

STAAR Spring 2026 Grade 8 Social Studies Answer Key

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
1	Drag and Drop	15.A	2	"1. That the . . . power of [stopping] the laws or the execution of laws by [the king's] authority without consent of Parliament is illegal": Option "Congress can override presidential vetoes.", "4. That levying money for or to the use of the [king] . . . without [agreement] of Parliament . . . is illegal": Option "Only Congress has the power to raise or lower taxes.", "6. That . . . raising or keeping a standing army . . . in time of peace, unless it be with consent of Parliament, is against law": Option "Only Congress can declare war.", "13. That . . . Parliaments ought to be held frequently": Option "Congress must meet at least once a year." See Appendix 1.1	3	Readiness
2	Multiple Choice	2.B	1	B	1	Supporting
3	Multiple Choice	24.A	1	A	2	Readiness
4	Multiple Choice	7.D	1	D	1	Readiness
5	Multipart	23.B	2	C, D See Appendix 1.2	2	Supporting
6	Multiple Choice	15.D	1	C	3	Readiness
7	Multiple Choice	8.A	1	D	1	Supporting

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
8	Short Constructed Response	17.A	2	See Appendix 1.3	3	Readiness
9	Multiple Choice	4.C	1	D	1	Readiness
10	Multiple Choice	5.H	1	A	1	Supporting
11	Multiple Choice	25.A	1	C	2	Supporting
12	Multiple Choice	20.B	1	D	3	Supporting
13	Multiple Choice	9.B	1	B	1	Supporting
14	Inline Choice	23.A	1	Drop-Down: Option "Germany" See Appendix 1.4	2	Readiness
15	Multiple Choice	8.B	1	D	1	Readiness
16	Multiselect	3.A	2	A, D See Appendix 1.5	1	Readiness
17	Match Table Grid	4.D	2	"Enslaved people should be counted toward a state's population to determine its representation in the House of Representatives.": Option "Southern Delegates", "Enslaved people should be counted toward a state's population to determine taxation.": Option "Northern Delegates", "The international slave trade should be ended.": Option "Northern Delegates" See Appendix 1.6	1	Readiness
18	Multiple Choice	8.C	1	C	1	Readiness
19	Drag and Drop	23.E	2	"Led escaped enslaved people along the Underground Railroad": Option "Harriet Tubman", "Described the evils of slavery in a book called <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> ": Option "Harriet Beecher	2	Supporting

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
				Stowe", "Escaped enslavement and delivered speeches supporting abolition": Option "Sojourner Truth" See Appendix 1.7		
20	Multiple Choice	4.A	1	A	1	Readiness
21	Multiple Choice	22.A	1	C	3	Supporting
22	Inline Choice	5.F	1	Drop-Down: Option "George Washington" See Appendix 1.8	1	Readiness
23	Multiple Choice	26.A	1	A	2	Supporting
24	Multiple Choice	21.C	1	C	3	Supporting
25	Multiple Choice	12.B	1	B	4	Readiness
26	Multiple Choice	1.A	1	A	1	Readiness
27	Multiple Choice	16.B	1	D	3	Readiness
28	Inline Choice	10.C	1	Drop-Down: Option "restrict Northern commercial interests" See Appendix 1.9	2	Readiness
29	Multiple Choice	18.A	1	C	3	Supporting
30	Short Constructed Response	12.C	2	See Appendix 1.10	4	Readiness
31	Multiple Choice	27.A	1	B	4	Readiness
32	Hot Text	28.B	1	Option "The labor force . . . was made up of millions of newly arrived immigrants and even larger numbers of migrants from rural areas." See Appendix 1.11	4	Supporting
33	Multiple Choice	11.A	1	C	2	Readiness
34	Multipart	7.B	2	C, D See Appendix 1.12	1	Supporting
35	Multiple Choice	14.B	1	A	4	Supporting
36	Multiple Choice	6.B	1	C	1	Readiness
37	Hot Spot	13.B	2	Options "Competing businesses in the	4	Readiness

Item Position	Item Type	TEKS Assessed	Maximum Number of Points	Correct Answer(s)	Reporting Category	Readiness or Supporting
				economy", "Advances in science and technology" See Appendix 1.13		
38	Multiple Choice	19.A	1	A	3	Readiness
39	Multiple Choice	4.B	1	D	1	Supporting
40	Multiple Choice	25.C	1	A	2	Readiness

STAAR Spring 2025 Grade 8 Social Studies
Appendix

1.1

The English Bill of Rights influenced the Framers of the U.S. Constitution. Which powers of the U.S. government show the influence of these excerpts from the English Bill of Rights?

Move the correct answer to each box in the table.

English Bill of Rights	Influence on the U.S. Government
1. That the . . . power of [stopping] the laws or the execution of laws by [the king's] authority without consent of Parliament is illegal	Congress can override presidential vetoes.
4. That levying money for or to the use of the [king] . . . without [agreement] of Parliament . . . is illegal	Only Congress has the power to raise or lower taxes.
6. That . . . raising or keeping a standing army . . . in time of peace, unless it be with consent of Parliament, is against law	Only Congress can declare war.
13. That . . . Parliaments ought to be held frequently	Congress must meet at least once a year.

- Only Congress can declare war.
- Congress must meet at least once a year.
- Congress can override presidential vetoes.
- Only Congress has the power to raise or lower taxes.

1.2

This question has two parts.

This excerpt is from a book written by a former millworker about her life during the 1830s.

One of the first strikes of cotton-factory operatives that ever took place in this country was that in Lowell, in October, 1836. When it was announced that the wages were to be cut down, great [anger] was felt, and it was decided to strike. . . .

. . . When the day came on which the girls were to turn out, . . . so many of them left that our mill was at once shut down. . . . I marched out, and was followed by the [other girls]. . . .

. . . So far as results were concerned this strike did no good . . . and the corporation went on cutting down wages.

—Harriet Hanson Robinson, *Loom and Spindle*, 1898

Part A

Based on the excerpt and your knowledge of U.S. history, how did the Lowell Mill Strike of 1836 affect millworkers?

- ☐ Ⓐ Factory owners agreed to the striking workers' demands for safer workplace conditions.
- ☐ Ⓑ The U.S. Congress passed legislation preventing factory owners from firing striking workers.
- ☒ Ⓒ Striking workers failed to force factory owners to agree to various demands.
- ☐ Ⓓ The Massachusetts state courts ordered factory owners to rehire striking workers.

Part B

Which statement provides evidence for the answer to Part A?

- ☐ Ⓐ "When it was announced that the wages were to be cut down, great [anger] was felt, and it was decided to strike."
- ☐ Ⓑ "so many of them left that our mill was at once shut down."
- ☐ Ⓒ "I marched out, and was followed by the [other girls]."
- ☒ Ⓓ "this strike did no good . . . and the corporation went on cutting down wages."

1.3

Did Alexander Hamilton support or oppose a national bank?

What was one reason for Hamilton's support or opposition?

Think about the questions carefully. Then enter your answer to **BOTH** questions in the box provided.

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Rubric

For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

1.4

This list describes reasons that one immigrant group came to the United States during the mid-1800s.

- to avoid required military service
- to escape high taxes and economic depression
- to flee persecution following a failed revolution

Choose the correct answer from the drop-down menu to complete the sentence.

The group described in the list migrated from .

1.5

Why did representative government grow during the colonial period?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

☒ Geographic distance separated the colonies from England.

☐ Colonists supported the English principle of equal rights.

☐ Religious revivals encouraged colonial loyalty to England.

☒ Colonists maintained English political traditions.

☐ Colonists participated in English legislative decisions.

1.6

The Three-Fifths Compromise was meant to satisfy the concerns of both northern and southern states at the Constitutional Convention. Which statements would northern delegates have agreed with, and which would southern delegates have agreed with?

Select the correct answer in each row.

Concerns Leading to the Three-Fifths Compromise		
Statement	Northern Delegates	Southern Delegates
Enslaved people should be counted toward a state’s population to determine its representation in the House of Representatives.	☐	☒
Enslaved people should be counted toward a state’s population to determine taxation.	☒	☐
The international slave trade should be ended.	☒	☐

1.7

Which women match the accomplishments in the table?

Move the correct answer to each box in the table. Not all answers will be used.

Abolitionists of the 1800s

Name	Accomplishments
Harriet Tubman	Led escaped enslaved people along the Underground Railroad
Harriet Beecher Stowe	Described the evils of slavery in a book called <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>
Sojourner Truth	Escaped enslavement and delivered speeches supporting abolition

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Mercy Otis Warren

Abigail Adams

Sojourner Truth

Harriet Tubman

1.8

The list shows some foreign policy actions of a U.S. president.

Some Presidential Foreign Policy Actions

- Jay's Treaty with Great Britain resulted in the British leaving their forts in the Northwest Territory.
- The Proclamation of Neutrality was issued in response to conflict in Europe.
- Pinckney's Treaty with Spain secured the southern border of the United States.

Choose the correct answer from the drop-down menu to complete the sentence.

These foreign policy actions were accomplished during the presidency of George Washington.

1.9

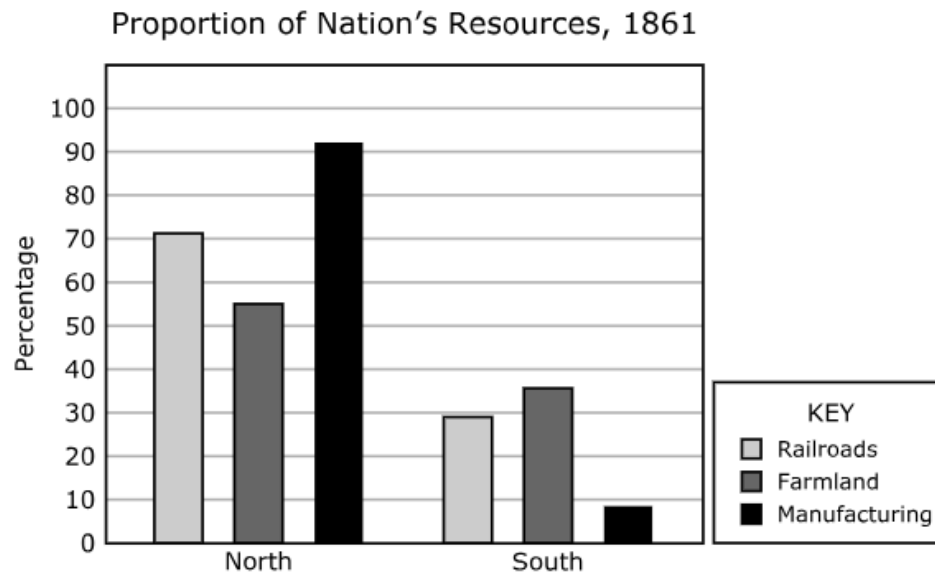
Choose the correct answer from the drop-down menu to complete the sentence.

At the time of the Civil War, the Mississippi River was . . . the very lifeblood of America. Upon the secession of the Southern states, Confederate forces closed the river to navigation, which threatened to restrict Northern commercial interests.

—Vicksburg National Military Park, National Park Service

1.10

This graph compares the resources of two regions in the United States during the 1860s.



How did the economic differences between these two regions affect the outcome of the Civil War?

Explain one economic difference **AND** its effect.

Think about the question carefully. Then enter your answer in the box provided.

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Rubric

For SCR items, please refer to the scoring guide.

1.11

This excerpt describes changes in the U.S. economy during the 1800s.

Which quotation describes how industrialization influenced population shifts?

Select the correct answer.

Following the Civil War, the United States emerged as an industrial giant. Old industries expanded and many new ones . . . emerged. . . .

Industrial growth transformed American society. It produced a new class of wealthy industrialists and a prosperous middle class. It also produced a vastly expanded blue collar working class. The labor force . . . was made up of millions of newly arrived immigrants and even larger numbers of migrants from rural areas.

—*"Rise of Industrial America, 1876 to 1900: Overview," Library of Congress*

1.12

This question has two parts.

This excerpt is from a book published during the 1860s.

Philadelphia, about January 10, 1851. G. F. Alberti and others seized . . . a free [African American] boy, named Joel Thompson, [claiming] that he was a slave. The boy was saved.

Stephen Bennett, *Columbia, Penn.*, arrested as the slave of Edward B. Gallup. . . . He was saved only by his freedom being purchased by his friends. . . .

Madison, Indiana. George W. Mason, of Davies County, Ky., arrested [an African American] man, named Mitchum. . . . The case was tried before a Justice of the Peace, . . . who was satisfied that Mitchum . . . had left his service *nineteen years before*. The slave was accordingly delivered up, and was taken to Kentucky, (Feb. 1851.)

—The Fugitive Slave Law and Its Victims, *Digital Public Library of America, 1861*

Part A

Which factors threatened both free and enslaved African Americans after the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850?

- ☐ Ⓐ Expansion of slavery and being forced into military service
- ☐ Ⓑ Resettlement west of the Mississippi River and the abolition of slavery
- ☒ Ⓒ Separation of families and being forced into slavery
- ☐ Ⓓ Return of the transatlantic slave trade and the acceptance of slavery in Boston

Part B

Which quotation provides evidence for the answer to Part A?

- ☐ Ⓐ "G. F. Alberti and others seized . . . a free [African American] boy, named Joel Thompson. . . . The boy was saved."
- ☐ Ⓑ "arrested as the slave of Edward B. Gallup. . . . He was saved only by his freedom being purchased by his friends."
- ☐ Ⓒ "The case was tried before a Justice of the Peace."
- ☒ Ⓓ "The slave was accordingly delivered up, and was taken to Kentucky."

1.13

Which factors led to rapid industrialization in the early 1800s?

Select **TWO** correct answers.

Factors that Led to Rapid
Industrialization in the
Early Nineteenth Century

Increased government
regulation of the economy

The abolitionist movement
and the end of slavery

Competing businesses
in the economy

Advances in science and
technology

Citizens seeking opportunities
in the Southwest