

GRADE 8
Social Studies

Administered May 2022

RELEASED

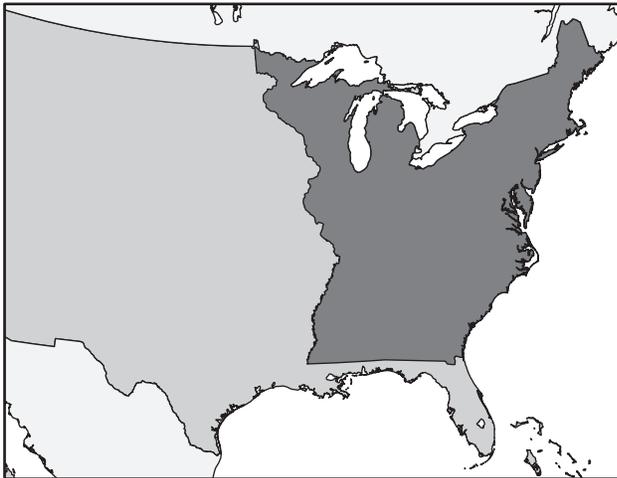
SOCIAL STUDIES

DIRECTIONS

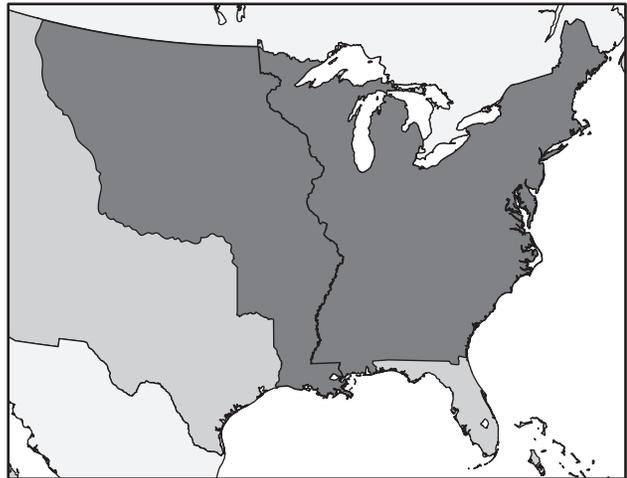
Read each question carefully. Determine the best answer to the question from the four answer choices provided. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

1

U.S. Territory, 1800

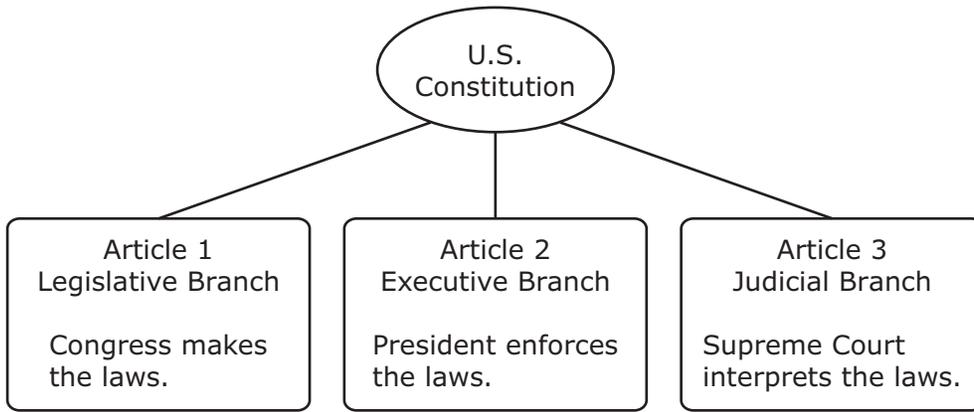


U.S. Territory, 1803



The differences between these two maps resulted from the —

- A** Missouri Compromise
- B** Treaty of Ghent
- C** Louisiana Purchase
- D** Adams-Onís Treaty



Which government principle is illustrated in this diagram?

- F** Federalism
- G** Popular sovereignty
- H** Republicanism
- J** Separation of powers

- 3** This table shows the population of enslaved people in two regions of the United States in 1840.

U.S. Enslaved Population by
Select Region, 1840

Region	Enslaved Population
Northeast	765
South	2,427,986

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Which statement describes a factor that MOST contributed to the population difference shown in the table?

- A** The South had a society that relied on wage labor.
- B** The South had an economy that relied on cotton.
- C** The South had a variety of natural resources.
- D** The South had an abundance of large cities.

-
- 4** How did the American colonies react to enforcement of the Intolerable Acts?
- F** By collecting funds to pay for the tea destroyed in Boston Harbor
 - G** By sending ambassadors to France to request military aid
 - H** By placing a tax on all goods imported from Great Britain
 - J** By holding the First Continental Congress to discuss unified resistance

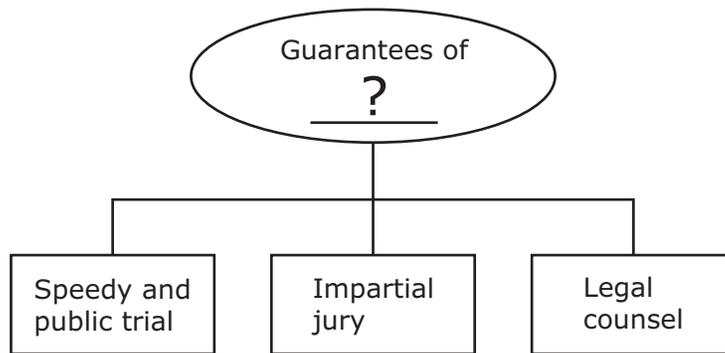
- 5 This sketch titled “Jury of Whites and Blacks” appeared in *Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper* in 1867.



Which event is MOST associated with the change in American life shown in this sketch?

- A The adoption of the Great Compromise
 - B The establishment of a two-party political system
 - C The ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment
 - D The election of more qualified judges
-
- 6 An immigrant sails to North America in the early 1700s hoping to start a tobacco farm. He has done some research on the best environment for tobacco farming. Where is the immigrant most likely to settle?
- F Massachusetts
 - G Virginia
 - H Rhode Island
 - J Pennsylvania

7



Which idea correctly replaces the question mark in this diagram?

- A** Due Process
- B** Eminent Domain
- C** Free Speech
- D** Federalism

- 8** This excerpt refers to an event that occurred in Virginia in 1859.

A contemporary newspaper account foretold a grim future. "The Harpers Ferry invasion has advanced the cause of disunion more than any other event that has happened since the formation of the Government."

—*"John Brown's Raid," National Park Service, www.nps.gov (accessed May 17, 2019)*

Which action prompted the newspaper's claim that John Brown's raid "advanced the cause of disunion"?

- F** Some Northerners were willing to defend the South's right to continue slavery.
- G** Some Southerners were willing to take up arms to protest high tariffs.
- H** Some abolitionists thought violence was necessary to end slavery.
- J** Some people in territories needed to defend their right to popular sovereignty.

-
- 9** Which era involved legislation enacted by the Radical Republicans?

- A** Civil War
- B** Reconstruction
- C** Early republic
- D** Antebellum

Whitney's world provided a time for innovation in manufacturing systems. His factory would change the precision craft of gun making into routine. The machines would change the role of the worker and the meaning of skill. With a limited American labor supply, his system favored the use of small numbers of unskilled workers.

—*"The Factory," Eli Whitney Museum and Workshop, www.eliwhitney.org (accessed January 13, 2017)*

What is being described in this excerpt?

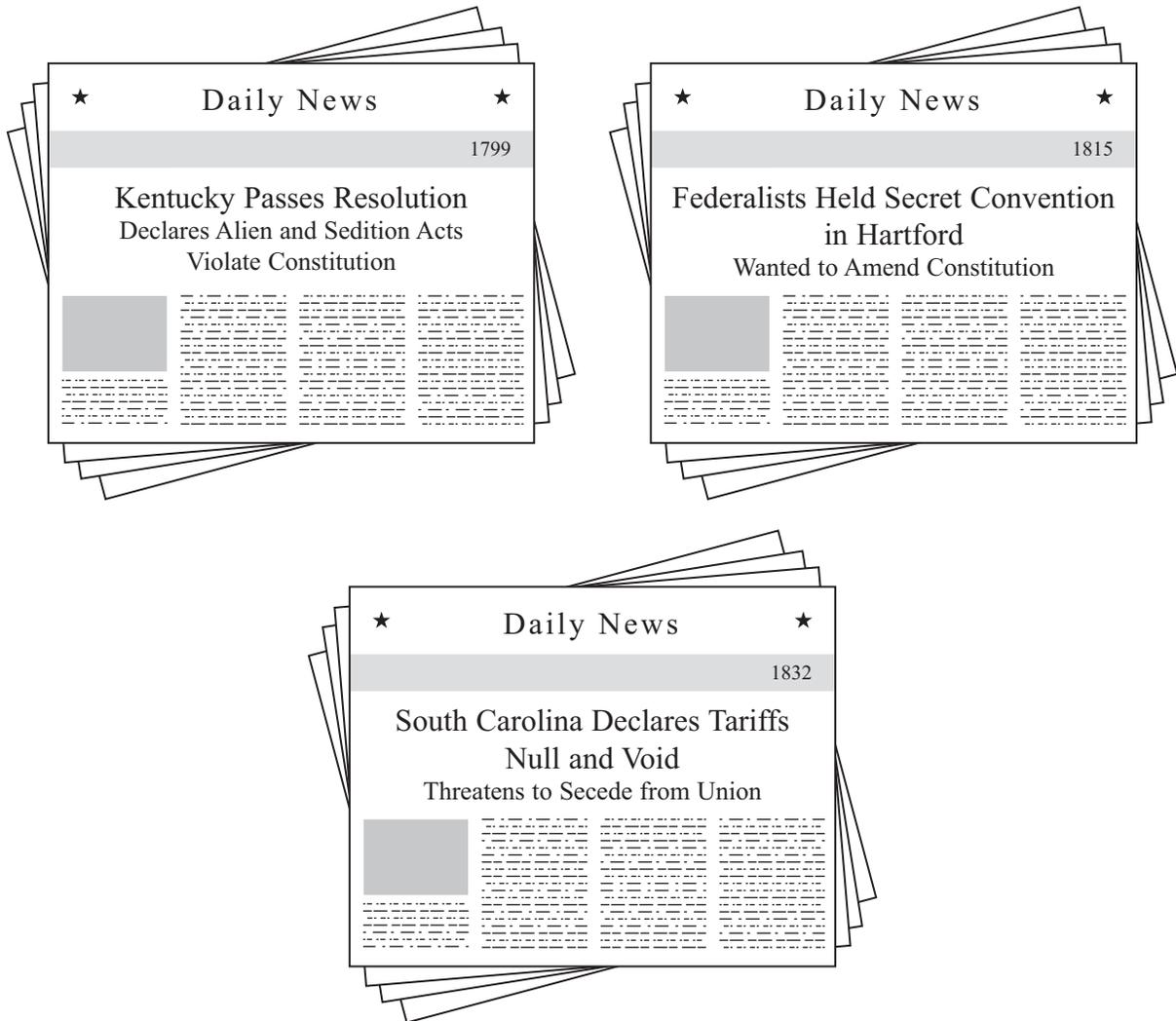
- F** Spinning jenny and the textile industry
- G** Interchangeable parts and mass production
- H** Cotton gin and the plantation system
- J** Steam engine and railroad commerce

11 Which historic document had the greatest influence on the first ten amendments to the U.S. Constitution?

- A** The English Bill of Rights
- B** The Mayflower Compact
- C** The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- D** The Articles of Confederation

12 Why did the Constitutional Convention agree to the Three-Fifths Compromise?

- F** To settle debates over the issue of counting the enslaved population for representation
- G** To settle debates over the issue of abolishing the importation of enslaved people
- H** To create a government based on the principle of federalism
- J** To create a government with a bicameral legislature



Which issue do the events in these headlines have in common?

- A** Expansion of slavery
- B** States' rights
- C** Taxation without representation
- D** Popular sovereignty

- 14** Which historical action was protected by the First Amendment guarantee regarding religion?
- F** The nativist Know-Nothing Party attracted more members.
 - G** Eastern communities forced Mormons to migrate to the West.
 - H** City officials worked to reduce the political power of Catholic immigrants.
 - J** Evangelists led revivals in New England.
-

- 15** Which statement describes the roles of George McClellan and Ulysses S. Grant during the Civil War?
- A** They were Confederate generals who captured Fort Sumter.
 - B** They were Union generals who commanded the Army of the Potomac.
 - C** They were Confederate generals who surrendered at the Battle of Vicksburg.
 - D** They were Union generals who committed war crimes at the Battle of Gettysburg.

Erie Canal



What were two effects of this canal on the United States during the early-to-mid 1800s?

- F** The Northeast gained access to new trade networks, and the Midwest opened for more settlement.
- G** The South became less dependent on slave labor, while the North became more dependent on indentured servants.
- H** The West became the commercial center of the nation, while the Northeast increased dependence on agricultural production.
- J** The South experienced lower shipping costs, and the West expanded international trade.

- 17** Which statement describes how the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 increased sectionalism?
- A** It allowed slavery to expand into the territories.
 - B** It gave tax cuts to manufacturers who relocated to the territories.
 - C** It allowed slaves who escaped to the territories to purchase their freedom.
 - D** It granted homesteads to immigrants who settled in the territories.
-

- 18** Read the excerpt and answer the question that follows.

The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible.

—President George Washington, Farewell Address,
1796

Why did President Washington give this advice about the future of U.S. foreign policy?

- F** To end European colonization in the Western Hemisphere
- G** To avoid being drawn into European wars
- H** To use trade embargoes to stay neutral
- J** To encourage economic growth through the transatlantic slave trade

19 Why did European explorers search for the Northwest Passage?

- A** To find the legendary Seven Cities of Gold
 - B** To discover new technology for crossing the Atlantic Ocean
 - C** To find the legendary waters of the Fountain of Youth
 - D** To discover a new sea route to Asia
-

20

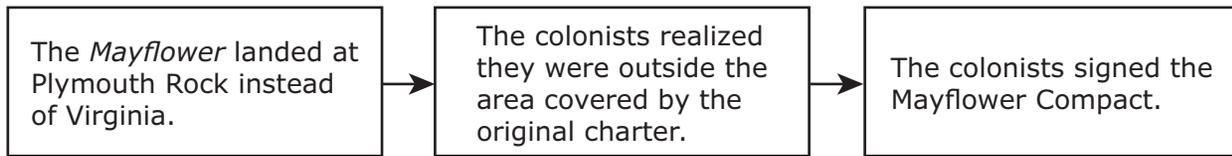
I found, near Boston, in the jails and asylums for the poor, a numerous class brought into unsuitable connection with criminals and the general mass of paupers. I refer to . . . insane persons, dwelling in circumstances not only adverse to their own physical and moral improvement, but productive of extreme disadvantages to all other persons brought into association with them.

—*Memorial to the Legislature of Massachusetts,*
1843

Which woman fought to create legislation to help the people described in this excerpt?

- F** Sojourner Truth
- G** Dorothea Dix
- H** Harriet Beecher Stowe
- J** Elizabeth Cady Stanton

21 This diagram shows a sequence of events in colonial history.



Why is this sequence of events important?

- A** Colonists created a legislature with two houses.
 - B** Colonists declared independence from English rule.
 - C** Colonists defended the concept of unalienable rights.
 - D** Colonists established a tradition of self-government.
-

22 Why was the Third Amendment prohibiting the quartering of troops added to the U.S. Constitution?

- F** To address colonial treatment by the British military
- G** To maintain control over members of the British military
- H** To ensure the national government could pay for the U.S. military
- J** To reinforce the need for state militias in the United States

23 Why is Thomas Jefferson's writing of the Declaration of Independence considered to be one of his greatest contributions to American history?

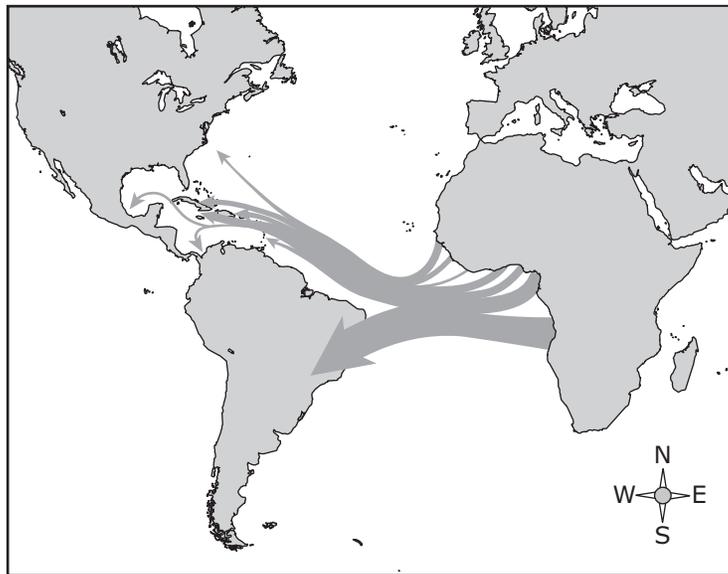
- A** He showed responsibility by outlining the structure for a new government.
 - B** He helped define rights that would defeat tyranny.
 - C** He developed a military plan to defeat the British.
 - D** He outlined a strategy for acquiring the Louisiana Territory.
-

24 Which event was one cause of the U.S.-Mexican War?

- F** The United States banned slavery in territories acquired from Mexico.
- G** The U.S. Congress debated statehood for New Mexico.
- H** U.S. and Mexican soldiers fought over disputed territory north of the Rio Grande.
- J** The United States acquired the Mexican Cession.

- 25** This map shows a trade system that emerged in the 1500s and reached its height in the 1700s.

Transatlantic Slave Trade



Which factor was a reason for the trade system illustrated on this map?

- A** Labor demands of the factory system
- B** Invention of the steamboat
- C** Labor demands of the plantation system
- D** Invention of the mechanical loom

Among the natural rights of the Colonists are these: First, a right to life; Secondly, to liberty; Thirdly, to property; together with the right to support and defend them in the best manner they can.

—*Samuel Adams, 1772*

In the early days of the colonies, a belief in these rights helped lead to —

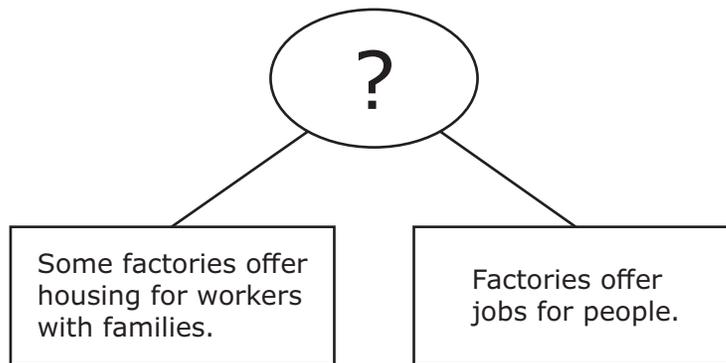
- F** the establishment of royal courts
- G** the growth of representative government
- H** the implementation of the mercantile system
- J** the abolishment of indentured servitude

27 Which statement describes one result of the War of 1812?

- A** Great Britain lost control of Canada.
- B** The United States gained control of the Oregon Territory.
- C** The United States stopped trading with Britain and France.
- D** Great Britain stopped the practice of impressment.

- 28** Which statement explains an effect of the Missouri Compromise?
- F** The compromise maintained the balance between the number of free states and slave states in the Senate.
 - G** The compromise allowed slaves to be counted toward a state's population for representation in Congress.
 - H** The compromise enabled Southerners to pursue fugitive slaves into the North.
 - J** The compromise ended the slave trade in Washington, D.C.
-

- 29** Why did President Andrew Jackson oppose the Second Bank of the United States?
- A** He believed it was inefficient and poorly managed.
 - B** He thought it was unconstitutional and favored the wealthy.
 - C** He considered it an obstacle to industrial progress and expansion.
 - D** He believed it favored the rights of states over the federal government.



Which title best completes this diagram?

- F** Innovations in the Cottage Industry
- G** Causes of Rural Development
- H** Expansion of Employees' Rights
- J** Reasons for Urbanization

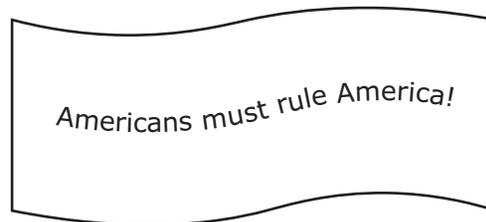
31 What was one effect of the Fifteenth Amendment?

- A** Immigrants faced less discrimination.
- B** Black voters helped bring the Republican Party to power in the South.
- C** Electors selected the president and vice president on separate ballots.
- D** American Indian tribal land was divided into individual plots.

- 32** Which geographic feature allowed the Mid-Atlantic colonies to have a longer growing season than the New England colonies?
- F** Thick forests
 - G** Navigable rivers
 - H** Flat land with rocky soil
 - J** Mild climate
-

- 33** This political slogan is from the mid-1800s.

American Platform of Principles, 1857



What motivated some people to support this nativist slogan?

- A** An affirmation of states' rights by Jefferson Davis and the belief that tariffs are un-American
- B** Large-scale immigration to cities and the belief that immigrants stole jobs from native-born citizens
- C** The desire for an independent country free from foreign rule and unfair mercantile economic policies
- D** A rejection of anti-American influence following the Battle of San Jacinto and the addition of new territories

34 Which breakthrough did Hiram Rhodes Revels accomplish during Reconstruction?

F He became the first African American to publish literature.

G He became the first African American to build wealth as a carpetbagger.

H He became the first African American to win a seat in the U.S. Congress.

J He became the first African American soldier to serve in an integrated Union Army unit.

35 Which issue was debated in *Gibbons v. Ogden*?

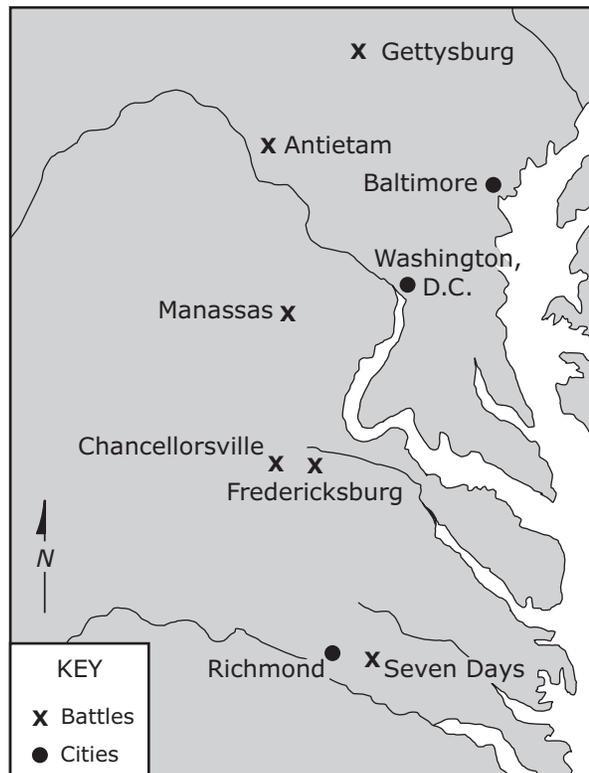
A The status of slaves living in free territories

B The regulation of interstate commerce by federal or state laws

C The constitutionality of tariffs

D The separation of powers among the branches of government

Selected Battles of the Civil War



Source: National Park Service

What made the battles at Antietam and Gettysburg different from the other battles illustrated on this map?

- F** They were victories for the Confederacy.
- G** They were battles fought in Union territory.
- H** They were attempts to keep Virginia in the Union.
- J** They were battles defending the Confederate capital.

37 This excerpt is from a president’s annual message to Congress.

Agriculture, manufactures, commerce, and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity, are the most thriving when left most free to individual enterprise.

—*President Thomas Jefferson, first annual message, December 8, 1801*

Which economic principle is President Jefferson showing support for in this excerpt?

- A** Protective tariffs
- B** Limited competition
- C** Minimal government regulation
- D** Taxes to fund internal improvements

38 Which human geographic factor helped the Union win the Civil War?

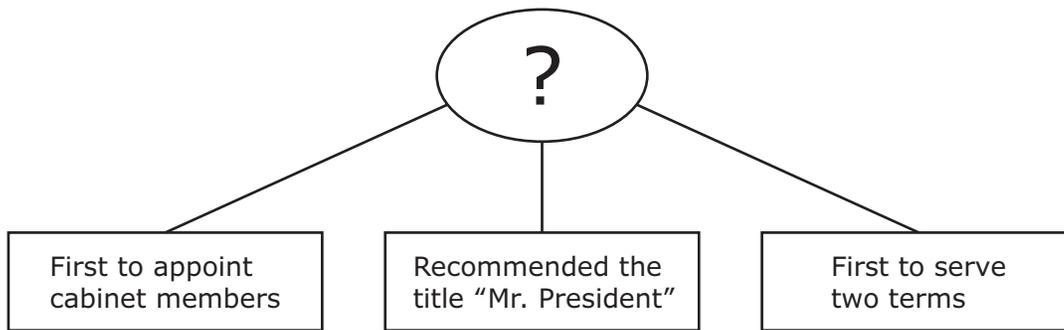
- F** A network of railroads in the North allowed Union soldiers to be moved quickly over long distances.
- G** The Oregon Trail allowed Union military supplies to be moved quickly to the West.
- H** Northern farms started producing cotton used to make Union military uniforms.
- J** Canals in the Midwest allowed food for Union soldiers to be moved quickly to the front lines.

39 Read the passage and answer the question that follows.

In the early 1800s, Great Britain was in a conflict with France. Both countries tried to prevent the United States from trading with the other country. As a result of British impressment of U.S. sailors, Congress passed the Embargo Act in 1807. This act closed U.S. ports to exports and placed restrictions on British imports. In 1809 Congress repealed this act and replaced it with a law that specifically prohibited trade with Great Britain and France.

What was one effect of these actions on the United States?

- A** The signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo
- B** International criticism of the Monroe Doctrine
- C** The expansion of manufacturing
- D** Increased profits from international commerce



Which president established these traditions for the executive branch?

- F** John Adams
- G** Thomas Jefferson
- H** James Madison
- J** George Washington

41 Which headline describes an event that established guidelines for the admission of new states to the United States?



42 Which condition did both slaves and free blacks in the United States experience in the antebellum period?

- F** Both groups were allowed to testify in court.
- G** Both groups were able to vote in elections.
- H** Both groups were forced to pay taxes.
- J** Both groups were denied citizenship rights.

43 Which group helped establish the colony of Maryland in the 1630s?

- A** English Catholics seeking religious freedom
 - B** Spanish workers seeking job opportunities
 - C** Irish families escaping a natural disaster
 - D** Russian merchants escaping political conflict
-

44 Read the list and answer the question that follows.

- Harriet Tubman
- Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- William Lloyd Garrison

The people on this list are similar because their actions —

- F** promoted interest in agricultural innovation
- G** promoted support for westward expansion
- H** showed dedication to sectionalism and states' rights
- J** showed commitment to rights and freedoms



STAAR
GRADE 8
Social Studies
May 2022

