lived in caves. They used stones to make tools. The stone tools can teach us about how early humans lived. Some of the tools were used to hunt animals for food. The animals were important to the early humans. They drew pictures of animals on cave walls.

☐ True

Clues about Prehistoric Life

1	Early humans told sto	ories with pictures.	
	True	False	
2	Early humans made t	ools from stones.	

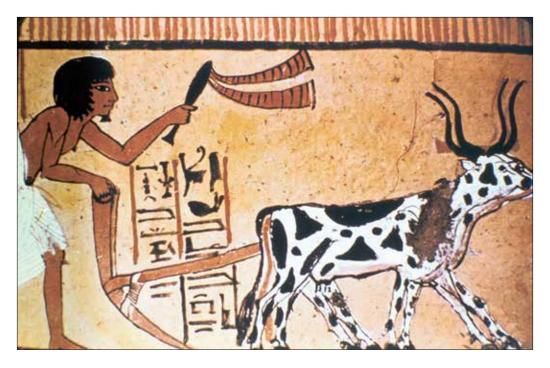
False



What does this cave painting show?people running away from animalspeople hunting animals

people growing plants for food

Growing Food and Building Cities

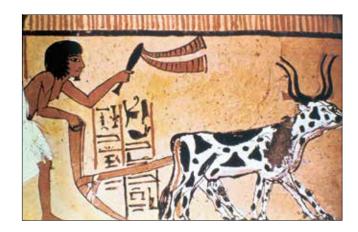


Ancient wall paintings show Egyptian farming.

The earliest humans did not stay in one place. Food they ate came from hunting animals. The animals they hunted moved around. The humans followed the animals so they could hunt them. They also ate fruits and vegetables growing in the wild. When humans learned about **agriculture**, they could grow their own food. Farm life allowed people to stay in one place.

Growing Food and Building Cities

1	Humans have always k	nown how to grow their own food.
	☐ True	False
2	Humans moved around	d less after learning agriculture.
	☐ True	☐ False

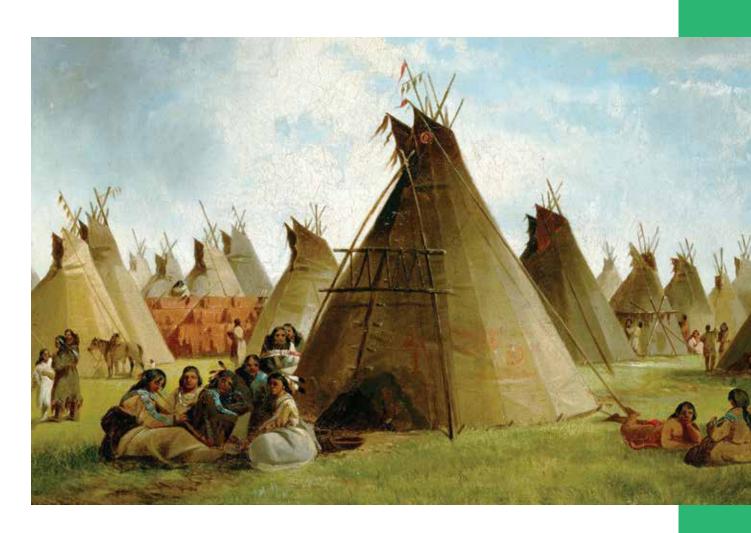


What does this picture show about farming in ancient Egypt?
Egyptian farmers used plows pulled by animals.
There was plenty of water for farming in Egypt.
Egyptian farmers like to sing.

HISTORY: PART 2

U.S. History

Learning our history helps us understand how and why the United States got to be the way it is.



Vocabulary: U.S. History

allies	people or countries on the same side in a fight
amendment	change or addition to a document
astronaut	person who travels into outer space
boycott	refusing to buy something as a form of protest
colony	an area that is under political control of another country
empire	countries or areas controlled by one ruler
expedition	a journey for a purpose, like exploring
factory	building where things are made with machines
frontier	the edge of the settled part of a country
independence	freedom from the control of others
labor unions	a group of workers organized to protect their interests
manufacture	make a product using machines
Native Americans	people whose ancestors lived in America before Europeans
plantation	large farm for growing crops like cotton, coffee, or sugar to sell
religion	organized system of beliefs in a god or gods
religion revolutionary	organized system of beliefs in a god or gods bringing about political change
revolutionary	bringing about political change
revolutionary	bringing about political change something everyone should have or be allowed to do
revolutionary rights segregation	bringing about political change something everyone should have or be allowed to do enforced separation of different racial groups
revolutionary rights segregation settlement	bringing about political change something everyone should have or be allowed to do enforced separation of different racial groups a place where people establish a community
revolutionary rights segregation settlement stock	bringing about political change something everyone should have or be allowed to do enforced separation of different racial groups a place where people establish a community a piece of a company that you own

England Establishes a Colony in Virginia



The Jamestown settlement was built on land where Native Americans lived..

England built **settlements** in North America. The first English settlement was called Jamestown. It was located in Virginia. Virginia was an English **colony.** Life at Jamestown was very hard. The people who lived there got sick. There was not enough food to eat. **Native Americans** lived near Jamestown. The colonists gave the Native Americans metal and beads. The Native Americans gave food to the colonists. When the colonists wanted more land, some Native Americans fought to keep their land.

England Establishes a Colony in Virginia

1	In 1492, Spanish explorers claimed land in the New World.		
	True	False	
2	The settlers at Jamestown had plenty of food.		
	☐ True	False	



- Who are the people shown in this picture?

 English settlers
 - Spanish explorers
 - ☐ Native Americans

A New Life in New England



The Pilgrims left England in 1620 on a sailing ship called the Mayflower.

In 1620, only one kind of church was allowed in England. The English king wanted everyone to be part of the Church of England. There was no freedom of **religion**. In the New World of America, people could have different kinds of churches. A group of people called Pilgrims sailed to America on a ship called the Mayflower. The new home for the Pilgrims became known as New England. **Native Americans** helped the Pilgrims learn to grow food. More than 150 years later, this land would become part of the United States of America.

A New Life in New England

1	In 1620, there were many kinds of churches in England.	
	True	False
2	The first Pilgrims came to America on the Mayflower.	
	True	False



What can you tell about the *Mayflower* from this picture?
The ship used wind power.
The ship was very fast.
The ship was very slow.

Geography

Geography is the study of Earth's landscapes, people, places and environments.



Vocabulary: Geography

atmosphere	the gases, including air, that surround a planet	
climate	the kind of weather in an area over a period of time	
environment	where a person, animal, or plant lives	
global warming	gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth	
hurricane	storm with a violent wind	
sphere	a round object, like a ball	

Flat Pictures of a Round World



A map is a flat picture of Earth.

Maps and globes are used to represent areas of land or sea. Like Earth, a globe is a **sphere**. Maps are flat. On a globe, the area of a city would be very small. A map is a better way to show smaller areas. For many years, only paper maps were used. Today, you can look at maps on a computer or smartphone. Now your phone can give you travel directions.

Flat Pictures of a Round World

1 A globe has the shape of a sphere.

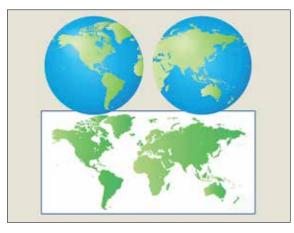
☐ True

False

2 For many years, only paper maps were available.

☐ True

False



What does this picture show?

The Earth is flat.

A map can show all parts of the world at once.

The Earth revolves around the Sun.

Using Geography to Decide Where to Live



Hurricanes can happen along the Atlantic coast of the United States.

Geography helps explain the choices people make about where to live. The geography of a place tells what is important to know about that place. For farming, a place in the country with water from a river is a good place to live. People looking for factory jobs will move to a city. Geography helps people know the possible dangers of a place. U.S. cities along the southern coast of the Atlantic Ocean are sometimes damaged by **hurricanes**. Cities in the northern United States often have cold and snowy winters.

True

Using Geography to Decide Where to Live

1	Water is needed for farming.		
	True	☐ False	
2	Geography can help p	people choose where to live.	

False



What does this picture show?

a snowstorm over the middle of the U.S.

a hurricane near the U.S. over the Atlantic Ocean

a thunderstorm near the U.S. over the Pacific Ocean