

4th Grade Social Studies CRCT Study Guide

The Declaration of Independence protects your natural rights:

- ❖ the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
- ❖ “We the people” means EVERYONE in the United States

Branches of Government

Executive Branch (President)

- ❖ enforces the laws

Legislative Branch (Congress)

- ❖ make the laws

Judicial Branch (Judges)

- ❖ interprets the laws

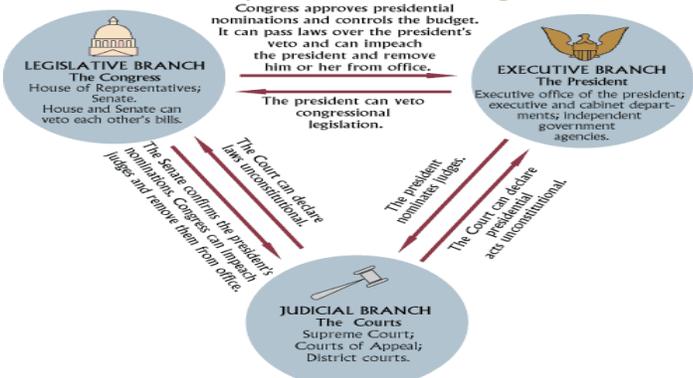


How a bill becomes a law

- ❖ Congress comes up with an idea for a bill
- ❖ Congress votes – if it is approved, it goes to the President
- ❖ The President can sign it, or veto it
- ❖ If the President vetoes it, Congress can overturn the veto with a 2/3 vote

Checks and Balances

- ❖ The President can veto a Congress bill/law
 - Congress can overturn veto with 2/3 vote
- ❖ The President can nominate new judges
 - Congress must approve the judges
- ❖ The Judicial branch can say a law from Congress is unconstitutional (bad)



Smallest to largest forms of government to largest

local (Atlanta) - keep streets looking good, provides police and firemen, public schools and libraries, public transportation

state (Georgia) – issues driver’s licenses, run elections, set up local governments

federal (United States) - protection from other countries; prints money, collects income tax

Constitution

- ❖ Freedom of Expression means you can do what you want to do; but if you do things illegal, or bad, there will be consequences (jail, etc).
- ❖ The Articles of Confederation were written before the Constitution – *it changed because it gave the states too much power, and made the federal government weak*
- ❖ A republic is a government in which citizens elect leaders (like in the U.S.)
- ❖ Compromise – both sides give up something to come to an agreement
- ❖ Ratify - means to accept it
- ❖ Amendment – means to change it
- ❖ We live in a democracy – people have the power to make decisions

Bill of Rights

Amendment 1 -You can worship who/what you want; freedom of speech; freedom of expression

Amendment 2 - Right to own guns (when you are 18 years old ☹)

Amendment 3 - You don’t have to keep soldiers in your house if you don’t want to

Amendment 4 - The police need a warrant (reason) to search your home

Amendment 5 - You don’t have to tell on yourself

Amendment 6 - You have a right to a speedy trial (so you don’t sit in jail for years waiting for a trial - to go to court)

Amendment 7 - If your case goes to trial, and the problem is worth more than \$20, you have a right to a jury (where people say if you are guilty/not guilty; and NOT the judge)

Amendment 8 - You have the right to bail if you go to jail (pay to get out of jail until you go to court)

Amendment 9 - You have rights other than those in the Constitution

Amendment 10 - Any powers not given to the federal government belong to the state

Economics

Opportunity cost - what you have to give up to get something else (no snack for a week so you can buy a toy with your saved-up \$\$\$)

Scarcity - means there is not enough for everyone

Price incentives - when things are on sale...people shop!!!

Specialization - each region can grow different things

- ❖ Georgia is known for cotton and peaches
- ❖ Florida is known for its _____ ???

Voluntary exchange - trading

Technological advancement

- ❖ negative - cotton gin increased a need for more slaves
- ❖ positive - computer increased the ability for a world community

Having a personal budget will allow you to responsibly buy the things you want and need

- ❖ Example of personal budget
- ❖ I was paid \$500 this week
- ❖ 10% goes to charity/tithing
- ❖ 10% goes to me for WHATEVER I WANT
- ❖ 10% goes to short term savings (buy a PS3/XBOX 360; emergencies)
- ❖ 10% goes to long term savings (buy a car)
- ❖ 60% goes to bills, food, gas, etc...

Physical and Man-Made Features in the U.S. – *YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO LOCATE THESE AREAS ON A MAP!!!*

- ❖ Physical means natural like canyons and lakes, etc.
- ❖ Man made is NY City, Boston, etc.

Atlantic Coastal Plains (right side of the United States)



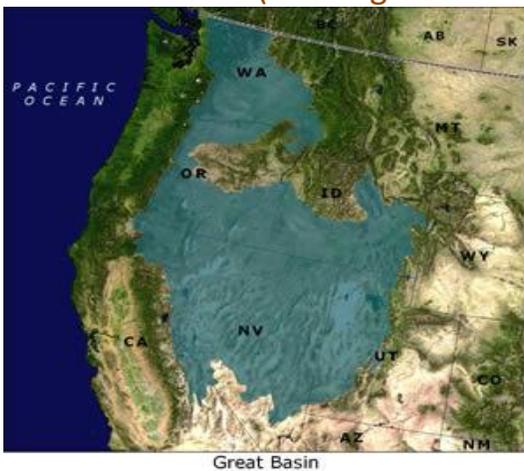
Great Plains (middle of the United States)



Continental Divide (divides the United States in half – goes through Canada, United States, and Mexico)



The Great Basin (The 'Big Bowl' in the left part of the United States)



Death Valley (desert in California)



Gulf of Mexico (large body of water that touches Mexico, Texas, Florida, and many other states)



St. Lawrence River (river runs through New York)

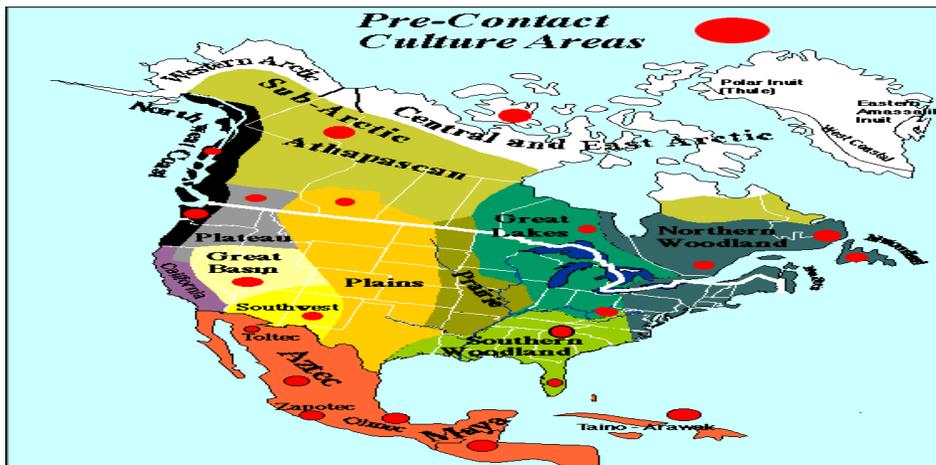


The Great Lakes (lakes that surround Michigan and many other states as well as Canada)



Native Americans

- ❖ Inuit - Arctic
- ❖ Kwakiutl - Northwest
- ❖ Nez Perce - Plateau
- ❖ Hopi - Southwest
- ❖ Pawnee - Plains
- ❖ Seminoles - Southeastern



Native Americans use their environment to obtain food, clothing, and shelter

- ❖ if you lived closer to the ocean, you would eat fish, etc.
- ❖ if you lived in the forest, you would utilize wood for shelter, clothes, and tools
- ❖ you hunt animals specific to your region for food and clothing

European Exploration

- ❖ Obstacles - food, water, sailing, mutiny, Indians, money, etc.
- ❖ John Cabot - *Sailed for England* - discovered the NW Passage
- ❖ Vasco Nunez Balboa - *Sailed for Spain* - discovered a land route to Pacific Ocean through South America
- ❖ Juan Ponce de Leon - *Sailed for Spain* - He discovered Florida - looked for the Fountain of Youth
- ❖ Christopher Columbus - *Sailed for Spain* - discovered America
- ❖ Jacques Cartier - *Sailed for France* - discovered Canada
- ❖ Henry Hudson - *Dutch sailor* - discovered the Hudson Bay

British Colonial America

- ❖ New England colonies - not a lot of farming; more business
- ❖ Mid-Atlantic colonies - some farming; some business
- ❖ Southern colonies - most farming
- ❖ large landowners - had the best life; owned slaves
- ❖ farmers - worked hard; grew their own food
- ❖ artisans - had specialty like making forks and spoons
- ❖ women – were shown very little respect; could not vote, etc.
- ❖ slaves – were shown no respect; white people “owned” them
- ❖ indentured servants - you make a deal to be someone’s servant for 7 years - they paid your traveling cost from one country to another
- ❖ Native Americans - obviously, not good - the colonists took their land

New Nation

The Bill of Rights puts limits on government, and more power for its citizens

The War of 1812

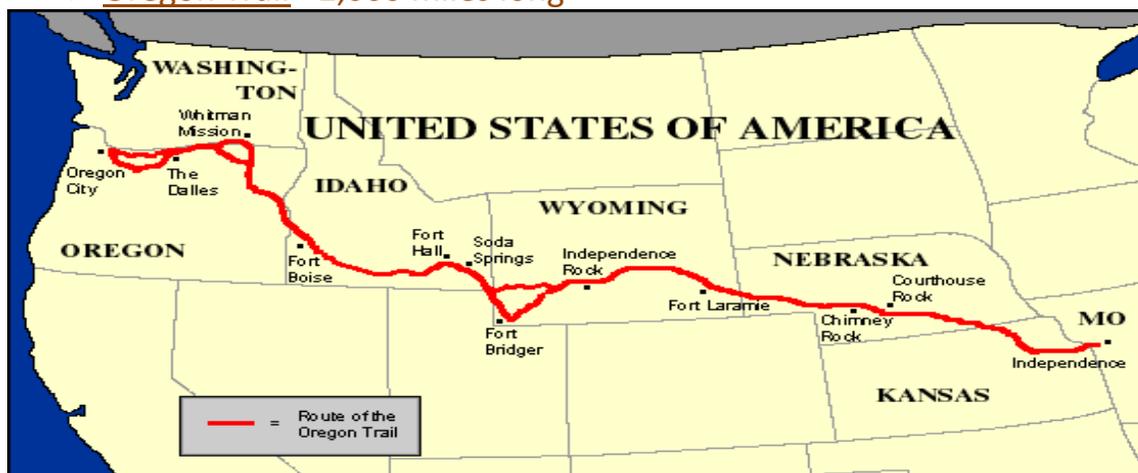
- ❖ The only time the White House was burned down
- ❖ Fought against the British
- ❖ Why?? - U.S. wanted to stay neutral during the fight between France and Britain...buuuuutttttt....the British navy kidnapped over 5,000 American navy men and made them fight for Britain. The U.S. went to war with Britain because of this. No one won. They both decided to give up after years of fighting.

American Revolution

- ❖ French and Indian War - the French did not want the Indians trading with the colonists. War broke out. Britain helped the colonists win.
- ❖ After the war, the colonists wanted the British soldiers to go home, but they wouldn't. King George III imposed taxes on goods (**The Stamp Act; The Tea Act**) to help pay for the war
- ❖ NO TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION - the colonists were upset b/c the King was making them pay taxes no matter what!!!
- ❖ Boston Massacre - colonists in Boston were shot and killed while they were protesting the Stamp Act (taxes on paper goods), etc.
- ❖ Boston Tea Party - the Sons of Liberty dressed up as Indians and threw tea overboard ships b/c of the Tea Act (taxes on tea)
- ❖ Declaration of Independence - Thomas Jefferson - means to have freedom from England (Britain)
- ❖ Battle of Lexington and Concord - first battle of the American Revolution
- ❖ Battle of Yorktown - last battle of the American Revolution
- ❖ Benjamin Franklin - convinced France to help us
- ❖ George Washington - first President - great General
- ❖ Benedict Arnold - betrayed his country
- ❖ Patrick Henry - made an angry speech against the Stamp Act
- ❖ John Adams - colonial lawyer for the British during for the Boston Massacre -he was able to get the jury to say not guilty!!!

Westward Expansion

- ❖ Lewis and Clark with Sacagawea (she was their interpreter)
- ❖ Louisiana Purchase - U.S. bought a lot of land from Napoleon (France). He needed the money to fight the British. This purchase doubled the size of America!! WOW!!!
- ❖ Acquisition of Texas - Fought a war with Mexico for freedom (Mexico had owned the area we now call Texas)
- ❖ Oregon Trail - 2,000 miles long



California Gold Rush - increased merchants, business, trading, and especially mining in the United States

Steamboat - people could travel by water faster/cheaper -boats

Steam Locomotive - people could travel by train faster/cheaper

Telegraph - the first communication device - like a phone, but it sends electric signals over wires - different taps in the signals mean different letters (MORSE CODE)

