

5th Grade

WHAT IS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA?

The United States of America is one of many countries.

PEOPLE AND PLACE

I. The US is a country of rich diversity.

- The US has diverse borders, physical features, regions, resources, and climates.

1. *What borders, physical features, resources, and climates are found in the US?*

Borders – Pacific Ocean; Atlantic Ocean; Mexico; Canada; Gulf of Mexico

Physical Features:

Mountains:

Rocky Mountains
Appalachian Mtns.
Sierra Nevada Mtns.
Cascade Mountains

Rivers:

Mississippi River
Colorado River
Missouri River
Hudson River
Rio Grande River
Columbia River

Lakes:

Great Lakes
Great Salt Lake

Plains, Deserts, Canyons, Basins, Islands

Natural Resources:

Forests, Plants, Soil, Water, Minerals, Animals

Climates:

Tropical, Polar, Temperate, Dry, Highlands

2. *What are the geographic regions of the US?*

(Defining the regions will be dependent on how materials selected define those regions).

Also explore:

Cultural regions
Economic regions

- Diverse physical environments of the US influence the way people live and work.

3. *How have people of the US been influenced by, adapted to, and changed their environment?*

The environment where the Native Americans lived affected how they lived.

-shelter, food, technology, art, customs, and beliefs

People have changed the natural environment into a built environment.

The environment of a place affects people's life styles, way of life and economy.

Natural resources found in the environment are used by people in many ways.

- The US has a rich diversity of people and cultures.

4. *Why does the US have a rich multicultural heritage?*

The US is a land of immigrants.

People have come from all over the world – the result is rich, cultural diversity.

People come for freedom, jobs, better living conditions, education. . .

Ethnic groups – share same customs and language.

Immigrants groups

1500s – Europeans and Africans

HISTORY

II. The history of the US is the story of its people, events, conflicts, and ideas.

- Early exploration occurred for a variety of reasons.

1. *For what were European nations searching?*

NW Passage to Asia – water route to Asia

Trade routes

Riches

Early explorers found rich natural resources

Land

Animals (furs)

Forests

Water

Fish

- People settled in North America for many reasons.

2. *What are the reasons Europeans settled in North America?*

New start

Riches

Land

Religious freedom

Indentured servants / Slaves

3. *Who were these people and where did they come from?*

Europeans

Spanish

British

French

Dutch

4. *How did the encounter between native and non-native peoples shape early colonization?*

Conflict

Community

- Life differed from one colony to another

5. *What are the factors that made life different from one colony to another?*

Natural resources

Location

Population

Beliefs

Life styles

Economy

Government

Climate

6. *Why were enslaved Africans brought to the colonies?*

To be laborers

- **The American Revolution was the fight for independence from England.**

7. *Why did the colonists want independence?*

No representation in Parliament
 “No taxation without representation.”
 Unfair taxation

8. *What were the causes of the American Revolution?*

French Indian War	Boston Tea Party
Proclamation of 1763	First Continental Congress
Stamp Act (and other Acts imposed by Parliament)	
Boston Massacre	

9. *Why is the Declaration of Independence important?*

First official document written by the colonists sent to Great Britain declaring intent to become a sovereign nation.

10. *Who were the important leaders of the American Revolution?*

<u>U.S.</u>		<u>British</u>
Thomas Jefferson	Thomas Paine	King George III
Patrick Henry	Nathan Hale	General Gage
Sam Adams	Marquis de Lafayette	General Burgoyne
John Adams	Von Steuben	General Cornwallis
George Washington	John Paul Jones	
Continental Army		
Minutemen		
Paul Revere		

11. *What were some of the major battles of the American Revolution?*

Concord/Lexington	Valley Forge
Bunker Hill	Yorktown
Saratoga	

12. *What were the differences of the Loyalists, Patriots, and Neutrals?*

Compare/contrast

- **The American Revolution created a new nation.**

13. *How was the new nation organized?*

Articles of Confederation
 Weak central government; strong state governments

ORGANIZATION

III. The US representative form of government unites the 50 states.

1. *What values and principles are basic to our democracy?*

Basic freedoms Equality Representative government

2. *Why is the Declaration of Independence important?*

First official document written by the colonists sent to Great Britain declaring intent to become a sovereign nation.

• **The Constitution defines the government of the United States.**

3. *What is the purpose of the Constitution?*

Written plan of government

People hold power in country

Federalism (shared powers) - power shared between state government and federal government.

Democracy

Democratic republic

System of checks and balances

4. *What is the Bill of Rights? Why is it important?*

First 10 amendments of the Constitution

Laws that protect important rights for every American

Freedom of press, religion, speech

Right to gather in groups, fair- speedy trial

Separation of church and state

• **Each of the three branches of federal government has its own duties and responsibilities.**

5. *How is the US government organized?*

Federal system of government

3 branches of government

Separate powers

Checks and balances

LEGISLATIVE

Makes laws

Print money

Congress

House of Representatives

(435)

-Based on state population – determined by national census

Senate (100)

-two per state

EXECUTIVE

Carries out laws

Signs or vetoes bills

President

JUDICIAL

Decides if laws are Constitutional

Interprets laws

Supreme Court – 9 members

6. Who are the current leaders of the federal government?

President Vice President
Secretary of State Secretary of Defense Attorney General
Speaker of the House
Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

- American citizens have rights and responsibilities.

7. What are the rights and responsibilities of American citizens?

Bill of Rights – freedoms (First 10 amendments of the Constitution)
Vote
Obey laws

ECONOMY

IV. The economy of the US is based in a free enterprise system.

Students will have the opportunity to experience a free enterprise system with the Junior Achievement Curriculum -Enterprise Village.

SOCIAL STUDIES SKILLS

Inquiry and Information Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define a central question• Search for relevant information• Evaluate information• Organize information• Apply information
Interpersonal and Group Process Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion skills• Group interaction skills• Interview skills
Critical Thinking Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Define and clarify a problem• Judge information related to the problem• Solve problems and draw conclusions• Analyze cause and effect relationships• Think chronologically• Take perspective