

# 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies Vocabulary Packet

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Each Wednesday you will have a vocabulary quiz. You will start with a matching quiz over the cultures and societies set of words. After you make a 100% on it, you will take a fill in the blank quiz without a word bank over the same words. After you make a 100% on it, you will move onto the second page of words and repeat the same process.

Goals:

September: \_\_\_\_\_

October: \_\_\_\_\_

November: \_\_\_\_\_

December: \_\_\_\_\_

January: \_\_\_\_\_

February: \_\_\_\_\_

March: \_\_\_\_\_

April: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Culture and Society**

**beliefs**- something that is believed, a conviction; ideas that individuals or group hold to be true, that influence their behavior.

**competition**- act of competing, rivalry

**compromise**- the settling of a dispute by each side agreeing to give up part of its demands

**conflict**- to be opposed, to differ, a state of disharmony (Note: also see "war")

**cooperation**- working together toward a common purpose

**culture**- the entire way of life of a people, including their customs, beliefs, and language

**custom**- an accepted practice followed by tradition

**elements of culture**- examples: language, music, art, dress, food, literature, beliefs

**ethnic**- of or relating to races or large groups of people classed according to common traits and customs.

**holidays**- days set aside to commemorate/honor special people or event

**language**- the words and expression of a particular group.

**perspective-point of view**: the position from which a person looks at an issue or situation

**prejudice**-a negative opinion formed without proof

**social groups**-examples: family, schools, teams, clubs

**social institutions**- government, economy, education, family, religion. These five social institutions are found in all societies.

**stereotypes**-a set of assumptions about people in a given category, either positive or negative, often based on half truths and non-truths

**teams**- a number of persons associated together in work or activity

**unique**- being the only one of its kind, very unusual

**war**- an armed conflict between nations, states, or faction

## **Historical Perspectives 1**

**agrarianism**- life style that is dependent on farming and agriculture

**artifact**-an object made by people; historians often study artifacts left behind by people who lived long ago

**architecture**- a method or style of building

**capitalism**- an economic system in which natural resources and means of production are privately owned, investments are determined by private individuals rather than by government and prices are determined by competition.

**cause and effect**- the occurrence of one event is the result of a previous occurrence.

**change over time**-can be caused by changes in communication, innovations/inventions, traditions, homes, recreation, transportation...

**civil war**- war between citizens of one nation

**civilization**- society with a developed knowledge of farming, trade, government, art and science.

**classical civilizations**- the Greeks and the Romans

**equality**- being equal

**explore**-to search the unknown

**feudalism**- Medieval political system based on the relation of lords and vassals.

**Great Convergence**- the coming together of European, African, and Native American people beginning in the late 15th century.

**historical event**-an important event or occurrence that has taken place in the past

**historical period or era**-a time period in history distinguished by certain characteristics (e.g., Age of Exploration, Colonization...)

**history**-the story or record of what happened in the past

**immigrant**- a person who comes to live in a country from his or her home country

**industrialism**- social organization in which large scale industries are dominant

## Historical Perspectives 2

**interpretation**- to understand or explain in own belief, judgment or interest.

**Manifest Destiny**- belief that the United States should extend from coast to coast.

**monarchy**- government ruled by a king or queen.

**multiple causes**- more than one reason for an event (e.g., reasons for the American Revolution, Lewis and Clark Expedition, the Civil Rights Movement)

**nation states**- an independent nation of people having a common culture and identity.

**Native American**- earliest inhabitants of the western hemisphere; also known as American Indians or by specific group names (e.g., Cherokee, Iroquois, Mandan, Navaho...)

**patriotic**-loyal to one's country

**perspective**- to see or think of events in relationship to other events. Different perspectives sometimes influence the accounts of historical events.

**philosophy**- the general beliefs, concepts and attitudes of an individual or group.

**primary source**- a firsthand account of an event or an artifact created during the period of history that is being studied (e.g., artifacts, diaries, photographs)

**religion**- a system of beliefs

**revolution**- a sudden, radical change; change of government by force.

**secondary source**- an account of the past based on information from primary sources and written by someone who was not an eyewitness to those events (e.g., textbooks, encyclopedias)

**settlements**- establishment of residence of people in a new area

**slavery**- the state of being held in servitude and as property of another.

**symbol**- something that stands for something else (e.g., flag, Uncle Sam, Statue of Liberty)

**tariff**- taxes placed on goods entering one country from another.

**timeline**- a graphic organizer that shows a sequence of events.

## Geography 1

**absolute location**-the unique location of a place on Earth's surface (e.g., latitude and longitude measurements, address, and grid locations)

**barriers**-something that hinders

**climate**-the weather of an area over a number of years (includes temperature, precipitation, wind and water currents)

**famine**- an extreme scarcity of food.

**fertile land**-rich and productive land for growing crops

**geography**-the study of Earth and the way people live on it and use it

**human characteristics**- examples: language, religion, housing

**human environmental interaction**- how people depend upon, adapt to, and modify their environment  
modify-to change-(e.g., building a dam)

**irrigation**- to supply with water through man made means.

**landforms**-mountain, valley, hill, plain, plateau

**latitude**-an imaginary line, or parallel, measuring distance north or south of the equator (measured in degrees)

**limit**-to confine or restrict (e.g., physical environment that limits human activities mountains as barriers)

**location**-the place, position, or boundaries where something is or can be located

**longitude**-an imaginary line, or meridian, measuring distance east or west of the prime meridian (measured in degrees)

**movement**-how people in one place make contact with people from another place. People, ideas, information, and products are constantly moving around the world.

**migration**- the movement of people or animals from one place to another

**natural disasters**-floods, droughts, tornadoes, hurricanes, fires, etc.

## Geography 2

**natural resources**-materials found in nature that people use to meet their needs and wants

**place**-a particular location that can be described by its human and/or physical characteristics (e.g., school, Rocky Mts.)

**physical characteristics**-examples: landforms, climates, water, vegetation, animals

**physical environment**-all the physical surroundings (landforms, bodies of water, climate, natural resources) in which people, plants, and animals live

**physical map**-a map that highlights Earth's natural features

**political map**- a map that shows the boundaries of states and countries

**population**-the total number of people living in a particular area or place

**promote**-to further the progress, to advance (e.g., physical environment that promotes human activities-rivers used as boundaries or transportation routes)

**region**-an area with common features (geographic, cultural, economic) that set it apart from other areas

**relative location**-the position of a place in relation to other places (e.g., next to, south of...)

**rivers**- a natural stream of water usually of considerable volume.

**rural**-related to an open, sparsely populated area.

**satellite images**- photographs of earth's features as seen from satellites above earth's surface.

**settle**-to establish residence

**spatial factors**-factors to consider when making decisions about where to locate human activities on Earth's surface (e.g., where to locate a playground, store, house...)

**suburban**- the area surrounding the city. Contains housing and small cities, communities.

**technology**-the design and use of tools, ideas, and methods to solve problems

**thematic map**-a map that shows a particular topic such as a product map, climate map, population map, rainfall map...

**urban**- related to a city or densely populated area

## **Government and Civics 1**

**amendment**- an addition to the Constitution

**armed forces**- the combined army, navy and air force of a nation

**American freedoms**- Examples: freedom of religion-citizens can worship any religion or none at all; freedom of speech-citizens can express their beliefs and ideas; freedom to petition the government-citizens can ask the government to make changes

**Bill of Rights**- the first ten amendments to the Constitution, ratified in 1791

**branches of government**- legislative, executive, judicial

**checks and balances**- a system in which the powers of government are balanced among the different branches so that each branch can check, or limit, the power of the other branches.

**citizen**- a person born in a country or who chooses to become a member of that country by law

**community service**- work done to benefit the community (usually on a volunteer basis) rather than to benefit the individual or a business.

**constitutional government**- government that is limited by a constitution.

**Declaration of Independence**- the document, written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, that announced the intent of the colonies to free themselves from Great Britain.

**democratic government**- a government in which the people of a nation either rule directly or through elected representatives.

**democracy**- a government in which the people take part

**duties**- the things we are required to do as citizens of the United States (e.g. obey laws, pay taxes, serve as a juror).

**election**- process of choosing by voting

**executive branch**- the part of government that carries out the laws

**federal government**- the government of the nation, as a whole.

**federalism**- government powers are divided between the National (federal) Government and the states. The two levels (national and state) have separate and shared powers:

**government**- an authority that acts on behalf of a group of people

**governor**- the head of the executive branch at the state level

**judicial branch**- the branch of government that decides the meaning of the laws and settles disputes

**judicial review**- the power of the Supreme Court to determine if laws passed by Congress or presidential actions are constitutional.

**laws**- rules of action or conduct made by governments

**legislative branch**- the law-making part of government with the power to raise the money needed to run the government (e.g., national level-Congress, state level-General Assembly)

**levels of government**- local, state, and national (federal)

## **Government and Civics 2**

**liberty-** freedom

**maintain order-** providing organization and safety for citizens

**peer group-** a group of people of similar age or social position

**personal privacy-** the freedom from unauthorized intrusion into ones life by the government; the 4th amendment protects US citizens from illegal searches or seizures.

**Preamble-** the introduction to the Constitution; explains the purpose of the Constitution

**president-** the head of the executive branch at the national level

**property-** anything a person owns, such as land, goods or money

**republic-** a form of government in which people elect representatives to carry on the work of government for them.

**responsibilities-** things that citizens should or must do in order to support the government (e.g., voting)

**rights-** freedoms or protections guaranteed by the U. S. government for all citizens

**rules-** statements of what may or may not be done

**security-** safety, freedom from risk or danger

**separation of powers-** three way division of power among the branches of the federal government.

**society-** a human group

**state government-** the government of the individual jurisdictions of a nation.

**statutes-** laws passed by Congress or other law making bodies

**taxes-** a payment of money that citizens and businesses must make to help pay the cost of government.

**totalitarian government-** a government that has total (unlimited) control over the lives of the people.

**U. S. Constitution-** in the United States, it is the supreme law and plan of the national government, adopted in

1789

**voting-** the act of expressing ones opinion.



## **Economics 1**

**banks**- a business that deals in money and credit

**barter**- exchange of goods and services for other goods and services

**business**- a company whose goal it is to make a profit

**capital resources**- an item that is used in the production of other goods and services.

**command economy**-an economic system characterized by a central authority that makes most of the major economic decisions.

**competition**- buyers and sellers participating in the market.

**consumer**- any person or group that buys or uses goods and services to satisfy personal needs and wants

**distribution**- getting goods and services from the producer to the consumer.

**economics**- the study of how individuals and societies make choices about ways to use scarce resources to fulfill their wants and needs

**economic choices**-making decisions about what goods and services are produced and consumed

**economy**-the way people use resources to meet their needs

**exchange**-to give in return for something else

**financial institutions**- examples: banks, credit unions, mortgage companies

**free enterprise**-an economic system in which people are free to operate their businesses as they see fit

**goods**- objects or things that can satisfy people's wants

**invest**- to put out money in order to earn a future financial

**labor (human resources)**- any human activity- mental or physical- used in the production process.

**limited resources**-all resources are limited, some more than others, so choices must be made about them use.

**market**-freely chosen activity between buyers and sellers of goods and services

**market economy**- an economic system in which supply, demand, the price system help people make decisions and allocate resources.

## Economics 2

**mixed economy**- an economy that includes both private ownership and government guidance and regulation.

**money**- a medium for exchange, unit of account

**natural resources**- any material provided by nature that can be used to produce goods or provide services

**opportunity cost**-the cost of giving up one thing to get another

**price**- monetary value of a product.

**producer**-a person who makes a good or provides a service

**productive resources**- what is required to produce goods and services that people want.

**productivity**- the amount of output (goods and services) produced per unit of input (productive resources) used.

**profit**-the difference between revenues and the costs entailed in producing or selling a good or service

**revenue**- total income from sales of output

**resources**- what is required to produce goods and services that people want.

**scarcity**-the problem of limited resources

**services**-actions that can satisfy people's wants

**specialization**-the situation in which people produce a narrower range of goods or focus on a particular good; results in interdependence with other products

**supply and demand**- the amount of goods or services available (supply) is dependent on the willingness of consumers to purchase goods or services (demand)

**taxes**-payment of money that citizens and businesses must make to help pay the costs of government

**traditional economy**- economic system in which the allocation of scarce resources and other economic activity is the result of ritual, habit or custom.

**wants and needs-wants**-things people would like to have but do not need to live; **needs** things people must have in order to live