Middle School Social Studies

Grade 6

Contemporary World Societies

2019 – 2020

Extended Spring Break

Instructional Packet

WEEK 1
The World’s People

Section 1

Main Ideas
1. Culture is the set of beliefs, goals, and practices that a group of people share.
2. The world includes many different culture groups.
3. New ideas and events lead to changes in culture.

Key Terms
- Culture: the set of beliefs, values, and practices a group of people have in common
- Culture trait: an activity or behavior in which people often take part
- Culture region: an area in which people have many shared culture traits
- Ethnic group: a group of people who share a common culture and ancestry
- Cultural diversity: having a variety of cultures in the same area
- Cultural diffusion: the spread of culture traits from one region to another

Section Summary

What is Culture?
Culture is the set of beliefs, values, and practices a group of people have in common. Everything in day-to-day life is part of culture, including language, religion, clothes, music, and foods. People everywhere share certain basic cultural features, such as forming a government, educating children, and creating art or music. However, people practice these things in different ways, making each culture unique.

Culture traits are activities or behaviors in which people often take part, such as language and popular sports. People share some culture traits, but not others. For example, people eat using forks, chopsticks, or their fingers in different areas.

Culture Groups
There are thousands of different cultures in the world. People who share a culture are part of a culture group that may be based on things like age or religion.
A **culture region** is an area in which people have many shared culture traits such as language, religion, or lifestyle. A country may have several different culture regions, or just a single region, as Japan has.

A culture region may be based on an **ethnic group**, a group of people who share the same religion, traditions, language, or foods. **Cultural diversity** is having a variety of cultures in the same area. It can create a variety of ideas and practices, but it can also lead to conflict.

### CHANGES IN CULTURE

Cultures are constantly changing. They can change through the development of new ideas or contact with other societies. New ideas such as the development of electricity, motion pictures, and the Internet have changed what people do and how they communicate. When two cultures come in close contact, both usually change. For example, the Spanish and Native American cultures changed when the Spanish conquered parts of the Americas.

**Cultural diffusion** is the spread of culture traits from one part of the world to another. It can happen when people move and bring their culture with them. New ideas and customs, such as baseball or clothing styles, can spread from one place to another as people learn about them.

### CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences**  Consider all of the parts of your culture that have been influenced by other cultures. During a normal day, keep a list of all the things you use or do that you think have been influenced by other cultures.
DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write T if a statement is true and F if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write the term that would make the statement correct on the line after each sentence.

1. The language you speak and the sports you play are examples of culture traits.

2. Cultural diversity creates an interesting mix of ideas, but sometimes it can lead to conflict.

3. When more than one cultural group lives in an area, this is called cultural diffusion.

4. The spread of culture traits to different parts of the world is called cultural diversity.

5. All aspects of your daily life are part of your ethnic group.

DIRECTIONS Use all of the terms from the word bank to write a summary of what you learned in the section.

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**Word Bank:**
cultural diffusion  cultural diversity  culture trait
culture  culture region  ethnic group

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The World’s People

Section 2

MAIN IDEAS
1. The study of population patterns helps geographers learn about the world.
2. Population statistics and trends are important measures of population change.

Key Terms
population  the total number of people in a given area
population density  a measure of the number of people living in an area, usually expressed as persons per square mile or square kilometer
birthrate  the annual number of births per 1,000 people
migration  the process of moving from one place to live in another

Section Summary
POPULATION PATTERNS
Population is the total number of people in a given area. Geographers study population patterns to learn about the world.

Some places are crowded with people, while others are almost empty. Population density is a measure of the number of people living in an area, usually expressed as persons per square mile or square kilometer. It describes how crowded a place is, which in turn affects how people live. In places with a high density, there is little open space, buildings are taller, and roads are more crowded than they are in places with lower density. They also often have more products available for a variety of shoppers.

High-density areas often have fertile soil, available water, and a favorable climate for agriculture. Areas that are less dense often have harsh land or climate that makes survival harder.
POPULATION CHANGE

The number of people living in an area affects jobs, housing, schools, medical care, available food, and many other things. Geographers study population changes and world trends to understand how people live in different parts of the world.

Three statistics are important to studying a country’s population over time. Birthrate is the annual number of births per 1,000 people. Death rate is the annual number of deaths per 1,000 people. The rate of natural increase is found by subtracting the death rate from the birthrate.

Some areas have low rates of natural increase, such as Europe and North America. Some countries in Africa and Asia have very high rates of natural increase. High rates can make it hard for countries to develop economically because they need to provide jobs, education, and medical care for a growing population.

Migration is the process of moving from one place to live in another. People may leave a place because of problems there, such as war, famine, drought, or lack of jobs. Other people may move to find political or religious freedom or economic opportunities in a new place.

The world’s population has grown very rapidly in the last 200 years. Better health care and food supplies have helped more babies survive and eventually have children of their own. Many industrialized countries currently have slow population growth while other countries have very fast growth. Fast growth can put a strain on resources, housing, and government aid.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Identify Cause and Effect

Find out the population density of your city or town. Write down ways that this density affects your life and the lives of others.

Underline the sentence that tells how to calculate the rate of natural increase.

How can high rates of natural increase make it hard for a country to develop economically?

How has the world’s population changed during the last 200 years?
DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. The study of human _______________________ focuses on the total number of people in a given area. (population/migration)

2. Studying the _______________________ is one way to track the percentage of natural increase in the population. (population density/birthrate)

3. Calculating the _______________________ can tell us how crowded or sparse an area is. (population trends/population density)

4. _______________________ can cause one country’s population to decline while it increases another country’s population. (Birthrate/Migration)

5. One _______________________ shows that many of the world’s industrialized nations have slow population growth. (birthrate/population trend)

DIRECTIONS Look up three terms from the word bank in a dictionary. On a separate sheet of paper, write the dictionary definition of the term that is closest to the definition used in your textbook. Then write a sentence using each term correctly.
Main Ideas

1. The features common to all cultures are called cultural universals.
2. All societies have social institutions that help their groups survive.
3. Every culture expresses itself creatively in a variety of ways.
4. All societies use technology to help shape and control the environment.

Key Terms and Places

cultural universal — features societies have developed that are common to all cultures
social institution — an organized pattern of belief and behavior that focuses on meeting a societal need
heritage — the wealth of cultural elements that has been passed down over generations
universal theme — a message about life or human nature that is meaningful across time and in all places
technology — the use of knowledge, tools, and skills to solve problems
science — a way of understanding the world through observation and the testing of ideas

Section Summary

What do all cultures have in common?

All people have the same basic needs. Societies have developed cultural universals to meet the basic needs of their members.

Basic Social Institutions

Social institutions are organized patterns of belief and behavior that focus on meeting the needs of the society’s members. The most basic social institutions are family, education, religion, government, and economy.

Family is the most basic social institution. The family cares for the children and for the elderly. They also teach accepted behaviors and cultural values. Societies pass on knowledge through education. Schools also teach the norms that support or sustain a society.
Religion provides a way for societies to explain the meanings of life and death and the difference between good and bad behavior. In all world regions, religion has inspired great works of devotion, including art and architecture.

Government is a system of leaders and laws that help people live together in their community or country. A society’s economy is its system of using resources to meet needs.

CREATIVE EXPRESSIONS
Societies, like individuals, express themselves creatively. There are three main types of creative expression. Performing arts include music, theater, and dance. Visual arts include painting, sculpture, and architecture. Literary arts are related in words and language such as literature and folklore. Creative expressions reflect a specific heritage, or wealth of cultural elements that have been passed down through generations. Some creative expressions communicate universal themes. A universal theme is a message about life that is true throughout time and in all places.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Technology is the use of knowledge, tools, and skills to solve problems. Science is a way of understanding the world through observation and the testing of ideas. Technology use can be determined by environmental factors as well as by governments or religious beliefs. Advances in science and technology have made life easier.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Classify Pick a creative expression that you admire or use. Classify it as one of the three basic types of creative expression and describe why it is important.
**DIRECTIONS** Write three words or phrases to describe each term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>cultural universal</td>
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<td>social institution</td>
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<td>technology</td>
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The World’s People

Section 4

MAIN IDEAS
1. Globalization links the world’s countries together through culture and trade.
2. The world community works together to solve global conflicts and crises.

Key Terms and Places

- **globalization**: the process in which countries are increasingly linked to each other through culture and trade
- **popular culture**: culture traits that are well known and widely accepted
- **interdependence**: the reliance of one country on the resources, goods, or services of another country
- **United Nations (UN)**: an organization of the world’s countries that promotes peace and security around the globe
- **humanitarian aid**: assistance to people in distress

Section Summary

**GLOBALIZATION**

People around the world are more closely linked than ever before. **Globalization** is the process in which countries are increasingly linked to each other through culture and trade. Improvements in technology and communication have increased globalization.

**Popular culture** consists of culture traits that are well known and widely accepted. These traits can include food, sports, music, and movies. The United States has a great influence on popular culture through sales of American products and the use of English for business, science, and education around the world. The United States is in turn greatly influenced by other countries.

World businesses are connected through trade. Companies may make products in many different countries or may use products from around the world. **Interdependence** occurs when countries depend on each other for resources, goods, or

Underline the sentence that describes two ways countries are linked together.

What are four traits that can be considered part of popular culture?

_____________________

_______________________
services. Companies and consumers depend on goods produced elsewhere.

**A WORLD COMMUNITY**

Because places around the world are connected closely, what happens in one place affects others. The world community works together to promote cooperation between countries.

When conflicts occur, countries from around the world try to settle them. The **United Nations (UN)** is an association of nearly 200 countries dedicated to promoting peace and security.

Crisis such as earthquakes, floods, droughts, or tsunamis can leave people in great need. Groups from around the world provide **humanitarian aid**, or assistance to people in distress. Some groups help refugees or provide medical care.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Contrast** Talk to a parent or other adult about their knowledge of other countries and their connections to them when they were young. Write a short essay that contrasts their global connections with yours.
DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. Groups from around the world come together to provide ___________________________ in times of crisis. (humanitarian aid/globalization)

2. ___________________________ occurs when countries depend on each other for resources, goods, or services. (Globalization /Interdependence)

DIRECTIONS On the line provided before each statement, write T if the statement is true and F if the statement is false. If the statement is false, write the term that would make the statement correct on the line after each sentence.

_____ 3. The process in which countries are linked to one another through culture and trade is called popular culture.

______________________________

_____ 4. Culture traits such as food, music, movies, and sports are examples of globalization.

______________________________

_____ 5. As a result of globalization, there is more interdependence among countries.

______________________________

_____ 6. The United Nations (UN) promotes peace and security around the world.

______________________________
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WEEK 2
Government and Economic Systems

Section 1

MAIN IDEAS
1. Limited governments of the world include democracies.
2. Unlimited governments of the world include totalitarian governments.
3. Most human rights abuses occur under unlimited governments of the world.

Key Terms

democracy  a form of government in which the people elect leaders and rule by majority

direct democracy  government in which citizens meet in popular assembly to discuss issues and vote for leaders

limited government  government that has legal limits on its power, usually in the form of a constitution

unlimited government  government in which power is concentrated in the hands of a single leader or small group

totalitarian government  government that controls all aspects of society

Section Summary

GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD
A democracy is a form of government in which the people elect leaders and rule by majority. Citizens are free to choose representatives to make and enforce laws. In a direct democracy, citizens meet regularly in assembly to discuss issues and vote for leaders. Ancient Athens is an example of a direct democracy. A democracy is a form of limited government, in that the government has legal limits on its power, usually in the form of a constitution.

Today nearly half of the more than 190 countries in the world are democratic or partly democratic. These democracies share some similar characteristics. They have social welfare systems that seek to improve the quality of their citizens’ lives. They protect their citizens rights and freedoms. They can usually withstand national crises such as war or civil unrest.
UNLIMITED GOVERNMENTS

In an unlimited government, power is concentrated in the hands of a single leader or group.

Totalitarian governments exercise control over all aspects of society—the government, economy, and even people’s beliefs and actions. In these societies, citizens have no way to change the government. Examples of totalitarian governments include the Soviet Union under Joseph Stalin and China under Mao Zedong.

A totalitarian government is the most extreme kind of authoritarian government, one in which its people are subject to state control. In unlimited governments, citizens have limited political and economic freedoms. Rulers often use force to put down opposition movements. For example, Saddam Hussein of Iraq used torture and violence against his political opponents and his own people.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Human rights abuses include torture, slavery, and murder. Most abuses occur in countries with unlimited governments. However, human rights abuses are also common in countries in the process of establishing democracy. Abuses in democratic countries often occur as a result of inaction.

The United States takes a three-part approach to its work on human rights: learning the truth and stating the facts, taking consistent positions about human rights abuses, and partnering with other organizations committed to human rights.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Comparing and Contrasting

Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting limited and unlimited governments.
DIÉRECTIONS  On the line provided before each statement, write T if a statement is true and F if a statement is false. If the statement is false, write a term that would make the statement correct on the line after each sentence.

_____  1. Ancient Athens is an example of an unlimited government.

_____  2. A democracy is a form of government in which one person or a few people hold power.

_____  3. A government in which the state has control over all aspects of society is called a totalitarian government.

_____  4. An unlimited government is one in which the people elect leaders and rule by majority.

_____  5. A constitution enforces the legal limits of a government’s power.

_____  6. Communist China is an example of a direct democracy.
DUTIES AND ROLES OF CITIZENSHIP

In the United States, citizens are the ultimate source of government authority. This is called a representative government. For this type of government to work, citizens have to perform certain duties.

In order for our society to work, citizens must obey the law. In the United States, you must go to school until the age of 16. School is important because it provides citizens with critical thinking skills to help them choose leaders and understand issues. Education also provides workforce skills.

Citizens must pay taxes. When we pay taxes on purchases, we are paying for public services such as road repair, police protection, and national security.

When the country needs people to fight wars, it may issue a draft. A draft requires men of certain ages and qualifications to serve in the military. Citizens must also serve on a jury if they are called.

MAIN IDEAS

1. The duties and roles of citizenship help to make representative government work.

2. Good citizens accept their responsibilities for maintaining a strong democracy.

3. The type of government in some societies influences the roles of the citizens in those societies.

Key Terms

representative government a government in which people are the ultimate source of government authority

draft a law that requires men of certain ages and qualifications to join the military

jury duty a required service of citizens to act as a member of a jury

nonrepresentative government a government in which government power is unlimited and citizens have few, if any, rights

Section Summary

Who is the source of government authority in a representative government?

_______________________

Why is it important for citizens to go to school?

_______________________

_______________________

_______________________
to do so. This service is called **jury duty**. The Constitution guarantees citizens the right to a trial by their peers—their fellow citizens.

**RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

In a representative government, citizens also have responsibilities—tasks we should do as citizens but that are not required by law.

In order to give consent to our lawmakers in government, we should vote. Voting is a way to show our decision makers whether we agree with their opinions on issues. Becoming informed about key issues, candidates, and current events will help you make informed choices when you vote.

You might also take part in government by joining political parties or serving for political office. Another way to help society is by volunteering in your community.

By knowing your own rights as a citizen, you can make sure you respect the rights of the people around you. You should also know if someone else’s rights are being violated.

**CITIZENSHIP IN OTHER SOCIETIES**

Other representative governments may have similar roles and responsibilities for their citizens. These may not be the same as those of U.S. citizens.

Nonrepresentative governments are governments in which citizens have few, if any, rights. The government maintains all the power.

**CHALLENGE ACTIVITY**

**Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences** Imagine that you are about to turn 18. Make a list of the responsibilities you have as a United States citizen.
DIRECTIONS  Answer each question by writing a sentence that contains at least one term from the word bank.

1. How does a representative government work?

2. When might the United States issue a draft?

3. Name some duties and responsibilities of a United States citizen.

4. What is a nonrepresentative government?

5. Explain how the Constitution guarantees citizens a right to a trial by their peers.
SCARCITY AND RESOURCE USE
The condition created when humans’ unlimited wants conflict with the world’s limited resources is called scarcity. Economists study factors of production—land, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship.

ECONOMIC SYSTEMS
Traditional economies rely on long-established customs such as hunting and fishing. In a command
economy, the government controls the economy. A market economy is based on private ownership, free trade, and competition.

MODERN ECONOMIES
Most countries have one of three types of mixed economies: communist, capitalist, and socialist. In a communist society, the government owns all factors of production. In a capitalist economy, individuals and businesses own the factors of production. In socialist economies, the government controls some of the basic factors of production.

THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM
In the American free enterprise system, individuals are free to exchange goods and services, and own and operate businesses with little government intervention.

ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND DEVELOPMENTS
Every nation has a variety of economies. In agricultural industries, people focus on growing crops and raising livestock. In manufacturing industries, people make finished materials from raw materials. In tertiary industries, people work in wholesale—businesses that sell to other businesses. Others work in retail industries—businesses that sell directly to consumers.

The world’s most powerful nations are developed countries, countries with strong economies and a high quality of life. Developing nations are those with weak economies.

CHALLENGE ACTIVITY
Critical Thinking: Compare and Contrast How is the American free enterprise system different from communist and socialist economies? Write a paragraph explaining the differences.
DIRECTIONS Read each sentence and fill in the blank with the word in the word pair that best completes the sentence.

1. Businesses known as ________________ make finished products from raw materials. (manufacturing industries/retail industries)

2. Unlimited human wants create ________________ in the world because of limited resources. (developed countries/scarcity)

3. In a ________________, few limits are placed on business activities. (factor of production/free enterprise system)

4. ________________ industries focus on growing crops and raising livestock. (Agricultural/Wholesale)

5. Countries with weak economies and a lower quality of life are known as _________________. (developing countries/developed countries)

DIRECTIONS Look up three terms from the word bank in an encyclopedia. On a separate sheet of paper, write the dictionary definition of the term that is closest to the definition used in your textbook. Then write a sentence using each term correctly.