



# 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.

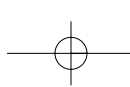
### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

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



## 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.



## 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

#### Digging into the Past

Archaeologists are scientists who study artifacts to learn about people's culture and history. Artifacts include pots, tools, artworks, and even food remains. Using special techniques and tools, archaeologists carefully remove artifacts from underground or underwater. They use their knowledge about the place and people they are studying to figure out how the artifact was used.



## 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** • Israel has a dry climate in the south, and a wetter climate in the north, with prosperous farms and thriving cities. ▲



**Region** • Israel is part of Southwest Asia. ▲



**Location** • Israel is on the southeast shore of the Mediterranean. ▲

**Human-Environment Interaction** • Irrigation systems supply Israel's dry climate with water. ▼



**Movement** • Immigrants arrive in Israel. ▲

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.

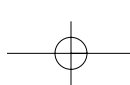
### Vocabulary

**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. Democracy is a form of limited government. In a democracy the people have the authority to make the laws, either directly or through their elected representatives. The governments of the United States, Mexico, and India are examples of democratic governments.

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.

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

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.

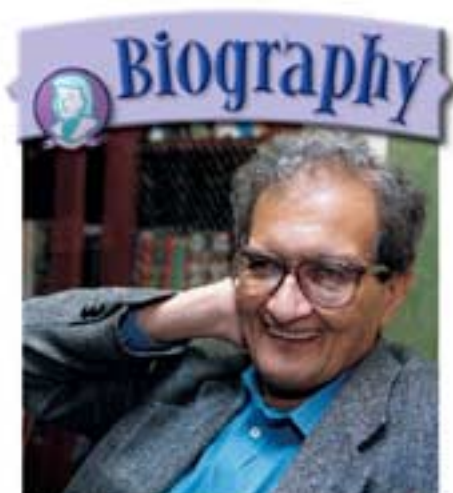
## Kinds of Economies

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.

### Reading Social Studies

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



### Amartya Sen (b. 1933)

Amartya Sen (ah•MART•yah sen) was born in India. As a professor at Trinity College in Cambridge, England, he taught and studied economics. An important part of his research was to look at catastrophes, such as famine, that happen to the world's poorest people. By showing governments that food shortages are often caused by social and economic conditions, he hoped to prevent famines in the future. In 1998, Sen won the Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences for his research in welfare economics.



## 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?

## Citizenship IN ACTION

### High-tech for the Developing World

Mae Jemison, below, is a former astronaut and the first African-American woman to orbit Earth. In 1993, she left the space program and set up the Jemison Institute for Advancing Technology in Developing Countries. This organization uses space program technology to help developing countries.

One project uses a satellite-based telecommunication system to improve health care in West Africa. Another project is an international science camp for students ages 12 to 16.



## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Terms & Names

- 1. Identify:** (a) history (b) geography (c) government (d) citizen  
(e) economics (f) scarcity (g) culture (h) culture trait

### Taking Notes

- 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.