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The Geography of the United States

North America is one of the seven continents that make up our Earth. It is comprised of 13 countries. The United States of America and Canada make up two important and large countries on this continent.

The United States of America is the third largest country in the world in terms of area after Russia and Canada. It has an area of 9,629,047 square kilometers (km²). It is surrounded by Canada, Mexico and a coastline of 19,924 kilometers (km).



Landforms and Climate

Ranges of mountains extend throughout the United States. The most famous are the Rocky Mountains, which extend for 2,000 miles from the Mexican Frontier in the United States to Canada and then to eastern Alaska. The Rocky Mountains include over 100 individual ranges.



The Sierra Nevada is another mountain range found in eastern California. It is about 400 miles long. On the other hand, the Appalachian Mountains stretch for about 1,500 miles in length from central Alabama in the United States to the Canadian provinces of New Brunswick, New Foundland and Quebec.

Other mountain ranges include the Cascades, which stretch from California and across Oregon and Washington; and the Coast Range Mountains, which run along the Pacific Ocean coastlines of California, Oregon and Washington, stretching along Columbia, Canada and the southern edge of Alaska.

The flat land extending from southern and southeastern United States to the continental shelves is known as the Coastal Plain.

There is also the fertile Great Plains of North America, which slope down from the Rocky Mountains and extend to the edge of the Canadian Shield and the Appalachian Mountains. This land is fertile, relatively flat, and treeless with sloping, shallow river valleys. There are some minor hills and mountains in Massachusetts, Kansas, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

The highest point in the United States is Mount McKinley in Alaska, which reaches 6,194 meters in height, whereas the lowest point is Death Valley, which is only 86 meters above sea level.

The climate in the United States is mostly temperate. It is tropical in Hawaii and Florida, arctic in Alaska, semi-arid in the Great Plains west of the Mississippi River and arid in the Great Basin of the southwest.



The United States has good precipitation in general. It also has over 800 rivers crossing the continental 48 States. Most of these rivers are small branches or tributaries of a larger river. The Great Lakes, which is a chain of five, large, freshwater lakes, form the largest lake group in the world. The Great Lakes cover an area of 95,000 square miles and provide water for more than 40 million people.

The History of the United States

The history of the American people is a story of **immigration** and diversity. The first American immigrants were intercontinental wanderers, hunters and nomads following animal herds. Originally, they came from Asia to America 20,000 years ago, over a land bridge known as the Bering Strait.

About the year 1000 BC, the **Vikings** were the first Europeans to come to Canada, led by Leif Ericson. The Vikings, however, failed to establish permanent settlements.



Christopher Columbus

In 1492, the Italian **navigator Christopher Columbus** sailed from Spain looking for a shorter route between the East and the West. He landed on one of the Bahama Islands in the Caribbean Sea instead of going to Asia. About 1.5 million people were living in America at that time, but within 40 years, Spanish explorers were able to establish a huge empire in Central and South America.



Troops fighting each other



The Declaration of Independence

The French controlled Canada and fought with the English in North America for seven years. The seven year war ended in 1763, and England was in control of all of North America east of the Mississippi in addition to Canada. After the war, the colonists were in conflict with England, the mother country. In 1774, they convened the first continental congress and discussed their opposition to British rule. After many rebellions, they adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

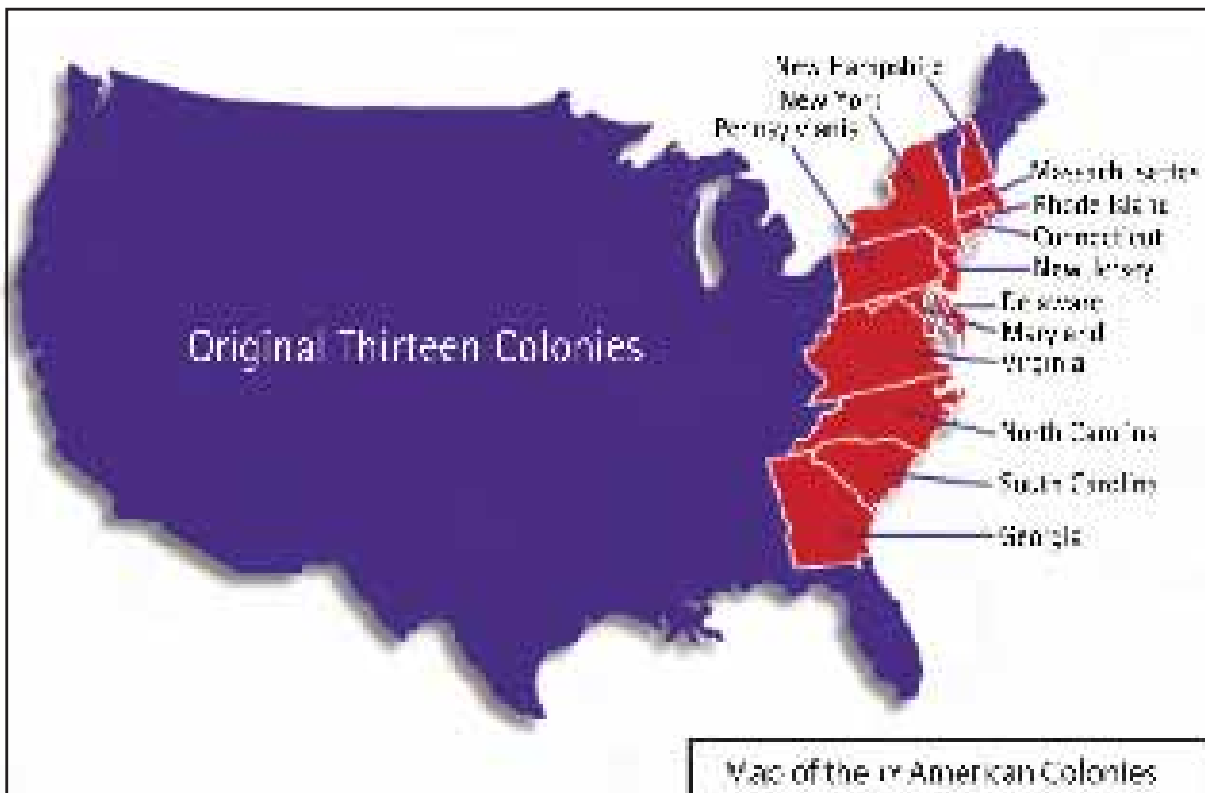
The Americans won the Revolutionary War against the British with the help of the French troops. In 1783, the war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Paris by which England recognized American independence.



Did You Know?

- Columbus was heading for India. When he landed on the Bahama Islands, he had mistaken the place and thought it was India. As a result, he called the Native Americans "Indians."

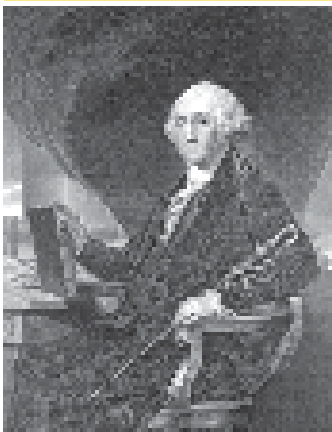
- The first English colonies were founded at Jamestown, Virginia; and Plymouth, Massachusetts between 1607 and 1620. By the year 1733, the English settlers had founded 13 colonies along the Atlantic coast from New Hampshire to Georgia.



The Constitution

The colonists worked together to clear the land of its forests to make room for farming in order to provide food. The wood was used for fuel and to build shelters. This need for cooperation strengthened the belief that all men were equal and nobody had special privileges.

In the year 1787, the colonists had to pay wages to the national army and the war debt to France. As a result, the so-called Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia with President



George Washington

George Washington presiding. Delegates from 12 States wrote the Constitution of the United States. The resulting master plan was to give some powers to the national or federal government, while other powers would be reserved for the individual States should they decide to join the Union.

Constitution: A written statement outlining the basic laws or principles by which a country is governed.

To alleviate the Americans' fear of excessive central power, the government was divided into three branches:

- The Legislative, which is the Congress.
- The Executive, which is headed by the President and includes the federal agencies.
- The Judicial, which includes the federal courts.

In order to safeguard individual liberties, 10 amendments, known as the "Bill of Rights," were added to the Constitution. Another 13 amendments have been added since 1789.

Bill of Rights

The Bill of Rights guarantees Americans:

- Freedom of speech, press, religion, peaceable assembly and to petition the government.
- Right to keep and bear arms.
- Protection from quartering of troops without the consent of the owner.
- Protection from unreasonable search and seizure.
- Due process, double jeopardy, self-incrimination and private property.
- Trial by jury and other rights of the accused.
- Civil trial by jury.
- Prohibition of excessive bail, as well as cruel and unusual punishment.
- Protection of rights not specifically enumerated in the Bill of Rights.
- Powers of States and people.

The American Government

The United States of America is a Federal **Republic**. It consists of 48 contiguous states, in addition to Alaska and Hawaii. The national capital is Washington, DC. located along the banks of the Potomac River between the states of Maryland and Virginia.



In order to enable a nation of such diversity to meld together with so many different people, a political system was created through the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. It aimed at creating "one federated whole" and legitimized the government, which derives its power from the people.

As a result, the American government is divided into three branches: the Legislative, the Executive and the Judicial branches.

The Legislative Branch

The Legislative Branch consists of the Congress, which is comprised of the House of Representatives and the Senate. Congress is the only branch that can make federal laws, institute taxes, declare war and put foreign treaties into effect.

The **House of Representatives** consists of 435 members elected for two-year terms. The number of representatives of each state is related to its population.

On the other hand, 100 senators make up the **Senate**. Two members of each state are elected for a six-year term. Since senators' terms are so lengthy, one third of them stand for election every two years.



U.S. Capitol Building, Washington, DC

To pass a law, a **bill** must pass both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Once both bodies have passed the same version of the bill, it goes to the President for approval.

The Executive Branch

The Chief Executive of the United States is the President who, together with the Vice President, may be elected to a four-year term to the Executive Branch. He can only be elected for two terms.

The President is the chief formulator of national policy. He proposes legislation to Congress. The Congress may veto any bill and has the power to issue regulations carrying out the work of the federal government's agencies.



The White House, Washington D.C.

The President is also the Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces. He appoints the heads and senior officials of federal agencies, as well as federal judges, including judges of the Supreme Court.

Moreover, the President is the head of the major departments, which are called "secretaries" and which are part of his Cabinet.



Who is the current President of the United States of America? _____

The Judicial Branch

The Constitution created the United States, **Supreme Court**, which is the main component of the Judicial Branch. Later, Congress established 13 federal courts of appeals and 95 federal district courts. The Supreme Court meets in Washington, whereas the other courts are located in cities throughout the country.

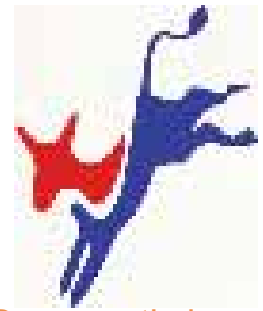


The Supreme Court, Washington, DC

The Supreme Court looks at cases that involve disputes over the interpretation of actions taken by the Executive Branch. It also studies laws passed by Congress or the States. It consists of a chief justice and eight associate justices.

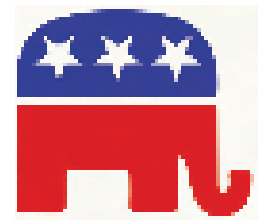
Political Parties and Symbols

Americans exercise their democratic rights by voting in elections and participating in political parties and election campaigns. Two major political parties are recognized in the United States: Democratic and Republican.



Democratic logo

The Democratic Party evolved from the party of Thomas Jefferson, which was formed around 1800. On the other hand, Abraham Lincoln and people who opposed slavery established the Republican Party around 1850.



Republican logo

Democrats are considered liberal, whereas the Republicans are conservatives. Democrats consider the government obliged to provide social and economic programs for those who need them, whereas the Republicans, not opposing the responsibility of the government, try to put more emphasis on encouraging the private sector to help in providing for these needs so that citizens will be less dependent on the government.



Look for more differences between the Democratic and the Republican parties.

The Great Seal of the United States of America



The Great Seal of the United States of America

In 1782, Congress adopted the design for the seal of the President of the United States. It was designed by Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

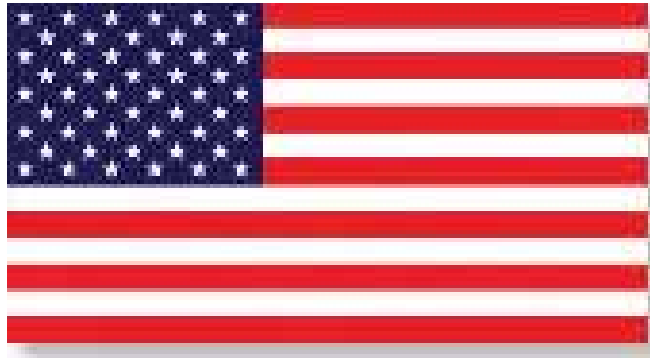
The seal pictures an American bald eagle holding a ribbon that has the motto of the United States in its beak.

The eagle is clutching an olive branch with 13 olives and 13 leaves in one foot and 13 arrows in the other. The olive branch symbolizes peace, whereas the arrows symbolize readiness to go to war and protect the country.

A shield with 13 red and white stripes and a blue bar above it is in front of the eagle. The number 13 stands for the original 13 colonies, the blue bar symbolizes the unity of the colonies through Congress. There are rays, a circle of clouds and 13 white stars above the eagle.

The American motto is *e pluribus unum*, a Latin phrase that means "out of many, one." It appears on the seal, the coins, the paper money and on many other public monuments.

The American Flag



The American flag has 13 horizontal stripes of red alternating with white. There is a blue rectangle in the upper hoist-side corner bearing 50 small, white, five-pointed stars.



What do the 13 stripes represent?



What do the 50 stars stand for?

Population

The population of the United States of America in 2010 was 295,734,134. It has the world's third largest population after China and India. Nevertheless, it is the most diversified population in the world in terms of ethnicity, cultural backgrounds, languages and even religions.

Native Americans constitute 2 million people. Many of the Native Americans died before the year 1920 due to wars and diseases. The Native Americans taught the European settlers how to cultivate crops, such as corn, tomatoes, potatoes and tobacco. They also invented canoes, snowshoes and moccasins.

The dominant ethnic groups among early settlers were the English and the Irish, who together made up 75% of the population in 1780. The rest were other Europeans from Spain, Portugal, France, Holland, Germany and Sweden.

The great wave of immigrants, however, came between the years 1840 and 1860 as a result of famine, wars and rising population in Europe. The estimated number of European migrants was about 5 million people.

**Did
You
Know?**

During the 19th century, many people entered the United States. As a result, the government operated a special port on Ellis Island. About 12 million people entered through it between 1892 and 1954. Now, it is preserved as part of the Statue of Liberty National Monument.



Statue of Liberty, New York

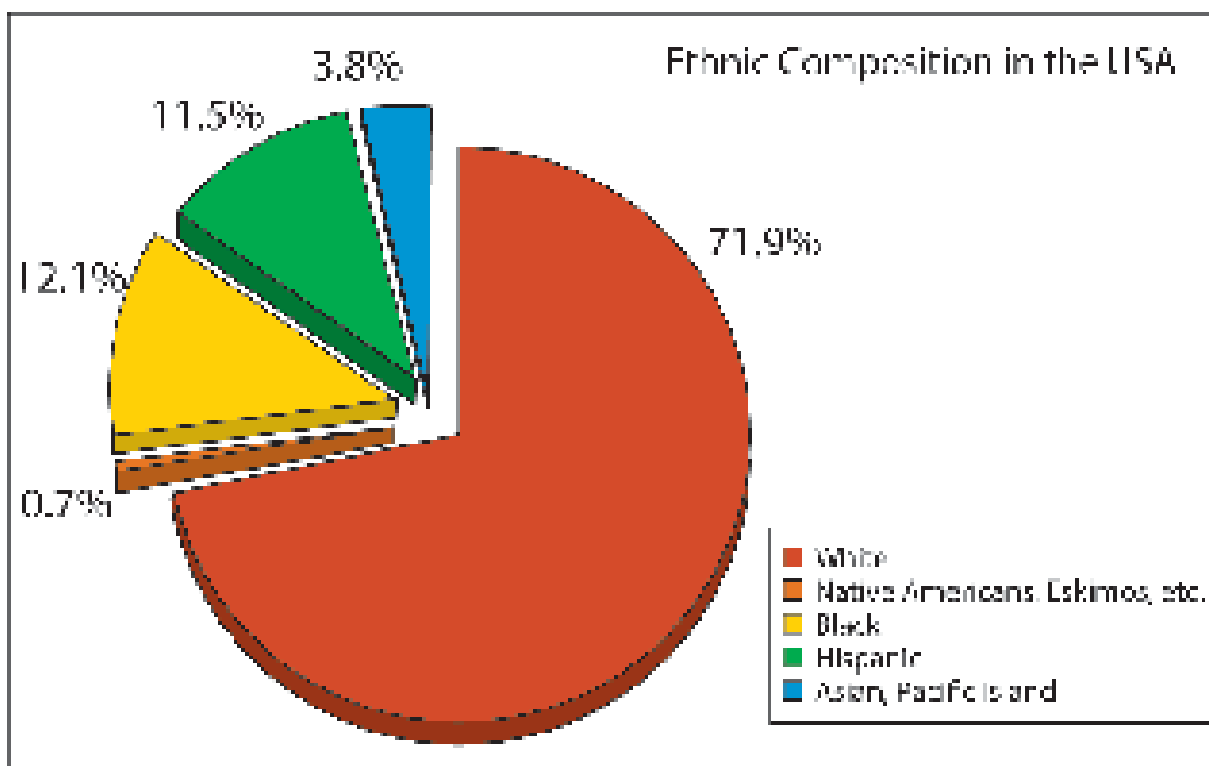
The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France to the Americans in 1886. It stands on an Island in New York. It was the immigrants' first sight of their future homeland.

Words quoted from the poet Emma Lararus are etched at the Statue's base:

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Emma Lararus

In addition to English and Irish Americans, there are about 27 million Spanish-speaking residents in the United States. Half of these Hispanics are originally from Mexico, the other half are from Spanish-speaking countries, such as El Salvador, the Dominican Republic and Columbia. There are also many Cuban Americans who live in Miami in particular.

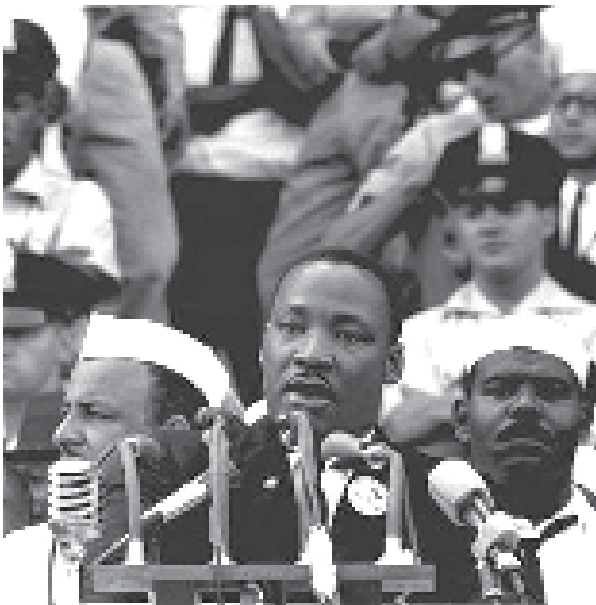


Unwilling Immigrants

The group of immigrants who came unwillingly to North America were the Africans. About 500,000 Africans were brought over as slaves between 1619 and 1808. They were working in the fields until 1808 when importing slaves became illegal.

African Americans suffered from segregation and inferior education for a long time. In the early 1960s, however, Dr. **Martin Luther King** and other reformers protested to demand equal treatment under the law and end **racial discrimination**.

More than 200,000 people of all ethnic origins gathered at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC, on August 28, 1963. As a result of these movements, Congress passed laws prohibiting discrimination in all aspects of American life.



Martin Luther King

On August 28, 1963, Martin Luther King said his famous words: *"I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."*

In 1924, Congress passed the Johnson-Reed Immigration Act to decrease the number of people allowed to immigrate to America from each country each year.

According to this Act, the percentage of immigrants from each country is based on the percentage of the immigrant population from that country already living in the United States.

Religions and Language

Christians make up 78% of Americans. They are divided into three main groups: Protestant (52%); Catholic (24%); and Mormon (2%). Muslims make up 1% and Jews another 1%. On the other hand, 10% of the population practice other religions, and there are 10% with no religion.

About 82.1% of the population speak English, 10.7% Spanish, and 3.8% speak Indo and European languages; 3.4% speak Asian and other languages.

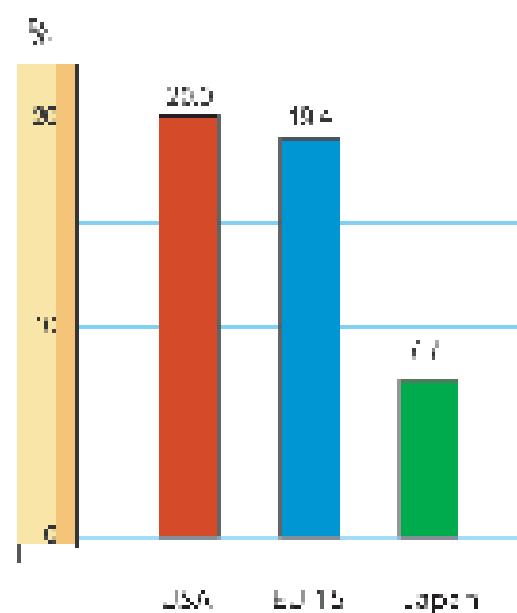
The literacy rate among Americans is almost 100%.

Economy

The United States of America is a powerful economic force. It is part of the **G8**, which is comprised of the eight great industrial countries in the world.

The American industries are highly diversified and technologically advanced. With only 5% of the world's population, the United States produces about 20% of the world's output of coal, copper and crude oil. Other natural resources found in the United States are lead, phosphates, uranium, gold, iron, mercury, nickel, potash, silver, zinc and timber.

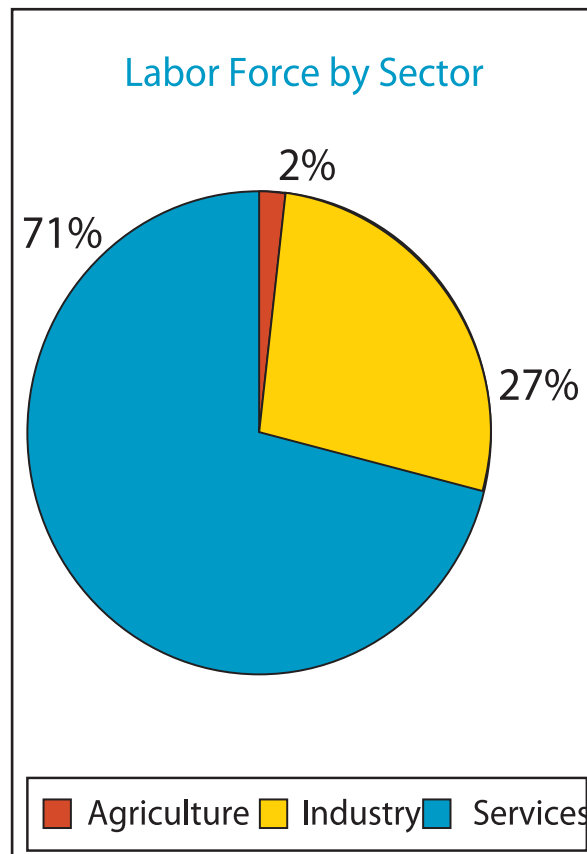
The USA share of the world's total trade in goods, 2001, compared with Japan and the EU



The main industries of the United States are refining oil, steel, motor vehicles, aerospace, chemicals, electronics, telecommunications equipment, high-tech equipment, military equipment, mining, lumber, medicines, food processing and consumer goods.

Being an industrialized nation, agriculture accounts for a very marginal share in the total national income. Nevertheless, the United States produces nearly half the world's maize, 10% of its wheat and one fifth of the world's beef, pork and lamb, as well as fruits, vegetables, cotton, dairy products, poultry, lumber and fish.

Services make the highest contribution to the American gross domestic product (GDP). The United States has the highest number of airports in the world. It has 14,858 airports. It also has 2,226,605 km of railways; 13 ports that handle 290,000 tons of cargo annually; 41,009 km of waterways; 6,407,637 km of roadways; 244,620 km of petroleum pipelines; and 548,665 km of natural gas pipelines.



Canada



Geography

Canada is the second largest country in the world, after Russia, with an area of 9,984,670 square kilometers (km²).

It has many major geographic features in common with the United States. They both share the Rocky Mountains, the Appalachian Mountains, four of the Great Lakes and many rivers.

It also has other ranges of mountains including the Alaska Range, which extends from the Alaska Peninsula to the border of the Yukon Territory in Canada, as well as the Brooks Mountains in northern Alaska.

A plateau region of eastern and northern Canada and



Landform Map of Canada

the Great Lakes area is known as the Canadian Shield. It includes rough and rocky surfaces and large areas of evergreen forests. It also comprises the northern region along the (Arctic) Circle and the rocky, frozen Tundra.

About 10% of the world's forest area is found in Canada. It is also home to over 2 million lakes and dozens of important rivers. About 40% of its freshwater and landmass is found 60° north latitude.



Main Cities

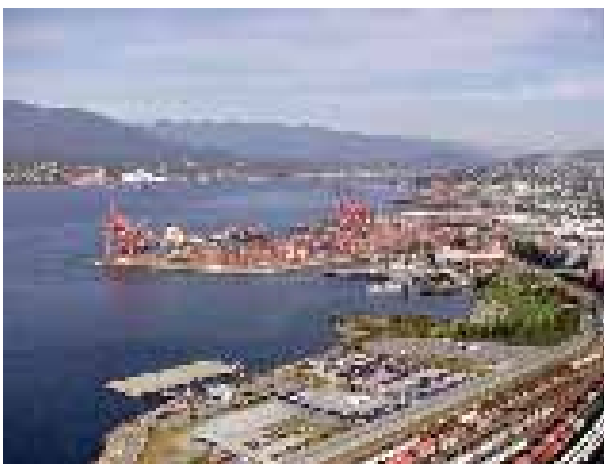
Canada is geographically and politically divided into ten provinces and three territories. Each of them has a capital city.

The main cities are:

- Ottawa, which is the national capital of Canada. It is also a hub and an emerging center of high-technology research.
- Toronto, which is the capital of Ontario. It is a financial and manufacturing center. Over 70 languages are spoken in this city.



- Montreal, which is a city in the southern Province of Quebec. It is a leading commercial, industrial and service center. It is also a center of intellectual and cultural life. It is known as the world's largest French-speaking city outside of France.



Vancouver port

- Vancouver, which is a leading Pacific-Coast seaport and the main commercial, manufacturing, financial, tourist and cultural center of British Columbia.

Population

The population of Canada in the year 2010 was 33,098,932. About 75% of the population is concentrated within 300 km of the American borders; 62% of the whole population lives in Quebec, Ontario and Ottawa.

About 28% of the population is originally British, 23% French, 15% other Europeans, 6% Asians and Africans and 28% are from mixed backgrounds. About 70% of the population is Christian, the rest are Muslims, unspecified or with no religion.

History

In the year 1497, King Henry VII of England sent an Italian navigator named John Cabot to find a new trade route to the Orient.

John Cabot sailed from Bristol in England and discovered the eastern shores of Canada. His voyage gave England a claim by right of discovery to an indefinite area of eastern North America.

In 1524, however, King Francis I of France sent a Florentine navigator named **Giovanni da Verranzano** on a voyage of reconnaissance overseas.

Verranzano explored the eastern coastline of North Carolina to New Foundland, giving the French the same claim to the continent by right of discovery.

Unlike the United States, which achieved its independence by a single great war, Canada achieved it gradually. A gradual constitutional change spread over many years led to the Union of the British North American countries in 1867 and later on to its independence on December 11, 1931.

Today, Canada is a constitutional **monarchy** that is also a parliamentary democracy and a federation.

The Economy of Canada

Canada is one of the greatest industrial countries in the world. It is a member of the G8, which is comprised of the eight great industrial countries in the world.



Did
You
Know?

G8 is comprised of the United States of America, Canada, Russia, Japan, Germany, France, Italy and the United Kingdom.

Canada is the world's largest exporter of uranium, zinc and potash. It is also the second largest producer of nickel, sulfur, asbestos and cadmium.

Moreover, Canada is one of the top five exporters of platinum, cobalt, copper, lead, gypsum, titanium and molybdenum.

The main industries in Canada are high-technology products, vehicles, transportation equipment, machines, chemical products, food processing and wood processing. The country is the world's largest producer of newsprint since 10% of the world's total forest area is found in Canada. As a result, it produces pulp, which is used in the paper industry, lumber and timber.

Canada is also richly endowed with other valuable natural resources, such as fish, fur, minerals and farm products. Extracting and processing these resources are main industries in the country.

Moreover, Canada produces one fifth of the world's supply of wheat, as well as maize, barley, potatoes, fruits, vegetables, soybeans, tobacco and dairy products. Sheep, cattle, beef and poultry are also raised by the Canadians.

GLOSSARY CHAPTER (2)

Continent: A great landmass on the planet Earth.

Temperate: Mild temperatures.

Tropical: Very hot and often combined with a high degree of humidity.

Arctic: Very cold.

Arid: Too dry to support vegetation.

Precipitation: Rain or snow falling to the ground.

Immigration: People who relocate to a new country from their country of origin.

Viking: A member of any of the Scandinavian peoples who invaded various parts of northwestern Europe from the 8th to the 11th centuries AD.

Navigator: Somebody who is qualified to plan the course of an expedition in a navigating ship.

Christopher Columbus: (1451-1506), Italian-Spanish navigator who sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean in search of a route to Asia but achieved fame by making landfall in the Americas instead.

Independence: Freedom from control by another country.

Colonists: The early European settlers of North America before it became the United States.

Constitutional Convention: A meeting during the summer of 1787 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at which delegates from 12 states wrote the constitution of the United States.

George Washington: (1732-1799), first President of the United States (1789-1797) and one of the most important leaders in the history of the United States.

Constitution: A written statement outlining the basic laws or principles by which a country is governed.

Federal: Relating form of government in which several states or regions defer certain powers.

Legislative Branch: A branch of a country's government involved of the writing and the passing of laws.

Executive Branch: A branch of a country's government responsible for implementing legislative decisions.

Judicial Branch: The branch of government primarily responsible for interpreting the law.

Bill of Rights: The first ten amendments to the Constitution of the United States. It was ratified in 1791, three years after the

Constitution was ratified.

Jury: A group of usually 12 people chosen to give a verdict on a legal case that is presented before them in a court of law.

Republic: A country whose government or political system is that of a republic.

House of Representatives: The larger of the two legislative chambers (House and Senate) that make up the Congress of the United States. It consists of 435 members chosen for two-year terms from districts of about equal population.

Senate: The higher of the two elected legislative bodies of the United States government.

Bill: A written proposal for a new law, discussed and voted upon by the members of a legislative body.

Supreme Court: The highest federal court, consisting of nine justices appointed by the President and charged with making decisions solely on constitutional matters.

Democratic Party: One of the two major political parties in the United States. It was formed around 1800.

Thomas Jefferson: (1743-1826), third President of the United States (1801-1809) and author of the Declaration of Independence.

Republican Party: A political party at the state or national level in the United States, founded around 1850.

Benjamin Franklin: (1706-1790), American printer, author, diplomat, philosopher and scientist who made many contributions to the cause of the American Revolution (1775-1783).

John Adams: (1735-1826), second President of the United States (1797-1801) and one of the great figures in American history.

E Pluribus Unum: Latin phrase that means "out of many, one."

Migrants: People who move from one place to another place.

Martin Luther King: (1929-1968), American clergyman and Nobel Prize winner, one of the principal leaders of the American civil rights movement.

Racial Discrimination: Unfair treatment of people because of their race and color.

G8: The group of the eight most industrialized nations in the world, comprised of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

GDP: Gross domestic product.

John Cabot: (1450-1499), Italian navigator and explorer.

Giovanni da Verrazano: (1480-1527), Italian navigator, born in Val di Greve, near Florence.

Monarchy: A form of government in which one person had the inherited right to rule as head of state during his or her lifetime.

Chapter 5

A Journey into the Past

Lesson 1: Trade in the Ancient World

Lesson 2: History of Trade Routes

Lesson 3: Middle Ages Trade and Commerce

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Lesson 5: Types of Governments

Lesson 6: The Government of Early Mesopotamia

Lesson 7: The Government of Ancient Egypt

Lesson 8: The Government of Ancient China

Lesson 9: The Government of Ancient Greece
and Ancient Rome

Trade in the Ancient World

What is Trade?

Trade is simply the exchange of things. People trade one good for another good, one good for money, one good for a service, a service for a good, or money for a service. People of different civilizations trade things that they have too much of for things that they lack. This human activity has been a central part of the development of civilization throughout human history.

In this lesson you will learn about trade and commerce in the ancient world as one of the activities that helped the survival of human **legacy**.

Prehistoric Transport and Trade

Hunters- gatherers Societies



Many historians believe that early humans, who lived in **hunting and gathering societies**, hunted and gathered food for themselves and their immediate families.

Early Agricultural Societies

There are several factors that helped prehistoric people transport goods and develop trade activities:

- The domestication of pack animals such as donkeys, camels and horses as means of transportation. The ancient people of the Sahara imported domesticated animals from Asia between 6000 and 4000 BCE.
- The development of shipping technology.
- Grassland and water provided perfect passages for ships and caravans to carry goods, animals and products from one place to another.

Ancient Near East Trade

Trade and commerce greatly contributed to the rise and economic prosperity of ancient civilizations and promoted an early form of multiculturalism based on an exchange of ideas, philosophy and technology.



Did
You
Know?

The ancient harbor constructed in Lothal, India, around 2400 BC is the oldest harbor in the world.

Mesopotamian Trade in the Ancient World



Mesopotamia was an arid, barren region with few natural resources. Early Mesopotamians traded their grains, wool, and textiles for gold, stone for building, spices, and wood. During the time of Sargon, Mesopotamia traded grain, wool, and textiles for honey, spices, and bitumen used for ship-building. Evidence of extensive trade has been documented through archaeological finds of thousands of stone tablets that recorded exports and imports by Mesopotamian scribes.

Historians say that Assyrian trade with Egypt and Syria was very active.

Egyptian Trade in the Ancient World



Ancient Egypt developed trade relationships with numerous neighbors throughout its long history. Egypt traded with the **Minoans**, the Trojans, the early Greeks, the Arabs, Nubians, and Canaanites.

Ancient Egyptians imported oils, furniture, and weaponry from the Nubians, **incense** from Canaan as well as opium, figs and grapes from Cyprus.

Phoenicians Trade in the Ancient World

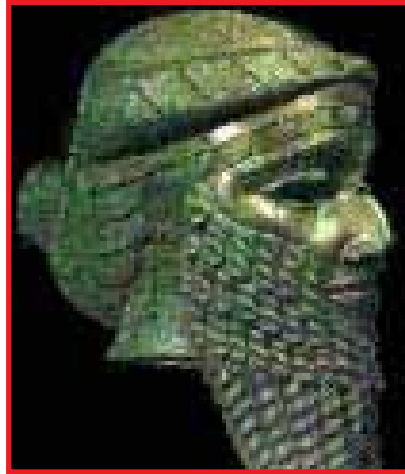
The **Phoenicians** were skillful traders. They exported cedar wood as top-quality timber for architecture and shipbuilding. Dye, metal, and fine linen were other famous local products.

Romans Trade in the Ancient World



The Romans traded gold, silver, food, and clothes with Arabs and Indus for silk, pearls, spices, slaves, incense, and ivory.

Meet a man who built an empire that shaped civilization



Sargon the Great

Sargon the Great is among the most extraordinary figures of the ancient Middle East. He ruled Sumer from 2334-2279 B.C. Sargon established his capital at Agade (near the city of Kish) becoming the king of Akkad and the first king of the Agade Dynasty. Sargon developed a commercial empire dependent on trade. The roads and the postal system that Sargon established united the empire of Akkad.

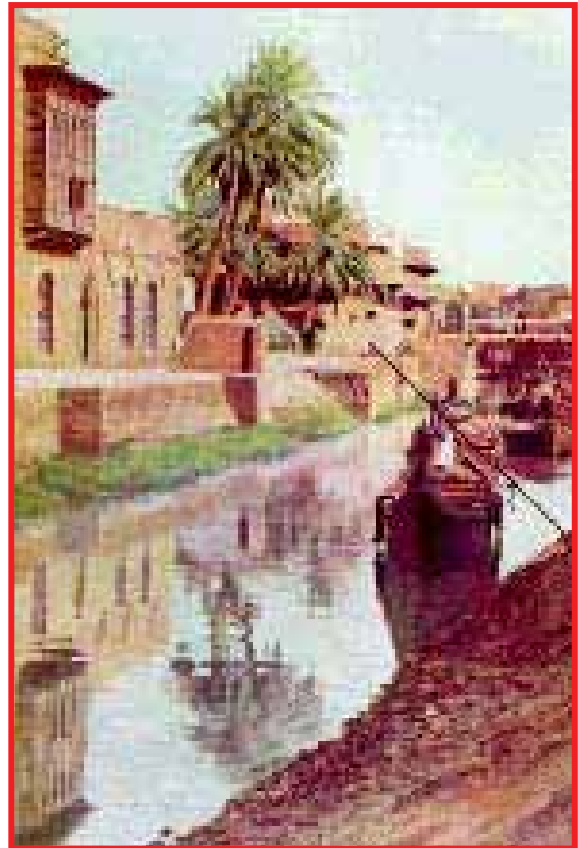


History of Trade Routes

The earliest **trade route** that man took was the journey to the local market place. Local markets were popular meeting places for buying and selling.

Waterborne Traffic: 3000-1000 BC

Transporting goods by water was an easy and common method of trade. The first extensive trade routes were up and down the great rivers which became the backbone of early civilizations: the **Nile**, the **Tigris** and **Euphrates**, the **Indus** and the **Yellow River**.



Map Skills

Read the map below. Then answer the following question.



What are the three bodies of water that helped ancient Egyptians transport goods by water?

The Caravan: from 1000 BC

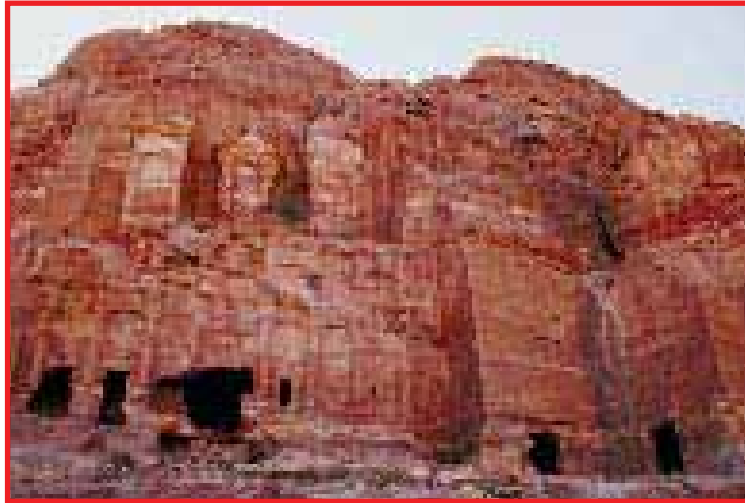


By 1000 BC, caravans of camels in the regions of North Africa and Asia brought precious goods up the west coast of Arabia, linking India with Egypt, Phoenicia and Mesopotamia.

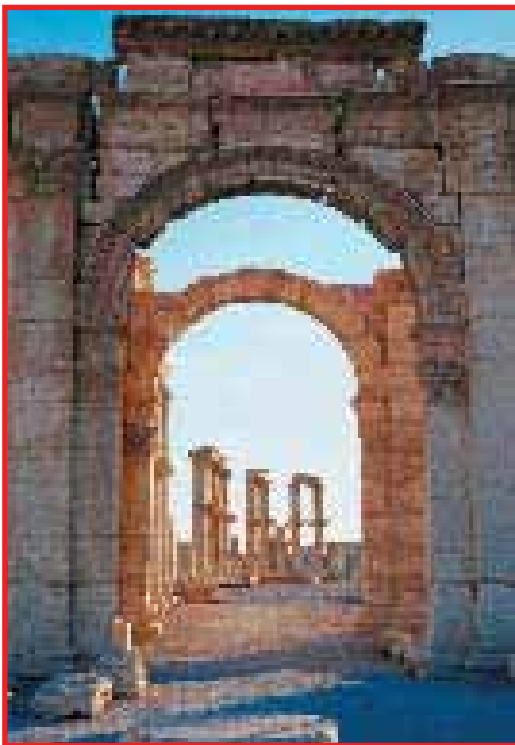


Did
You
Know?

Two different species of camels became the most important means of transportation in the regions of North Africa and Asia; the single-humped Arabian camel (in North Africa, the Middle East, and India) and the double-humped Bactrian camel (in central Asia and Mongolia). Both are well adapted to desert conditions. They can source water from the fat stored in their humps.



The caravan trade route brought prosperity to Petra, which was occupied by an Arab tribe, the Nabataeans. Petra is north of the Gulf of Aqaba.



Palmyra was another great site which benefited from caravan trade routes. In the 1st century BC, when Palmyra had its greatest prosperity, a rich new supply of goods arrived from the east along the Silk Road.

The Silk Road

The Silk Road is an extensive network of trade routes across the Asian continent connecting east, south and western Asia with the Mediterranean world, as well as North and Northeast Africa and Europe.



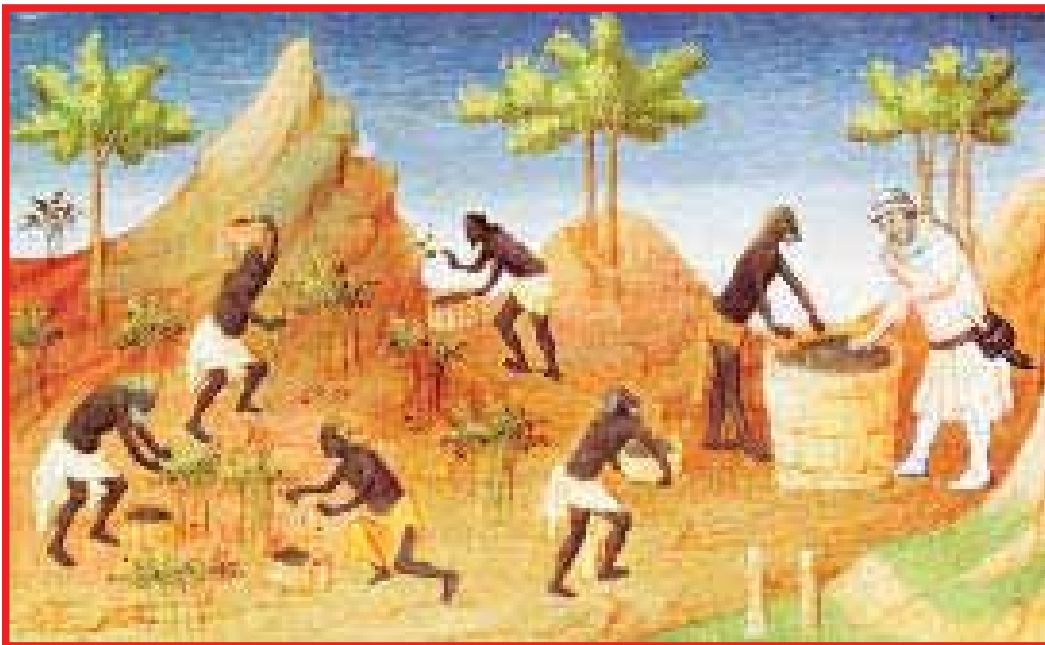
Did
You
Know?

The Silk Route extended over 5,000 miles and very few people traveled the route traversed it from end to end.

Why was the Silk Road so Important?

The Silk Road was an important path for cultural, commercial and technological exchange between traders, merchants, soldiers and pilgrims from China, India, **Persia** and Arabia for more than 3,000 years.

Trade on the Silk Road was a significant factor in the development of the great civilizations of Egypt, Persia, China, India, Rome and Arabia. Moreover, the road enabled people to transport not only silk but other products and goods were transported as well, such as fine fabrics, musk, perfumes, jewels, spices and medicines.



Goods and products were not the only items that traveled along the road. Knowledge, ideas, cultures, technologies, religions and philosophies also traveled along the Silk Road.



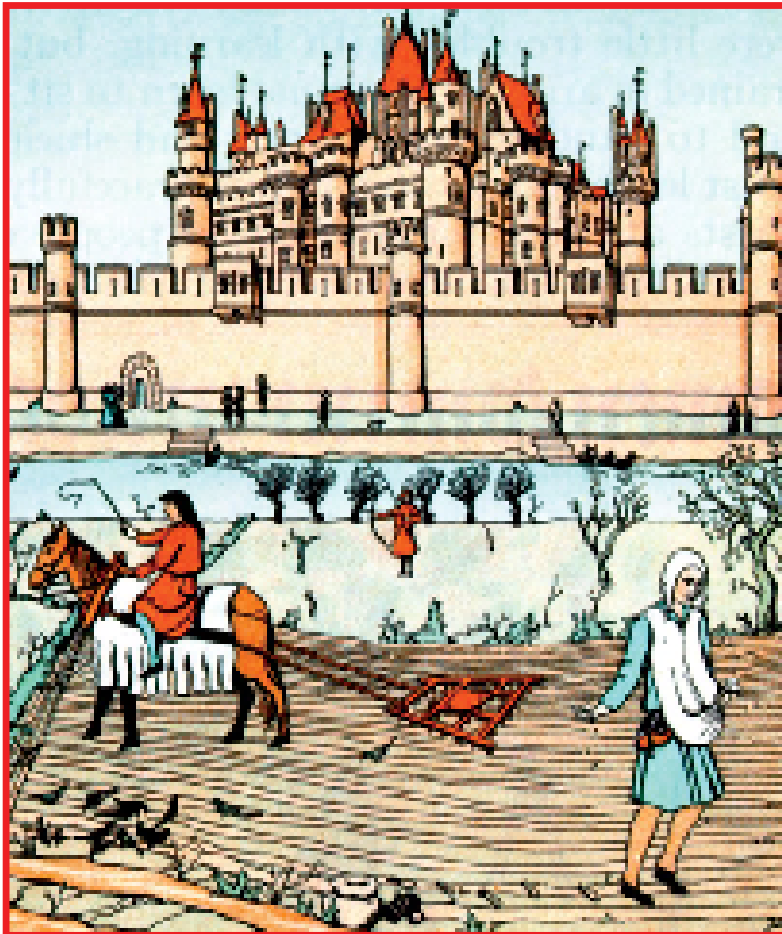
Did
You
Know?

The first person who used the term “Silk Road” was the German geographer Ferdinand von Richthofen in 1877. He might have gotten the term from the Chinese silk trade.

Middle Ages Trade & Commerce

Trade in Europe

During the Middle Ages, Europe practiced **feudalism**. In this system, there was very little trade because people were still dependent on agriculture for their daily lives. People exchanged goods by working for each other. Under this system, there was no need for money to buy things. It was only towards the end of the Middle Ages that Europe began to trade regularly with other parts of the world.



The Crusades

There were many factors which influenced the Middle Ages rapid expansion of **medieval** trade and commerce. The most important factor in the expansion of trade and commerce was the Crusades. Increased trade started when Europeans were sent to fight wars in Palestine by the Catholic Church. These wars were called the Crusades and there were eight crusades between 1090 and 1290.



People who fought in the crusades returned home with goods from North Africa and Asia. People in Europe liked these goods so much that they started sending people to Asia to bring more goods to their countries. The medieval navigators imported spices, groceries, linen, Egyptian paper, pearls, perfumes, and a thousand other rare articles. Trade made the merchants rich, and it also brought wealth to the rulers of the land in which the trading took place. Many of the rulers would demand a fee or a gift to them for allowing the foreigners to trade in their land, and they also taxed all traded goods. Numerous wars were fought over trade, because of the great profit it brought to the land. The Crusades were not just religious wars, they also aimed to take one of the largest trading centers and routes in the world.



The Italian States



The conquest of Palestine by the Crusaders opened all the towns and harbors of this wealthy region to Western traders. The towns of **Venice** and **Florence** began to prosper because of the growing trade with Asia. These towns had close relations with Arab communities for a very long time. This made it easy for them to buy things from Arabs and sell them again to other towns in Europe. As a result, Venice and Florence established control of European trade until the growth of the **Ottoman Empire** in the 1450s.



The trading activities in these towns included different products (especially spices), from Cairo, Alexandria, Damascus in Syria, Baghdad and Mosul. These Became important commerce and trading centers because of their strategic locations. Products were carried across the Mediterranean to the Italian seaports and then on to the major towns and cities of Europe.



Cause and Effect

There were three important factors that helped the development trade and commerce during the Middle Ages:

- The use of the compass in the fourteenth century enabled the discovery of new routes.
- The growth of the Ottoman Empire in the Middle East and North Africa forced Europeans to search for other trade routes to Asia.
- Competition between European kings. Each king wanted to have control of new routes and wealth that could be made from controlling trade.

The search for new trade routes led to the discovery of:

		
<p>America by Christopher Columbus.</p>	<p>The discovery of the new trade route to India via the Cape by Vasco Da Gama in 1498.</p>	<p>The discovery of Cape Town by Bartholomew Dias.</p>

These discoveries ended Venice and Florence's domination of trade with the east.

Arab and Muslims Middle Age Trade

During the Middle Ages, Muslim merchants, sailors, traders, soldiers and scholars made contact with isolated regions, nations and civilizations. They traveled most of the Old World and established early global economy across most of Asia, Africa and Europe. The Muslim trade network extended from the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea in the west to the Indian Ocean and China in the east. This helped the establishment of the Islamic Empire as the world's leader in trade.



Muslims achievements in the Market economy

- An early form of a free market economy based on Islamic standards was present in the different Caliphate periods.
- New business techniques and forms of business organizations were introduced by Muslim economists and merchants during this time. Such techniques included the use of contracts, bills of exchange, long distance international trades and early forms of partnerships.
- Networks developed during this time. This enabled a system in which money could be kept by a bank in Baghdad and cashed in Spain similar to the check system that is used today.

Study the drawing of the Ottoman Empire below. Then answer the following questions.



1- What was the religion that the Ottoman Empire followed?

2- What does the drawing tell you about the status of the Caliph during the Ottoman Empire?

The History of Money

Have you ever wondered where money came from?

Money has many forms besides paper bills or coins. Money is anything that is commonly accepted by a group of people for the exchange of goods, services, or resources.

Bartering and Commodity Money

Bartering

The first people didn't buy goods from other people with money. Before there was money, there was bartering. A barter is an exchange of something for other goods or services that people want. Trading something for something else started at the beginning of humankind and is still used today. Can you give some examples?

Social Studies Skills: Analyzing Visuals

What does the artwork below reveal about bartering in Ancient Egypt?



Commodity Money

A commodity is a basic item used by almost everyone. In the past, salt, tea, tobacco, cattle and seeds were commodities and therefore were once used as money.

1- Cattle and livestock / From 9,000-6,000 B.C.

After bartering, cattle and livestock were often used as a unit of exchange. Later, as agriculture developed, people used fruits, vegetables and other crops for barter.



2- Cowry shell 1,200 B.C.

In 1200 B.C. in China, cowry shells became the first medium of exchange, or money. A cowry shell is a small clam shell. Many countries have used cowries as money. The cowry is the most widely and longest form of money used in history.

The cowry has served as money throughout history. Cowries have also been used in some parts of Africa.

First Money

Metal Money

After the discovery of metals at the end of the Stone Age, China produced mock bronze and copper cowry shells in 1,000 B.C. Metal was used because it was readily available, easy to work with and could be recycled. The Chinese coins were usually made out of base metals which had holes in them so that you could put the coins together to make a chain. Today's round coins are based on these models. After the manufacture of fake cowry shells of China, other nations made the first coins out of bronze, silver or gold. Coins were stamped with various gods and emperors to indicate their origin. These early coins were first used in Lydia, (Turkey), but the techniques were quickly copied and changed by Greek, Persian, Macedonian, and Roman empires.



Leather Currency

In 118 B.C, leather money was used in China. It took the form of one-foot-square pieces of white deerskin and had colorful borders. This is believed to be the beginning the first known banknote.

Paper Currency



Did
You
Know?

The phrase “to pay through the nose” comes from Danes in Ireland during the ninth century A.D. who practiced cutting the noses of those who were careless in paying the Danish poll tax.



In the ninth century, the first paper banknote appeared in China. Then, in 1455, the use of paper money in China disappeared for several hundred years.

The Gold Standard

In 1816, gold was first made the benchmark standard of value in England. This means that the value of currency was pegged to a certain number of ounces of gold. The Great Depression of the 1930s ended the Gold Standard. In the United States, the gold standard was changed and the price of gold was lowered. The British and international gold standards soon ended as well.



The Present

Today, every country has its own system of coin and paper money. Nations continue to change and develop their currencies.

Tomorrow is already here

Digital cash in the form of bits and bytes will most likely become the new money of the future. Electronic money (or digital cash) is already being exchanged over the Internet.



Across the Curriculum Activities

Activity One:

Primary Sources: The Infographic

The Infographic is a drawing which contains information.

Read:

In 1500, North American Indians engaged in potlatch ceremonies. A potlatch was an exchange of gifts at banquets, dances, and various rituals. The trading of gifts was so important in determining the leaders' community status, that a potlatch could get out of control as the gifts became increasingly extravagant.

Look at the drawing below. Does the drawing help you understand the potlatch?



Activity Two:

Societies and Culture

Read:



Wampum, which are strings of beads made from clam shells, were first used by North American Indians in 1535. The Indian word “wampum” means white, which was the color of the beads.

Critical Thinking:

Why did the North American Indians use clam shells as a form of money?

Types of Governments

Why do we need to have Governments?

At different times in history, three authority structures have been influential in the affairs of men. These authority structures are families, governments, and religion. Today, the government is the primary ruling body in every nation.

A government is a body that has the power to make and enforce laws within an organization or group. In the broadest sense, “to govern” means to manage or supervise over an area of land and people. Government is necessary because people need moral limits. Without government, life would be very difficult. Government ensures that people in our community are following the rules.

Descriptions of governments

Descriptions of governments can be based on:

- **Economy:** How goods and services that are bought, sold, and used are provided. There are three types of economical systems.

Capitalism:

In a capitalist or free-market economy, people own their own businesses and property and must buy services for private use, such as healthcare.

Lesson 5

Socialism:

Socialist government own many larger industries and provide education, health and welfare services but allow citizens to have some economic choices.

Communism:

In a communist country, the government owns all businesses and farms and provides healthcare, education and welfare to its citizens.

- **Politics:** How are governments run?

Every country functions in a different way. Here are the different types of government:

Monarchy:

A monarchy consists of rule by a king or queen who sometimes has absolute power. Power is passed along through the family. There are no large monarchies today. The United Kingdom, which has a queen, is really a republic because the queen has virtually no political power.

Dictatorship:

Dictatorship implies rule by an individual who has complete power over the country and who has not been elected and may use force to keep control.

Totalitarian:

Governments is ruled by a single political party. People are forced to do what the government tells them and may also be prevented from leaving the country.

Parliamentary:

Parliamentary systems are led by representatives of the people.

Theocracy:

Theocracy is a form of government where the rulers claim to be ruling on behalf of a set of religious ideas.

Republic:

A republic is led by representatives of the voters.

Anarchy:

Anarchy is a situation where there is no government. This can happen after a civil war, when a government has been destroyed and rival groups are fighting for power.

Oligarchy:

Oligarchy is the form of government which consists of rule by an elite group who rule in their own interests, with a focus on the accumulation of wealth and privilege.

- **Authority:** How governments are picked

Revolutionary:

The existing structure is overthrown by a completely new group. The new group can be very small - such as the military - or very large - as in a popular revolution.

Totalitarian:

Rule by a single political party. Votes for alternative candidates and parties are simply not allowed. Citizens are allowed and 'encouraged' to vote, but only for the government's chosen candidates.

Democracy:

The word "democracy" literally means "rule by the people." In a democracy, the government is elected by the people. Everyone who is eligible to vote (a majority of the population), has a chance to have their say over who runs the country.

REMEMBER: nearly every country in the world is ruled by a system that combines several systems. For example, the USA is not a true capitalist society, since the government actually provides some services for its citizens.

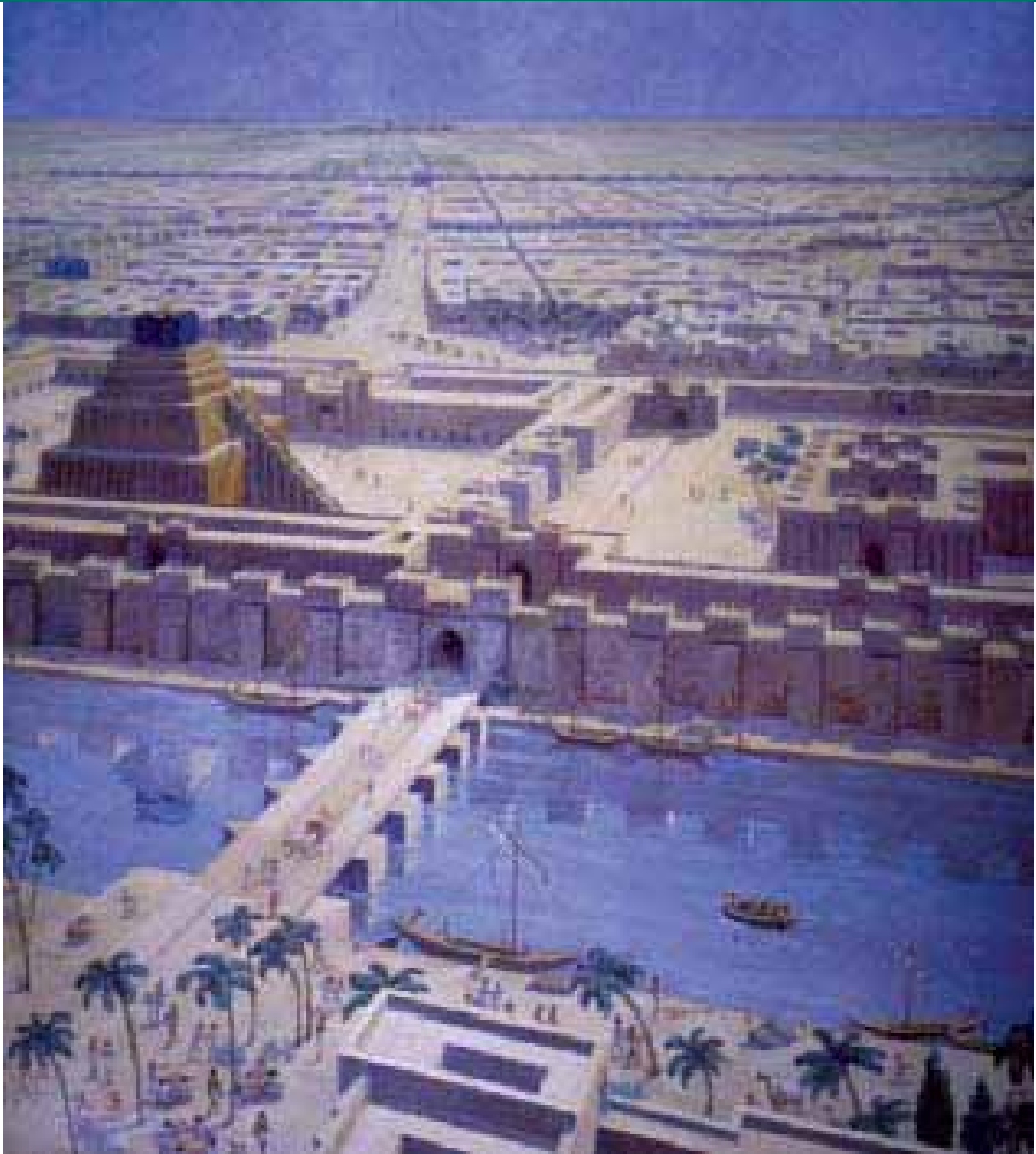
The Government of Early Mesopotamia

The first civilization began in the city-states of Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, China, and other places where small communities spawned kingdoms. We can trace the history of this culture in the wars fought between kingdoms and between nomadic barbarians and the settled communities.

The peoples of **Sumer** were the earliest known group of people to inhabit the Middle Eastern region known as Mesopotamia. By about 4000 B.C., the **Sumerians** had organized themselves into several **city-states** that were spread throughout the southern part of the region. These city-states were independent of one another and were fully self-reliant centers, each surrounding a temple that was dedicated to a god or goddess specific to that city-state. Each city-state was governed by a priest king.

The government of Sumer grew very complex as history progressed, and each city-state had begun to collect taxes and employed scribes to keep records. The first writings were recorded on stone tablets. They were filled with numbers recording distributed goods. Each city-state had complicated irrigation systems, whose management the ruler oversaw. And the ruler also took on the role of chief priest, leading rites and procession in order to honor the gods.

Lesson 6



In the early days of Sumer, the government was somewhat similar to a democracy. The free citizens met, discussed and made decisions for themselves in a democratic assembly. The lugal, meaning “big man” or “king” in Sumerian, was appointed only for the time of crisis, but soon one war led to another and the lugal made himself permanent ruler, or king.

Lesson 6

The king had many important jobs. He built temples, settled disputes between his people, and maintained the complicated system of canals that irrigated the farmlands. The most important job of the king was to lead his people to victory in war.



Hammurabi and the First Written Law

When Hammurabi took control of Babylon in 1792 B.C., Mesopotamia was made up of separate, warring city-states. Hammurabi's goal was to conquer all of Mesopotamia and unite the city-states into one country. Once he had brought peace to the region, Hammurabi turned his attention to law and order. He collected all existing codes of law and set down a detailed document known as the "Code of Hammurabi."



The Fertile Crescent

Lesson 6

The Code of Hammurabi contained three hundred laws on the following topics:

Witchcraft

Military service

Land and business

Family

Taxes

Wages

Loans and debts

The main message throughout the code was that the strong should not hurt the weak. The Laws of Hammurabi are the longest and best organized of the law collections that survive from ancient Mesopotamia.



The Government of Ancient Egypt

You have learned that every civilization is built upon rules and regulations. The type of government in ancient Egypt was a **theocracy** in which the government revolved heavily around a single figure, the **Pharaoh**, who was believed to be a god. This gave him absolute control over the affairs of the empire and its people. The Pharaoh was the head of the civil administration, the supreme warlord and the chief priest of every god in the kingdom.



Lesson 7

According to many sources, the first real king of Egypt ruling over the unified land was Menes, who would have ruled Egypt in 3100 BC. The Egyptian monarchy lasted in a recognizable form for over three thousand years, and ended during Cleopatra's rule.

Kings were not only males, and unlike in modern monarchies, the ruler of ancient Egypt, whether male or female, was always called a king. Egypt had some very noteworthy female rulers such as Hatshepsut.



Many people answered directly to the pharaoh:

1- Priests and holy men formed their own social class as they were given preferential treatment before other citizens and were a kind of nobility in their own right. As in most religious ancient societies, priests had special status above the rest of the citizens, forming a kind of nobility.

2- Army commanders

3- Chief of treasuries

4- Ministers of public works

5- Tax collectors

The Government of Ancient China

China is one of the world's oldest civilizations, with written records going back as far as 1,500 BC. China was similar to Egypt; the Yangtze River was like the Nile River. Both rivers produce fine silt that is ideal for planting crops such as wheat and rice.

The Dynasties

China was controlled by dynasties. These dynasties were controlled by the central family. Famous dynasties include the Xia, Shang, Qin, and Zhou dynasties.



The Xia Dynasty was founded when the leader of China, Yu, passed the throne to his son soon before his death. By refusing to give the throne to the person most capable of ruling, and passing it to his son, Yu began the dynastic rule. Thus, the first Dynasty had been born.

Types of Government

Ancient China was ruled with 2 types of government, **Despotism** and **Enlightened Monarchy**. Despotism was the most common type of government rule during the Ancient China period dating back as far as 2200 B.C. During the Ancient China period, the Empower would be the leader who would lead his country more as a Despotic Dictator rather than an Enlightened Monarch.

Despotism in Ancient China

Shan made whole families fight in battles because he believed they would fight better together. Women were not respected as equals and as such did not have the same opportunities. During this period, corrupt emperors caused the country to fall apart into a chaotic and constant warlike period.

This was followed by the **Enlightened Qin Dynasty**, who unified the country and built the Great Wall of China. Although this has been called the greatest man-made structure in the world, this period eventually fell.

Even though China had enlightened ideas through **Confucius** and other religious leaders, China was despotic.

The Mandate of Heaven

The Mandate of Heaven is a traditional Chinese philosophical concept concerning the right to rule which is granted by Heaven.



The Mandate of Heaven is based on four principles:

1. The right to rule is granted by Heaven.
2. There is only one Heaven therefore there can be only one ruler.
3. The right to rule is based on the virtue of the ruler.
4. The right to rule is not limited to one dynasty.

What are the positive and negatives sides to the Mandate of Heaven for a dynasty?

1. It gives the ruler prestige and religious importance.
2. It gives the ruler supreme power.
3. It allows a new ruler to gain power quickly because everyone believes he has the 'Mandate of Heaven'.
4. The ruler's power must be kept in check by virtue.
5. It justifies rebellion as long as the rebellion is successful.

The Government of Ancient Greece and Ancient Rome

Ancient Greek Government



Before the birth of democracy, most city-states were run as aristocracies, which in Greek meant 'rule by the best'. Power was shared among a small circle of men from noble families.

Athens and Sparta were the two most important city-states in ancient Greece. But they were not the only city-states. There were many city-states in the ancient Greek world. By about 600 BC, a middle class had emerged. Trade had brought people wealth, and military improvements had brought them power.

The ancient Greeks referred to themselves as citizens of their hometown city-state. Each city-state (polis) had its own personality, goals, laws and customs. Ancient Greeks were very loyal to their city-state.

The various city-states of Greece followed different lines of political development. The typical stages of development were:

- **Monarchy:** Rule by a king. One city-state whose government was a monarchy was the city-state of Corinth.
- **Oligarchy:** Rule by a small group. One city-state whose government was an oligarchy was the city-state of Sparta.
- **Democracy:** Rule by the citizens, voting in an assembly. A public assembly of male citizens met 40 times a year to vote on state decisions. The agenda was set and decrees carried out by a 500 member council.



Ancient Rome Government



The people of Rome took many of their ideas of government from the Ancient Greeks. In its history, the Roman government was a mix of democratic and republic-styled governments.

The Ancient Romans did not want one man to make all of the laws; they decided to balance the power of government between three branches.

- 1- The Executive Branch
- 2- The Legislative Branch
- 3- The Judicial Branch

GLOSSARY CHAPTER (5)

- **Legacy:** Something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or from the past.
- **Hunter-gatherers societies:** A general term used to refer to societies whose living is gained from hunting animals, fishing, and gathering plants.
- **Mesopotamia:** A region of the Middle East, located between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, which is today part of Iraq. The term comes from the Greek meso “between” and potamus “river”.
- **Arid:** Where the climate has insufficient rainfall to support agriculture.
- **Assyrian:** People who originated in the northern Tigris River valley. They later conquered much of Mesopotamia, as well as Phoenicia and Egypt. The Assyrians brought to their people great advances in civilization.
The Assyrian Empire lasted from about 1350 B.C. to 612 B.C., when rival armies destroyed Nineveh, the Assyrian capital.
- **Minoan:** A native or inhabitant of ancient Crete.
- **Phoenicians:** A member of an ancient Semitic people of NW Syria who dominated the trade of the ancient world in the first millennium BC.
- **Incense:** The perfume exhaled from some spices and gums when burned.

- **Trade Routes:** A trade route is a series of pathways stoppages used for the commercial transport of goods.
- **Nile:** The longest river in the world, flowing about 6,677 km (4,150 mi) through eastern Africa from its most remote sources in Burundi to a delta on the Mediterranean Sea in northeast Egypt. The main headstreams are the Blue Nile and the White Nile.
- **Tigris:** A river in Southwest Asia flowing 1,150 miles east-southeast from Iraq.
- **Euphrates:** A river in southwestern Asia. It flows into the Arabian Gulf. The Euphrates was important in the development of several great civilizations in ancient Mesopotamia.
- **Indus River:** An Asian river that rises in Tibet and flows through northern India and then southwest through Kashmir and Pakistan to the Arabian Sea.
- **Yellow River:** a major river in northern China that flows eastward into the Yellow Sea.
- **Nabataeans:** Ancient Semitic people.
- **Palmyra:** An ancient city of central Syria northeast of Damascus. It prospered under the Romans until it was partially destroyed by the emperor Aurelian.

- **Persia:** An empire in southern Asia created by Cyrus the Great in the 6th century BC. It was destroyed by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC.

- **Feudalism:** The system of political organization prevailing in Europe from the 9th to the 15th centuries.

- **Medieval:** A quality (cruelty) associated with the Middle Ages.

- **Venice:** An Italian city and port located in Italy.

- **Florence:** An Italian city.

- **Ottoman Empire:** Former Turkish sultanate which ruled Turkey, Syria, Mesopotamia, Palestine, Arabia, Egypt, the Barbary States, the Balkans, and Hungary.

- **Free Market Economy:** An economic market that operates by free competition.

Tyranny: A system of government where a ruler has total power, and is not limited by a constitution or by other officials.

Dictatorship: A system of government in which one person has seized power violently, and is the sole ruler.

Totalitarianism: A system of government where every single part of an individual's life is controlled and watched by the government.

Communism: Communism is a way of living in which the government owns and runs all the businesses.

Aristocracy: A governing body or upper class that is made up of an hereditary nobility.

Tyrant: An absolute ruler unrestrained by law or constitution.

Democracy: A government controlled by the people directly or through representation, where the majority rules.