

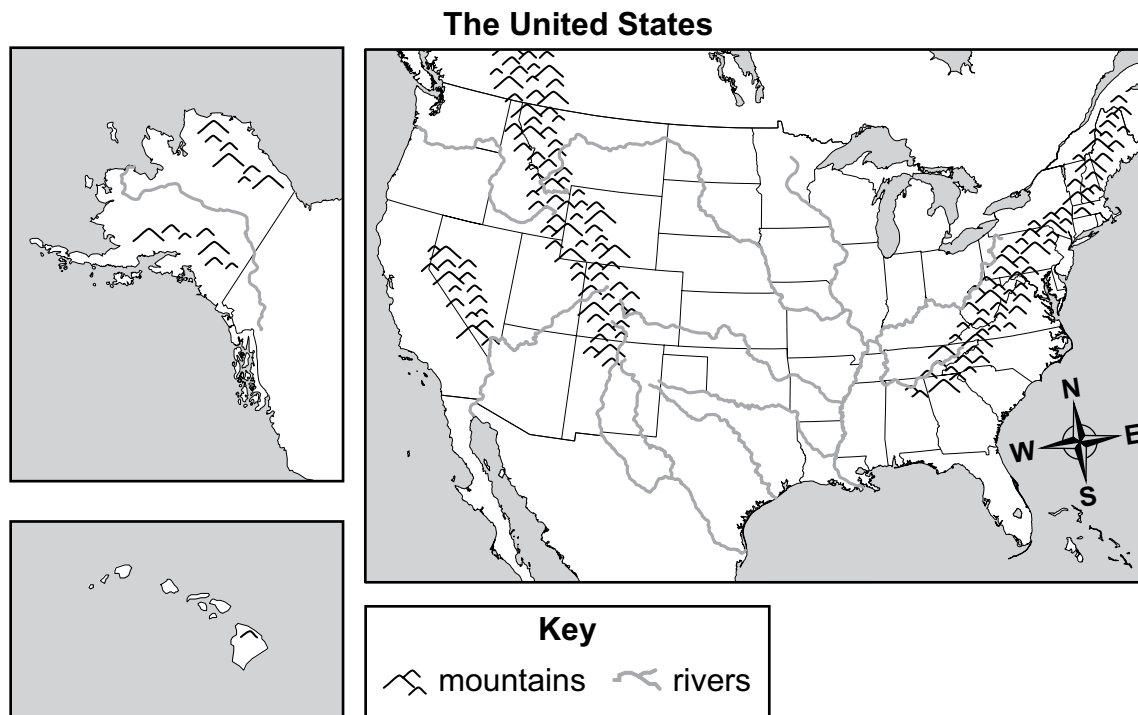
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF  
**Public Instruction**

# **Social Studies Item Sampler Grade 8**



Answer the items.

1. Look at the map.



This map could best be used for which purpose?

- A. to see the regions that states belong to
- B. to check the time zones that cross the continent
- C. to determine the types of government of different states
- D. to determine relative locations of physical features on the continent

**Go on to the next page.**

2. Read the excerpt from the Gettysburg Address.

It is rather for us, the living, to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that, from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here, gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that the nation, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people[,] by the people[,] for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

—President Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address, November 19, 1863

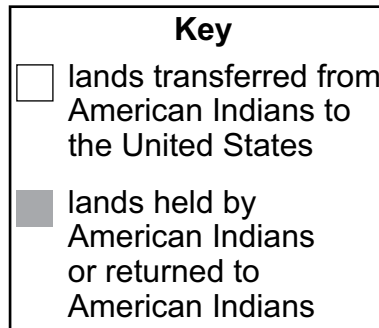
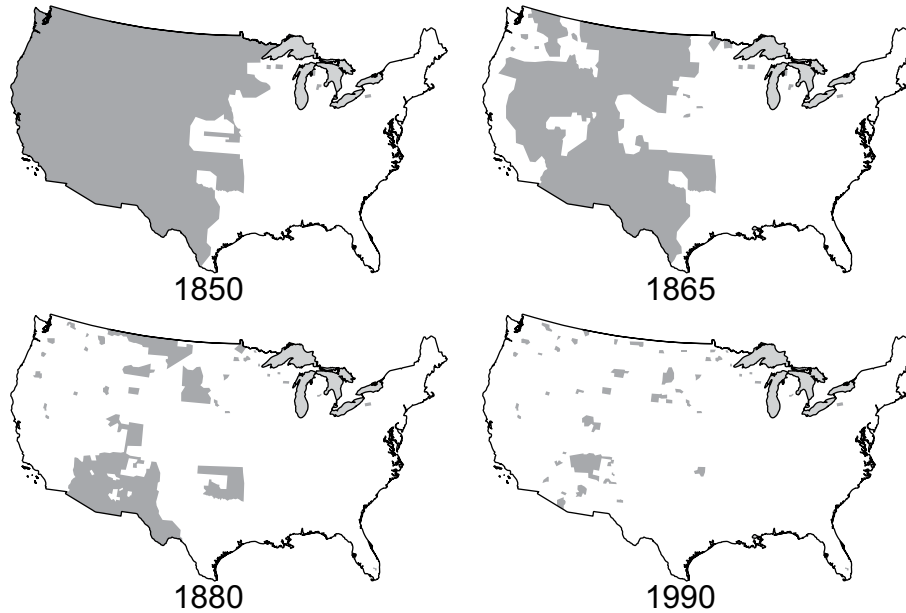
How did President Lincoln's point of view affect his writing?

- A. As president of the United States, he sought to negotiate a peace proposal.
- B. As president of the United States, he sought to improve his image for the next election.
- C. As commander in chief of the victorious army, he sought to inspire the living and honor the dead.
- D. As the general of the victorious army, he sought new recruits to replace the men lost in the battle.

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Look at the maps. Then answer items 3 and 4.

**American Indian Land, 1850-1990**



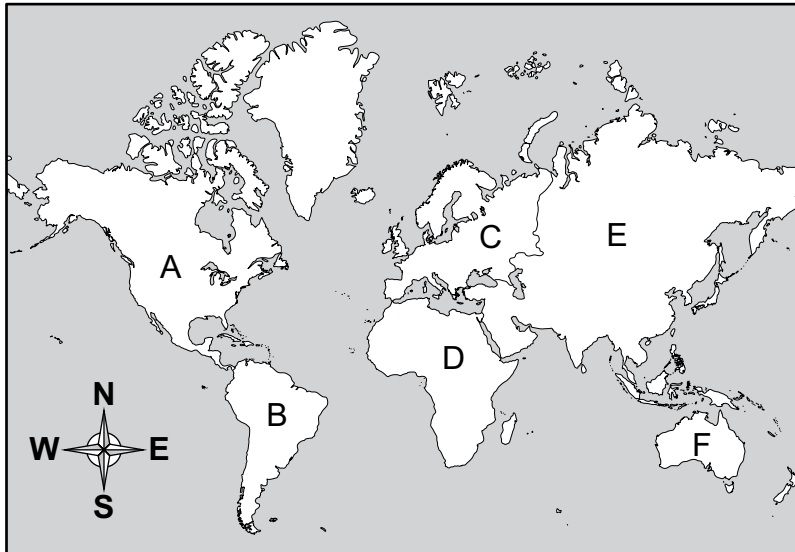
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3. What was one way American Indians were most likely affected by the changes shown on the maps?
  - A. They were forced to move to urban areas to find factory jobs.
  - B. They were resettled in other countries by the U.S. government.
  - C. They were no longer able to follow their traditional ways of life.
  - D. They were required to perform agricultural work in the Southeast.
  
4. Despite the changes shown on the maps, which cultural contribution of American Indians has had the most lasting impact on the United States?
  - A. taking clan or family names from the mother's side
  - B. claiming private ownership of land to use it for profit
  - C. living in harmony with the natural world and conserving resources
  - D. developing different social classes based on physical features and skills

**Go on to the next page.**

Answer the items.

5. Look at the map.



Based on your knowledge of social studies and your mental map of the geographical world, which statement best describes the location of the Middle East?

- A. It is located to the northwest of B.
- B. It is located on the same continent as A.
- C. It is located west of F and southeast of E.
- D. It is located south of C and northeast of D.

**Go on to the next page.**

6. Read the definition in the box.

trend: a general direction in which something is developing or changing

Why do new music trends become popular within an age group?

- A. The trend is based on traditions.
  - B. The trend is based on family expectations.
  - C. The trend is based on personal experience.
  - D. The trend is based on social media and peer influence.
7. Use the list to complete the table. Choose one cause and one consequence for the global issue and write each of them in the table.

Cause	Global Issue	Consequence
	overconsumption of natural resources	

**reduced dependence on new technology**

**planned communities in urban areas**

**decreasing population in developed countries**

**destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems**

**increased consumer demand fueled by global trade**

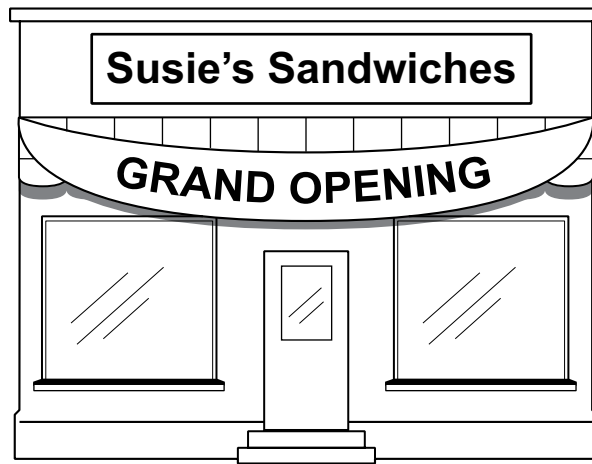
**STOP.**



**STOP.**



Look at the image. Then answer items 1 and 2.



1. How will the business shown in the image most affect the standard of living in the community?
  - A. It will cost owners more in insurance and wages.
  - B. It will create new jobs and generate tax revenue.
  - C. It will encourage more tourists to visit the community.
  - D. It will cause more grocery stores in the community to close.
  
2. Why did Susie most likely open this business?
  - A. to earn a profit
  - B. to employ people
  - C. to bring new services to the community
  - D. to introduce new food to the community

**Go on to the next page.**

Read the information in the box. Then answer items 3 and 4.

Minors of the [African American] race, through their legal representatives, seek the aid of the courts in obtaining admission to the public schools of their community on a nonsegregated basis. In each instance, they had been denied admission to schools attended by white children under laws requiring or permitting segregation according to race.

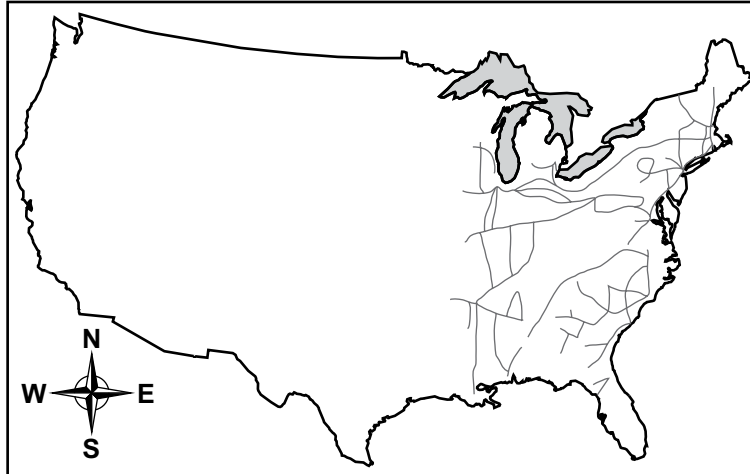
—from the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, 1954

3. With which principle of the U.S. government does the *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision most closely align?
- A. majority rule
  - B. individual rights
  - C. equal opportunity
  - D. freedom of speech
4. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of the African American plaintiffs in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. What did this decision eventually allow African American children to do?
- A. attend private schools
  - B. attend integrated schools
  - C. attend schools in their own neighborhoods
  - D. attend schools that were equal to those for whites

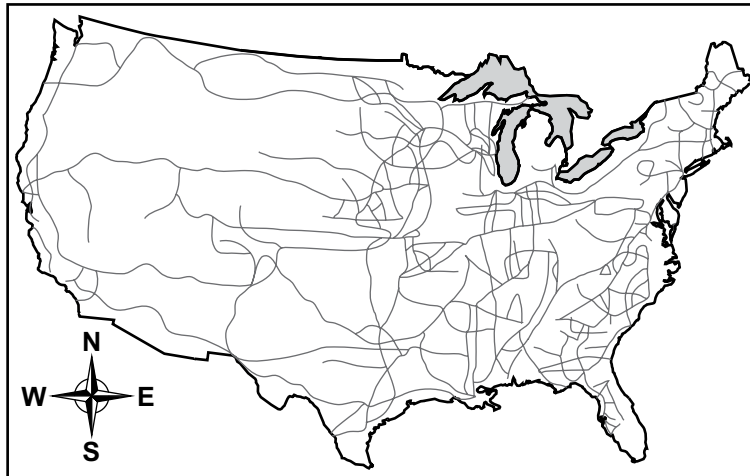
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Look at the maps. Then answer items 5 and 6.

**Railroads in the United States, 1860**



**Railroads in the United States, 1890**



5. Which statement best describes the reason for the change between the two maps?
- A. The United States acquired the land after a war with Spain.
  - B. The United States signed a treaty with the British for use of the land.
  - C. Factory owners in the United States needed a way to get natural resources faster.
  - D. Agricultural expansion in the United States relied on having a way to get workers to the fields faster.

**Go on to the next page.**

6. Which statement best describes an effect of the change shown between the maps?
- A. Major urban areas became less important as trade centers.
  - B. Port cities had less need of railroads than inland cities had.
  - C. Sections of the country became less dependent on each other.
  - D. Economic opportunities increased in southern and western states.



**STOP.**

## SUMMARY DATA

## Grade 8

Sample Number	Alignment	Answer Key	Depth of Knowledge	Annotations
<b>Session 1</b>				
1	Geog.1.a.m	D	2	Students must use paper and digital maps to ask and answer geographic questions. Option D is the correct response. The map shows mountain ranges and rivers of North America, so the best use of this map would be to determine the relative locations of physical features of the continent. Options A, B, and C are incorrect because regions, time zones, and government systems are not shown on the map.
2	Hist.4.d.m	C	3	Students must explain how the POV of the author can influence the meaning of a primary or secondary source. Option C is the correct response. As commander in chief of the victorious army, he sought to inspire the living and honor the dead. Options A, B, and D are incorrect.
3	Hist.2.b.m	C	3	Students must explain patterns of change over time in the community, the state, the United States, and the world. Option C is the correct response because as American Indians lost their land it limited their ability to live the way they had in the past. Options A and D are incorrect because American Indians were not forced to work in factories or in the agricultural industry. Option B is incorrect because there was never a program that relocated American Indians to another country.
4	BH.2.a.m	C	2	Students must summarize the role culture plays in personal and group behavior. Option C is the correct response because American Indian practices of living in harmony with nature and conserving natural resources are things that many people in the United States still do today. Option A is incorrect because this is not common practice in the United States. Options B and D do not describe aspects of American Indian culture.

**Grade 8**

<b>Sample Number</b>	<b>Alignment</b>	<b>Answer Key</b>	<b>Depth of Knowledge</b>	<b>Annotations</b>
5	Geog.1.c.m	D	2	Students will construct a mental map of regions and locate the major regions of the world and their physical and cultural features including continents, cities, countries, bodies of water, landforms, mountain ranges, and climate zones. Students will compare mental maps shaped by individual perceptions of people, places, regions, and environments. Option D is the correct response. Options A, B, and C are incorrect.
6	BH.1.a.m	D	2	Students will identify patterns such as culture, prior knowledge, family, peers, school, communities, and personal interests that influence a person's cognition, perception, and behavior. Option D is the correct response. Options A, B, and C are incorrect.
7	Geog.5.a.m	Rubric	2	Students must analyze how technology interacts with the environment and how increased use of technology affects the burden/use of natural resources. Overconsumption of natural resources is caused by increased consumer demand fueled by global trade. The consequence of this demand is the destruction of natural habitats and ecosystems.

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Sample Number	Alignment	Answer Key	Depth of Knowledge	Annotations
<b>Session 2</b>				
1	Econ.4.b.m	B	2	Students must compare and contrast the role of different economic institutions in an economy. Option B is the correct response. The new business will create jobs and pay taxes in the community. The increased tax revenue and reduction in unemployment should affect the standard of living in the community. Option A describes an effect of opening the business, but this would only affect the business owners. Option C is incorrect because one business is unlikely to bring enough tourists to the area to affect the standard of living. Option D is incorrect because the opening of this business will not lead to many grocery stores closing.
2	Econ.2.c.m	A	2	Students must categorize factors of production and how they are combined to make goods and deliver services. Option A is the correct response. Most entrepreneurs open new businesses to earn a profit. Options B, C, and D all describe some goals of a new business, but if the business does not remain profitable it will not be able to employ people, share its goods, or bring new services to the community.
3	PS.2.a.m	C	3	Students must analyze the scope and limits of individual protections; describe the evolution of rights over time; predict how collective action movements work to extend equal rights to groups and individuals. Option C is the correct response. The ruling in <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka</i> ended the “separate but equal” policy and allowed people of all races to attend the same school. Options A, B, and D are basic principles of democracy, but they are not exhibited in the <i>Brown v. Board</i> decision.



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Sample Number	Alignment	Answer Key	Depth of Knowledge	Annotations
4	PS.2.a.m	B	2	Students analyze the scope and limits of individual protections; describe the evolution of rights over time; predict how collective action movements work to extend equal rights to groups and individuals. Option B is the correct response. The decision in <i>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka</i> allowed African Americans to attend schools that in the past were segregated as white schools. Option A is incorrect because African Americans could attend private schools in the past. Option C is incorrect because most schools segregated by race were in neighborhoods dominated by one of the races. Option D is incorrect because, prior to the ruling, schools segregated for African Americans were supposedly equal to those attended by white children.
5	Hist.2.b.m	C	2	Students must explain patterns of change over time in the community, the state, the United States, and the world. Option C is the correct response because the increase of railroads in the United States was driven by the need to get natural resources to factories faster. Options A and B are incorrect because they describe how the United States acquired some of the land in the maps, not why the railroads expanded. Option D is incorrect because at this time the primary use of railroads was not to get people to work faster.

## Grade 8

Sample Number	Alignment	Answer Key	Depth of Knowledge	Annotations
6	Hist.2.b.m	D	2	Students must explain patterns of change over time in the community, the state, the United States, and the world. Option D is the correct response. When the railroads expanded, economic opportunities followed. Option A is incorrect because established trading centers did not lose their status, but railroads did increase the number of urban centers. Option B is incorrect because the port cities were used to transport goods to places where railroads couldn't go and were often a final destination of the railroads. Option C is incorrect because the railroads increased the interdependence of regions in the United States.