

**GRADE 8**  
**Social Studies**

**Administered April 2015**

**RELEASED**



# SOCIAL STUDIES

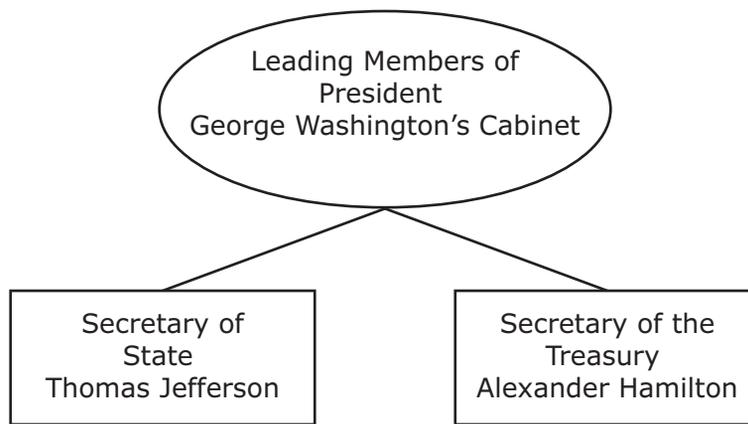


2 A certain small town has many choices for people who want to attend religious services, including two churches, a synagogue, a cathedral, a mosque, and a temple. These choices are protected by the —

- F First Amendment
- G Third Amendment
- H Sixth Amendment
- J Eighth Amendment

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3



Disagreements between these two cabinet members led to —

- A the creation of reservations for American Indians
- B a struggle to ratify the Bill of Rights
- C the establishment of the first U.S. political parties
- D a compromise over slavery in western territories

- 4 The decision in *Marbury v. Madison* was significant in U.S. history because it —
- F reinforced federal authority over American Indian affairs
  - G confirmed the power of Congress to regulate interstate commerce
  - H established the practice of judicial review by the Supreme Court
  - J upheld the power of the Electoral College to choose the vice president

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5

Characteristics of American Colonies

Colonies	Resource	Climate	Product
Northern	Deep harbors	Cold	1
Middle	Rich farmland	2	Livestock
Southern	3	Warm	4

Which characteristic is correctly matched with a number in the table?

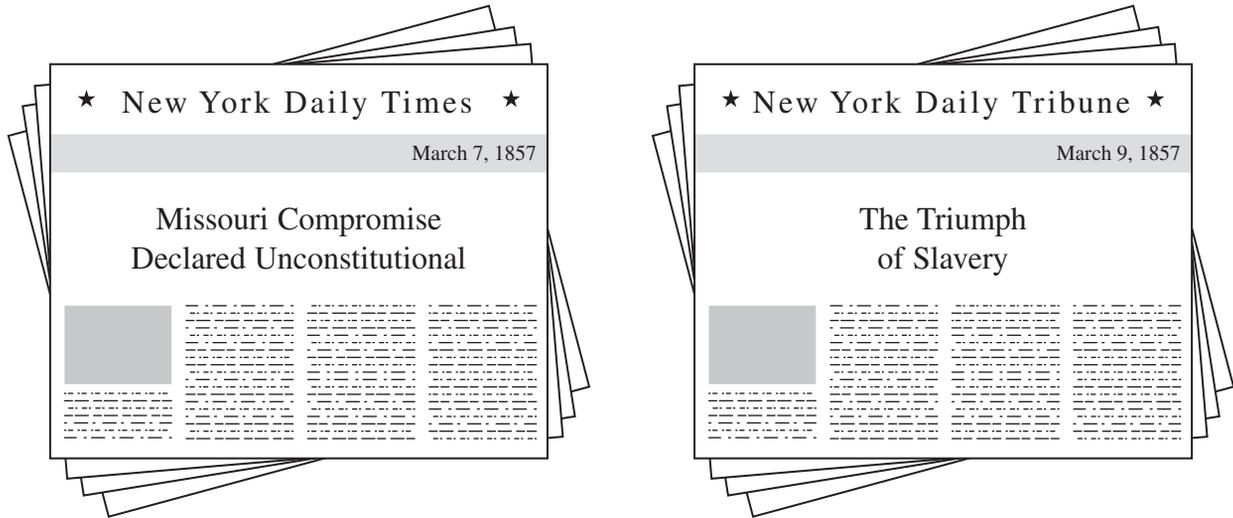
- A 1: Indigo
- B 2: Moderate
- C 3: Rocky soil
- D 4: Ships

The States have their status in the Union, and they have no other legal status. . . . The Union, and not themselves separately, procured their independence and their liberty.

—*President Abraham Lincoln, message to Congress, July 4, 1861*

Which constitutional issue was President Lincoln addressing in this excerpt?

- F** The right of citizens to choose representatives
- G** The power of states to organize militias
- H** The unalienable rights of citizens
- J** The legal ability of states to secede



These headlines refer to the decision in which Supreme Court case?

- A *McCulloch v. Maryland*
- B *Gibbons v. Ogden*
- C *Dred Scott v. Sandford*
- D *Worcester v. Georgia*

- Sugar Act
- Quartering Act
- Stamp Act

These acts contributed to the start of the Revolutionary War by —

- F restricting colonial trade with American Indians
- G imposing regulations on colonial agriculture
- H angering colonists who believed that their civil liberties had been violated
- J punishing colonists for resisting the authority of Parliament

- 9 A biography on the military career of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson would include his involvement in which Civil War events?
- A The First Battle of Bull Run and the Confederate victory at Fredericksburg
  - B The Union capture of Atlanta and the March to the Sea through Georgia
  - C The Virginia Peninsula campaign and the Union victory at Gettysburg
  - D The campaigns in northern Virginia and the Confederate surrender at Appomattox Court House

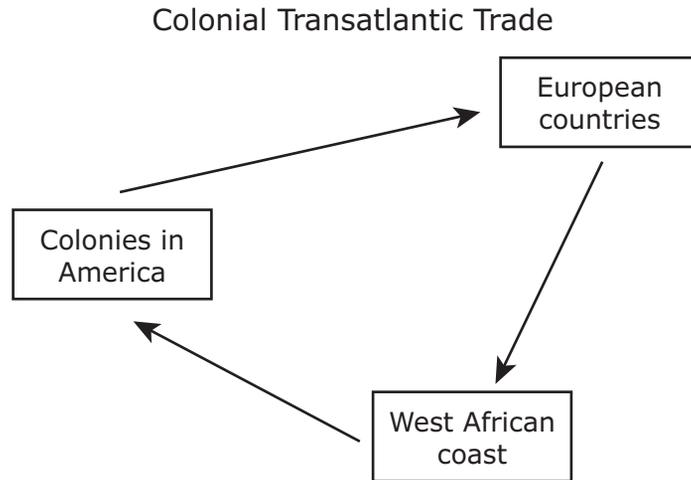
10

United States, 1850s

Region	Economy	Contributing Factor
North	Factories	Numerous fast-flowing rivers
South	Plantations	Fertile soil for cash crops
West	1) _____?	2) _____?

Which economy and contributing factor best complete this table?

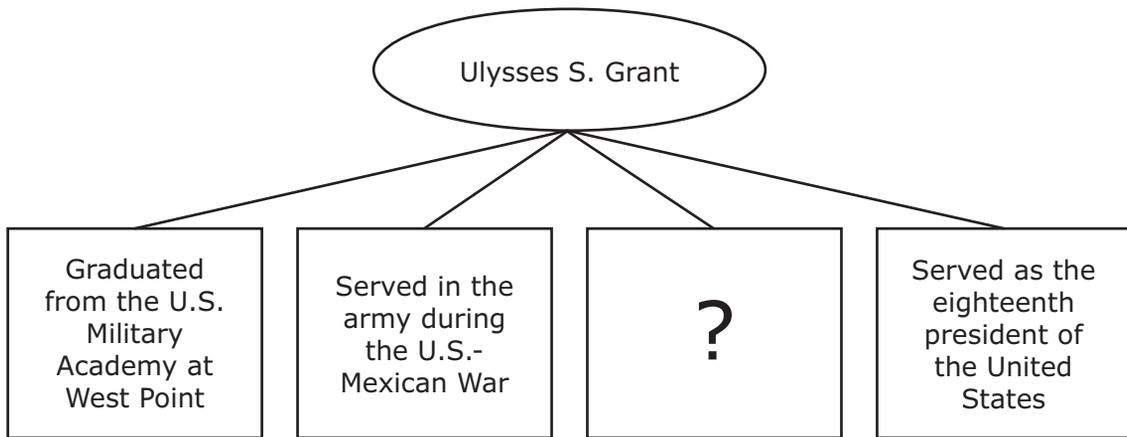
- F 1) Large farms; 2) Slaves used for labor
- G 1) Cottage industry; 2) Mild weather that attracted immigrants
- H 1) Mining; 2) Metal ores and minerals
- J 1) Ranching; 2) Railroads to transport cattle to market



Which factor most encouraged the growth of this trade?

- A** The invention of the steam engine
- B** The profitability of cash-crop agriculture
- C** The development of the factory system
- D** The establishment of protective tariffs

12



Which accomplishment could be added to this diagram?

- F** Commanded the U.S. military in the West during the Indian Wars
- G** Led the Radical Republicans in Congress during Reconstruction
- H** Was appointed general in chief of the Union army during the Civil War
- J** Became Andrew Johnson's vice president after Abraham Lincoln's assassination

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13

Ralph Waldo Emerson

- Popular essayist and lecturer
- Promoted individualism and self-reliance
- Works included "Nature" and "The American Scholar"

Which movement did Emerson lead?

- A** Temperance
- B** Abolitionism
- C** The Second Great Awakening
- D** Transcendentalism

And excessive bail hath been required of persons committed in criminal cases to elude the benefit of the laws made for the liberty of the subjects;

And excessive fines have been imposed;

And illegal and cruel punishments inflicted . . .

—*English Bill of Rights, 1689*

Which U.S. document guarantees protection against these injustices?

- F** The Constitution
- G** The Declaration of Independence
- H** The Articles of Confederation
- J** The Mayflower Compact

- The Whiskey Rebellion
- The Bank of the United States
- The Alien and Sedition Acts
- *Marbury v. Madison*

This list provides examples of —

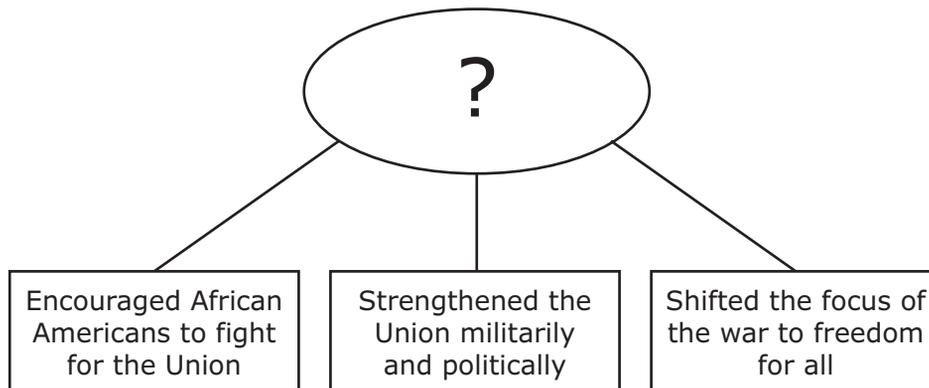
- A** topics discussed during the Second Constitutional Convention
- B** domestic issues faced by the leaders of the new republic
- C** weaknesses of the government under the Articles of Confederation
- D** issues leading to the ratification of the first constitutional amendments

Be it enacted by the General Assembly, That no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place, or ministry whatsoever, nor shall . . . otherwise suffer on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinion in matters of religion. . . .

—*The Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom*

Which document was most influenced by this statute?

- F** The Declaration of Independence
- G** The Articles of Confederation
- H** The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- J** The Bill of Rights



Which of the following completes this diagram?

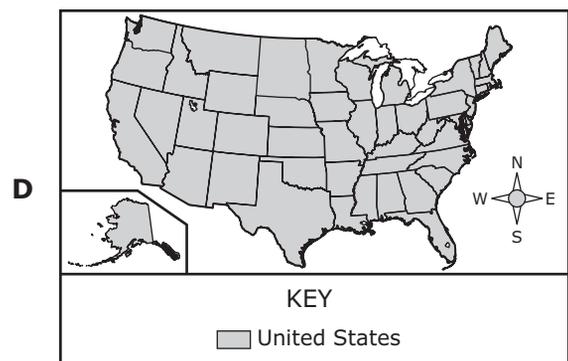
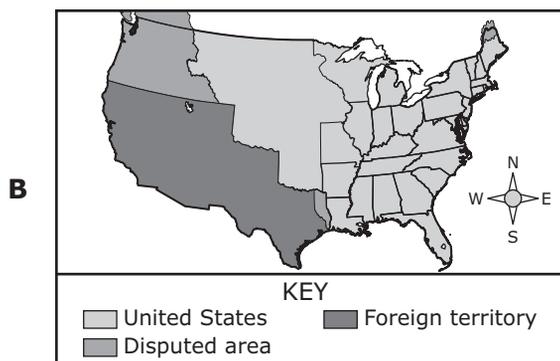
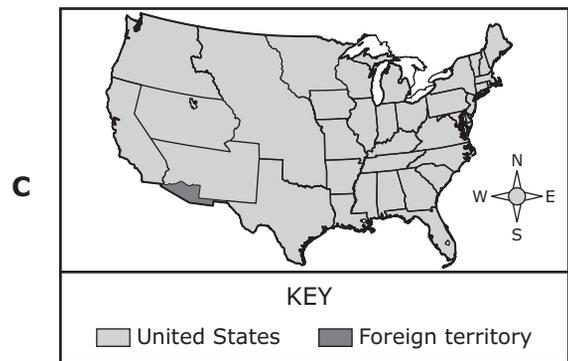
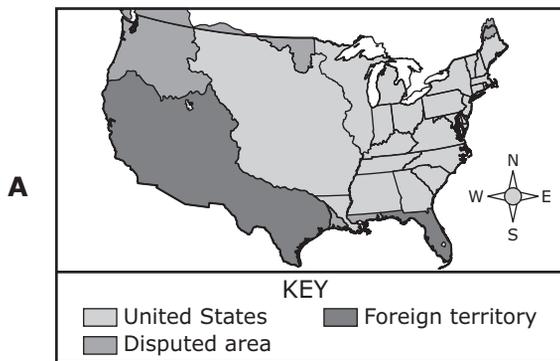
- A** President Lincoln's First Inaugural Address
- B** The Gettysburg Address
- C** The Emancipation Proclamation
- D** The Thirteenth Amendment

**18** Which of the following correctly describes the Three-Fifths Compromise?

- F** A portion of the slave population was counted for legislative representation.
- G** A federal law enforcing the return of fugitive slaves was passed.
- H** The census bureau was established to help apportion representation.
- J** The election of senators was delegated to state legislatures.

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**19** Which map shows the boundaries of the United States just after the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo?



*Valley of the Yosemite* by Albert Bierstadt (1864)



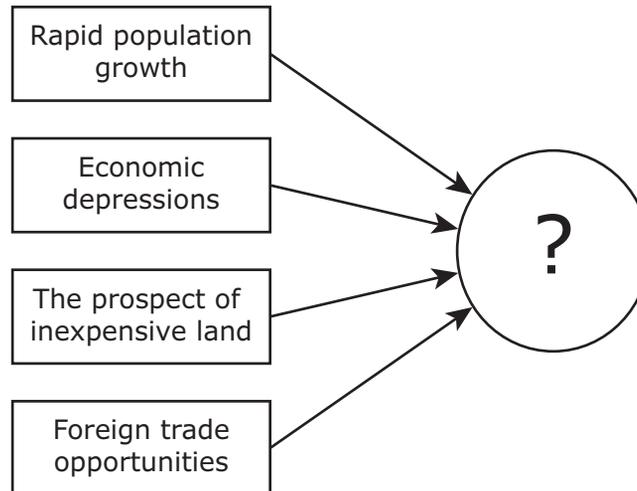
This painting was completed in 1864, just before the end of the Civil War. At that time, what idea did the western frontier represent to many Americans?

- F** The need to establish national parks
- G** The threat of industrial pollution
- H** The abundance of wildlife
- J** The promise of a new beginning for the nation

- Distance from Great Britain
- Mayflower Compact
- Town hall meetings

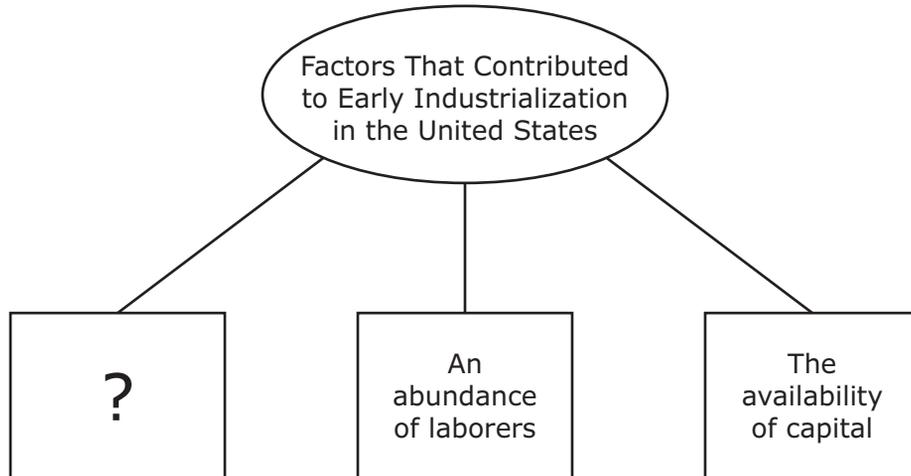
The factors listed above contributed most to the —

- A** creation of alliances between British settlers and American Indians
- B** election of British colonists to Parliament
- C** growth of representative government in the British colonies
- D** expansion of British trade in the Americas



During the 1840s the factors in this diagram contributed to widespread support for which of the following?

- F** The Kansas-Nebraska Act
- G** Manifest Destiny
- H** The American System
- J** States' Rights



Which factor best completes this diagram?

- A** New transportation systems
- B** Increased government regulation
- C** A decline in agricultural production
- D** The growth of labor unions

I am exceedingly well pleased at coming to this land of plenty. . . . I would advise all my friends to quit Ireland—the country most dear to me; as long as they remain in it they will be in bondage and misery. . . . What you labour for is sweetened by contentment and happiness; there is no failure in the potato crop, and you can grow Indian corn, and every crop you wish. . . . I shudder when I think that starvation prevails to such an extent in poor Ireland.

—*Letter from an Irish immigrant to The Times of London, May 14, 1850*

Which quotation from this letter reveals the main reason for the surge in Irish immigration to the United States in the mid-nineteenth century?

- F** "I am exceedingly well pleased at coming to this land of plenty."
- G** "I would advise all my friends to quit Ireland. . . ."
- H** "What you labour for is sweetened by contentment and happiness. . . ."
- J** "There is no failure in the potato crop. . . ."

**25** Which box lists some results of improved steamboat technology in the United States as of the mid-1830s?

**A**

- The price of fares decreased.
- The tourist industry developed.
- The cost to transport goods decreased.

**B**

- The price of coal increased.
- Roads were built to connect rivers.
- The need for Conestoga wagons was eliminated.

**C**

- Traffic on the Mississippi River increased.
- Canals stopped being built in the Northeast.
- More goods were shipped from the North to the South.

**D**

- New states were added to the Union.
- The population of major cities decreased.
- Support for Manifest Destiny grew stronger.

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**26** How did Samuel Morse's best-known innovation contribute to U.S. growth and development?

- F** It enabled instantaneous long-distance transmission of information.
- G** It allowed manufactured goods to be produced at lower costs.
- H** It boosted the speed of cross-country mail delivery.
- J** It increased national unity by reducing sectional differences.

- 27** Which statement accurately describes the reasons for establishing Plymouth and Jamestown?
- A** Both colonies were established to bring wealth to stockholders.
  - B** Plymouth’s founders intended to produce raw materials, while Jamestown’s founders expected to discover gold.
  - C** Both colonies were established to limit the expansion of other European empires.
  - D** Plymouth was founded as a refuge from religious persecution, while Jamestown was founded for commercial profit.
- 

**28**

The President . . . shall have Power, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, to make Treaties, provided two thirds of the Senators present concur.

—*U.S. Constitution, Article II, Section 2*

This excerpt provides one example of which constitutional principle?

- F** Federalism
- G** Checks and balances
- H** Popular sovereignty
- J** Individual rights

## Reasons for Passage of the Pacific Railway Act

- To aid in the construction of a telegraph line
- To provide transport for military purposes
- To connect California to the rest of the Union

What was another reason Congress passed this act in 1862?

- A** To promote settlement in the West
- B** To protect industry in the Northeast
- C** To improve transportation in the South
- D** To transport manufactured goods to the East



The numbered river on this map played a major role in —

- F** the defeat of British troops at the Battle of Saratoga
- G** the exploration of new territory acquired from France
- H** the defeat of British invaders at the Battle of Fort McHenry
- J** the settlement of territory previously claimed by the Dutch

## June

- The Continental Congress appoints a committee to prepare a document.
- The committee selects Thomas Jefferson to compose a draft.
- The draft is reviewed and revised by the committee.

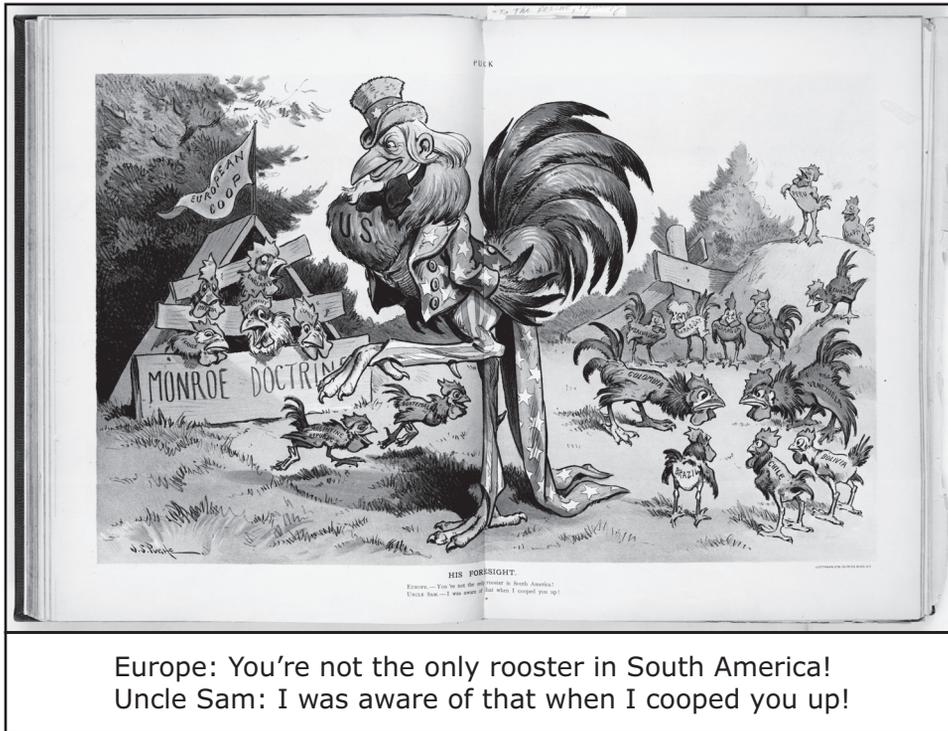
## July

- Congress debates and revises the document.
- Congress officially approves the document.

This sequence of events resulted in the adoption of the —

- A** Articles of Confederation
- B** Bill of Rights
- C** Treaty of Paris
- D** Declaration of Independence

## His Foresight



Source: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division

The U.S. foreign policy illustrated in this cartoon was intended to —

- F** prevent further European colonization in the Western Hemisphere
- G** deter Spain from inciting revolution in former U.S. colonies
- H** encourage European powers to invest in Latin America
- J** keep the war between France and Spain from spreading to Latin America

- 33** The Fifteenth Amendment was ratified in order to —
- A** establish legal requirements for the education of former slaves
  - B** mandate fair labor contracts between African American workers and plantation owners
  - C** abolish the institution of slavery
  - D** protect the voting rights of African American men

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**34**

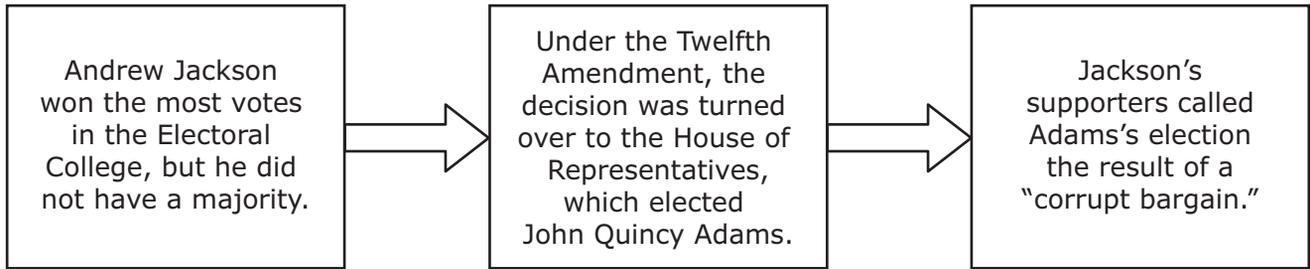
Enslaved Populations of Selected States

State	1830	1840	1850
Delaware	3,292	2,605	2,290
Maryland	102,994	89,737	90,368
Virginia	469,757	449,087	472,528
Tennessee	141,603	183,059	239,459
Alabama	117,549	253,532	342,844
Mississippi	65,659	195,211	309,878

Which statement best explains the changes shown in this table?

- F** Slaves from the Upper South were moved to the Lower South to work on cotton plantations.
- G** The Upper South experienced an agricultural labor shortage in the antebellum period.
- H** Slaves were transferred from the Lower South to the Upper South to work in newly built factories.
- J** The Lower South lost population as settlers migrated west to establish new plantations.

## The Presidential Election of 1824



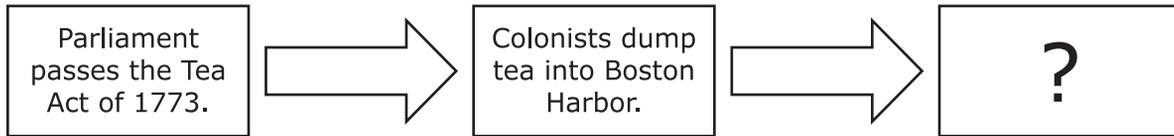
What was one effect of these events on the 1828 presidential election?

- A Votes were cast by secret ballot.
- B Property qualifications for voting were strengthened.
- C Poll taxes were reduced.
- D Voter participation increased.

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36 Which of these prompted Congress to propose the Fourteenth Amendment?

- F The popular sovereignty provision in the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- G The positions taken in the Know-Nothing Party platform
- H The Black Codes enacted by southern states after the Civil War
- J The opposition by southern states to the Emancipation Proclamation



Which of these completes this graphic organizer?

- A Parliament repeals the Stamp and Sugar Acts.
  - B King George III allows colonists to petition Parliament for tax relief.
  - C Parliament passes the Intolerable Acts.
  - D King George III appoints colonial representatives to Parliament.
- 

**38** Which group was among the first to call for an end to slavery?

- F American Indians, because they viewed the plight of slaves as similar to their own
  - G Quakers, because slavery contradicted their religious beliefs
  - H British loyalists, because Great Britain had ended the slave trade
  - J Puritans, because the New England economy did not rely on slavery
- 

**39** In the debate over the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, which point would have been made by a Federalist?

- A "The existing national government lacks the ability to add new states to the union."
- B "The states are in danger of losing the ability to raise revenue."
- C "The existing national government lacks the power to perform essential functions."
- D "The states are unable to protect the rights of the people."

Here in the autumn of 1777, American forces met, defeated and forced a major British army to surrender. This crucial American victory in the Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ renewed patriots' hopes for independence, secured essential foreign recognition and support, and forever changed the face of the world.

—*"A Crucial American Victory," U.S. National Park Service, www.nps.gov (accessed May 17, 2012)*

Which of the following best completes this excerpt?

- F** Saratoga
- G** Concord
- H** Trenton
- J** Yorktown

### Building the National Road

- Trees, stumps, brush, and rock were removed.
- Hills were leveled, and hollows were filled.
- Layers of stone were laid in graduated sizes.
- Drainage ditches were dug.

Which of the following was the most direct result of the environmental modifications listed above?

- A** Federal regulations were adopted to ensure safety and ease of travel on the road.
- B** State governments cooperated closely to maintain road quality.
- C** Improved transportation to western states expanded trade and settlement.
- D** Road construction became a major industry in the United States.

**42** What was one long-term consequence of the sharecropping system?

- F** Agricultural workers organized labor unions.
- G** Many former slaves became trapped in a cycle of debt.
- H** Many agricultural workers moved to cities to start small businesses.
- J** Landowners sold property to pay wages to former slaves.

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**43**

Your President may easily become king. Your Senate is so imperfectly constructed that your dearest rights may be sacrificed by what may be a small minority. . . . Your strongholds will be in the hands of your enemies. . . .

—Patrick Henry, speech at the Virginia Ratifying Convention, 1788

Patrick Henry was criticizing which aspect of the Constitution in this excerpt?

- A** The eligibility requirements for congressional office
- B** The power granted to the central government
- C** The establishment of a separate judicial branch
- D** The difficulty of the amendment process

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**44** Boston and New Orleans were both founded as —

- F** port cities
- G** farming communities
- H** industrial centers
- J** military outposts

- 45** The United States acquired the Oregon Territory when —
- A** a treaty divided U.S. and British claims to the land
  - B** Mexico sold the territory to the United States for \$10 million
  - C** the territory's settlers voted for annexation by the United States
  - D** Russia sold the land to the United States for \$7.2 million

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**46**

That if any person shall write . . . any false, scandalous and malicious . . . writings against the government of the United States, or . . . stir up sedition within the United States . . . then such person . . . shall be punished by a fine not exceeding two thousand dollars, and by imprisonment not exceeding two years.

*—An Act of the Fifth Congress of the United States, 1798*

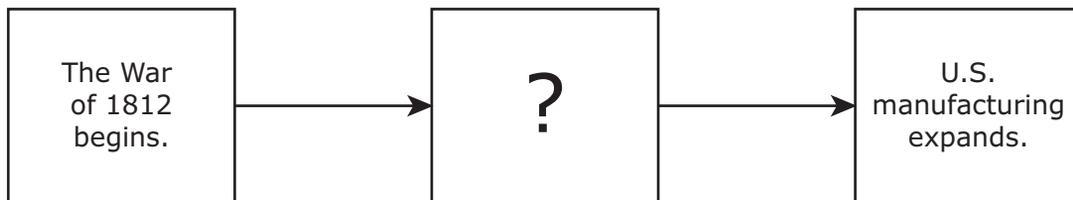
Which constitutional guarantee did this act violate?

- F** Freedom of assembly
- G** The right to due process
- H** Freedom of the press
- J** The right to a jury trial

- 47** What was one major effect of the Second Great Awakening?
- A** Churches turned away from public politics and focused on internal religious issues.
  - B** People were inspired to join reform movements to address social problems.
  - C** Religious leaders petitioned legislatures to extend suffrage to women.
  - D** Politicians were encouraged to promote states' rights rather than federal unity.

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**48**



Which sentence best completes the diagram?

- F** The supply of British goods decreases.
- G** Congress ends the European embargo.
- H** Exports to Great Britain increase.
- J** Congress reduces tariffs.

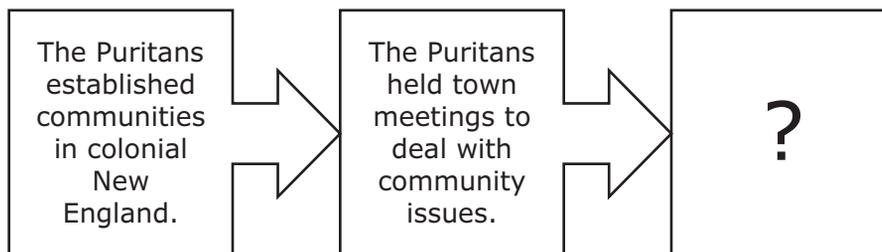
- 49** Which excerpt from the Declaration of Independence best explains why colonists were unhappy about their lack of representation in the British parliament?
- A** "He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people."
  - B** "For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent."
  - C** "He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good."
  - D** "For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences."

- 
- 50** The abolitionist movement achieved its goal with the passage of which amendment?
- F** Twelfth Amendment
  - G** Thirteenth Amendment
  - H** Fourteenth Amendment
  - J** Fifteenth Amendment

- Job opportunities in cities increased.
- Agriculture became more mechanized.
- Prices of consumer goods decreased.

These developments occurred as a result of increased —

- A** industrialization
- B** westward migration
- C** expansion of U.S. territory
- D** government regulation of business



Which sentence best completes this diagram?

- F** The Puritans allowed women to participate in government.
- G** The Puritans refused to obey the appointed governor.
- H** The Puritans outlawed slavery in Massachusetts.
- J** The Puritans developed a form of representative self-government.

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS  
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.







**STAAR  
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