

**GRADE 8**  
**Social Studies**

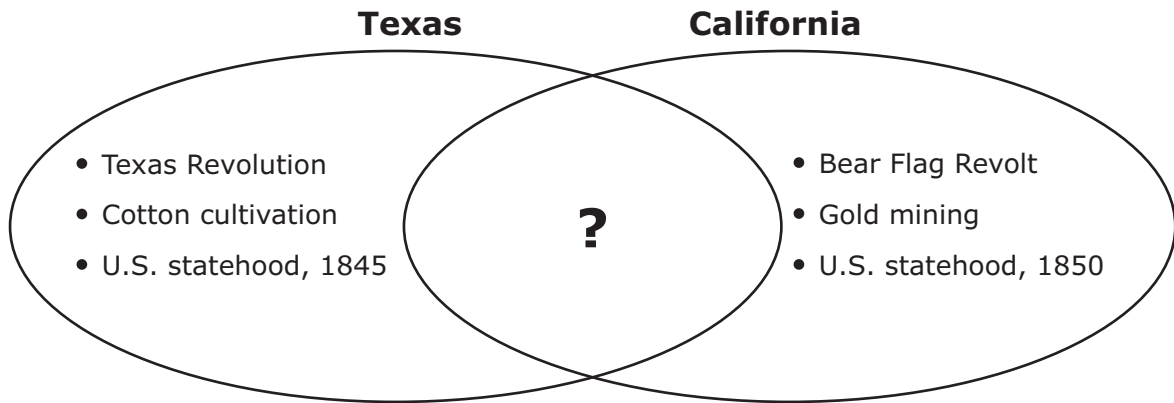
**Administered April 2013**

**RELEASED**



# SOCIAL STUDIES

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



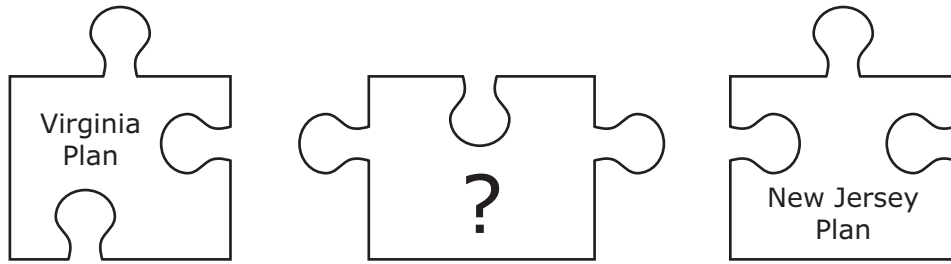
- 1 Which of the following best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?
- A Former Mexican territory
  - B Dependent on slavery
  - C Settled by Mormons
  - D Large coal deposits

- Intolerable Acts imposed
- First Continental Congress convened
- Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* published

**2** All the events listed above occurred during —

- F** the era of westward expansion
- G** the Era of Good Feelings
- H** the Revolutionary era
- J** the Jacksonian era

## Constitutional Convention Puzzle



Which of the following should replace the question mark in this diagram?

- A** Direct democracy
- B** Great Compromise
- C** Checks and balances
- D** Missouri Compromise

*Black Codes* was a name given to laws passed by southern governments established during the presidency of Andrew Johnson. These laws imposed severe restrictions on freedmen, such as prohibiting their right to vote, forbidding them to sit on juries, and limiting their right to testify against white men. They were also forbidden from carrying weapons in public places and working in certain occupations.

—National Archives and Records Administration,  
<http://www.archives.gov> (accessed July 14, 2010)

Southern states passed the codes described in this excerpt in order to —

- F** limit the effects of the Reconstruction Amendments
- G** increase the labor supply for factory jobs in the North
- H** decrease the number of northern representatives in Congress
- J** improve relations with the Democratic Party

*Resolved, That our title to the whole of the Territory of Oregon is clear and unquestionable; that no portion of the same ought to be ceded to England or any other power, and that the re-occupation of Oregon and the re-annexation of Texas at the earliest practicable period are great American measures, which this Convention recommends to the cordial support of the Democracy of the Union.*

*—Democratic Party Platform of 1844*

This excerpt provides evidence that in 1844 Democrats supported —

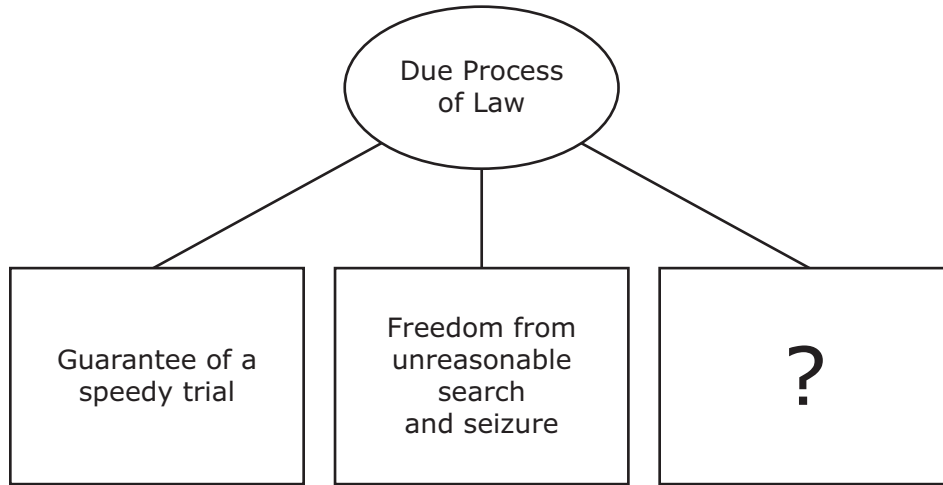
- A** federal financing of transportation systems in the West
- B** making Manifest Destiny an official federal policy
- C** social Darwinism as a justification for expansion
- D** prohibiting the expansion of slavery into new areas of the United States

- 
- 6** Which problem did George Washington encounter when he became president?
- F** Southern states were threatening to secede from the Union.
  - G** The United States had large debts from the American Revolution.
  - H** Great Britain was refusing to trade with the United States.
  - J** The Articles of Confederation needed to be replaced with a stronger constitution.



- 7** How did geography influence the early economic development of New York, Boston, and Charleston?
- A** Long coastlines offered abundant natural resources.
  - B** Proximity to flooding rivers limited development.
  - C** Natural harbors provided access to markets.
  - D** Extreme climates limited productive activity.

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- 8** During the early 1800s many young women in New England were employed outside their homes as —
- F** crew members on cargo ships
  - G** cloth weavers in textile mills
  - H** staff reporters for local newspapers
  - J** legal counselors in state courts



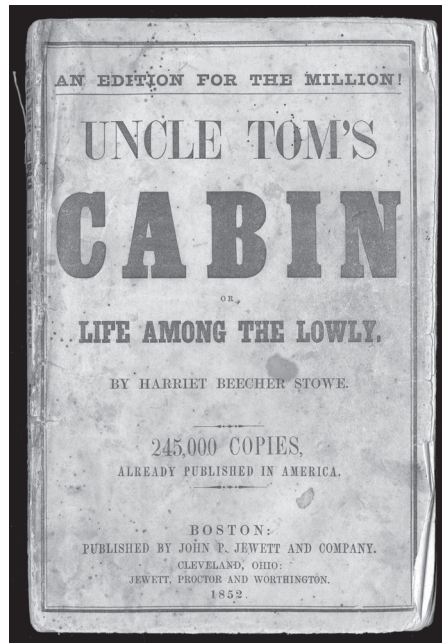
Which right best completes the diagram?

- A** The right to bear arms
- B** Freedom to speak without fear of punishment
- C** Protection from cruel and unusual punishment
- D** Freedom of the press to report on court proceedings

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**10** After the end of the Revolutionary War, states were eager to expand into newly available territory. The states of New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Virginia argued over competing claims to land west of the Appalachian Mountains. This conflict was addressed by the —

- F** Missouri Compromise
- G** Wilmot Proviso
- H** Northwest Ordinance
- J** Kansas-Nebraska Act



Source: University of Virginia Library

What was one major impact of this novel?

- A The profits from book sales funded early labor organizations.
- B Congress was inspired to pass laws outlawing the abuse of slaves.
- C The Supreme Court overturned fugitive slave laws.
- D Support grew for the abolitionist movement.

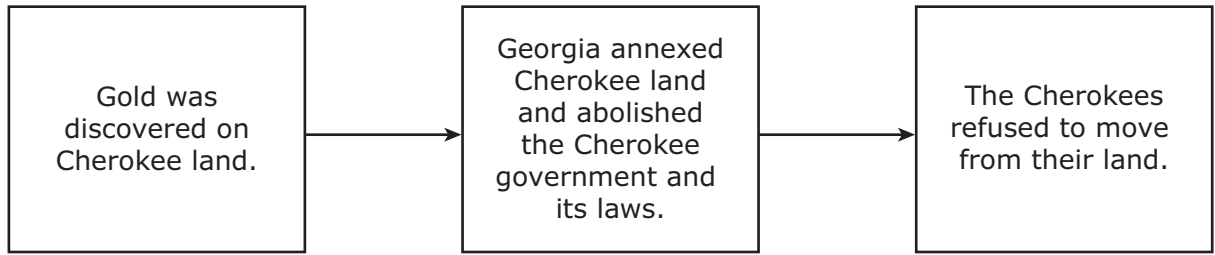
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**12** British colonists objected to the Proclamation of 1763 because they —

- F feared it would provoke attacks from American Indians
- G did not want to share control of the fur trade with France
- H resented the limits it imposed on westward expansion
- J wanted to be able to trade freely with foreign nations

**13** Which of these describes a result of the Thirteenth Amendment?

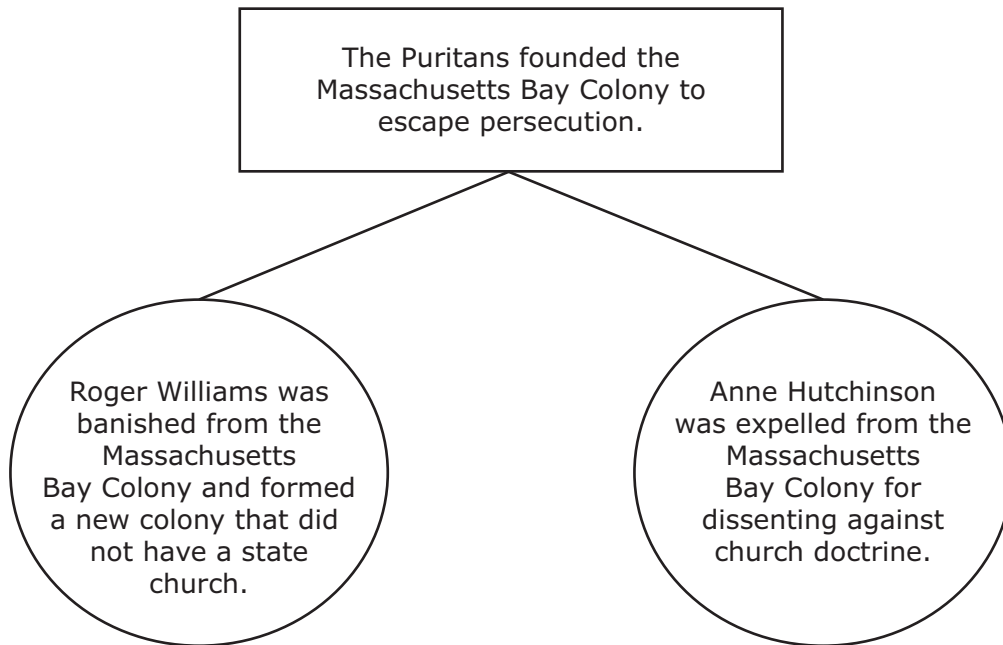
- A** African Americans in the North could vote.
- B** State governments were required to protect individual rights.
- C** Former Confederate officials were prohibited from holding elected office.
- D** African Americans in the South could move elsewhere.



One attempt to resolve this issue without violence involved which action?

- F** The Cherokee Nation challenged Georgia's anti-Cherokee laws before the U.S. Supreme Court.
- G** Georgia asked the federal government for funds to purchase Cherokee land.
- H** The Cherokee Nation asked President Andrew Jackson to negotiate with Georgia.
- J** Georgia offered to grant U.S. citizenship to the Cherokees.

- 15** When citizens report for jury duty, they are helping uphold a constitutional right guaranteed by the —
- A** First Amendment
  - B** Second Amendment
  - C** Sixth Amendment
  - D** Ninth Amendment



This diagram describes events in colonial America that are related to —

- F** the eventual adoption of the U.S. Constitution
- G** the formation of a government controlled by religious officials
- H** the creation of a national system of checks and balances
- J** the establishment of the principle of religious freedom

**Speaker 1:** A state has the right to overrule an act passed by Congress. After all, the national government is supposed to share power with the states.

**Speaker 2:** I believe that you are wrong. The states do share power with the national government, but the Constitution says the national government has supremacy.

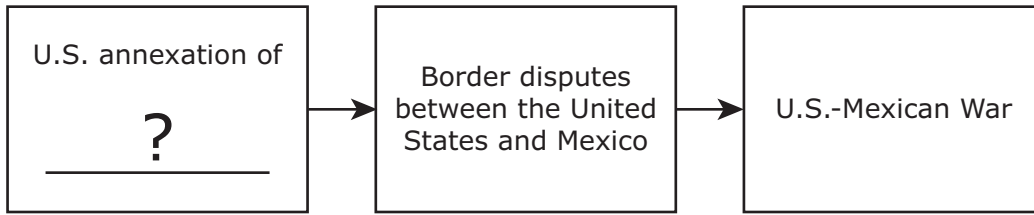
These speakers are debating an issue that eventually became known as the —

- A Monroe Doctrine
- B Nullification Crisis
- C Missouri Compromise
- D Three-Fifths Compromise



- 18** Catholics immigrated to the Maryland colony in the seventeenth century primarily to —
- F** profit from natural resources
  - G** avoid crop failures and famine
  - H** produce cash crops to pay off debts
  - J** escape persecution

- 
- 19** Which of the following reversed the Supreme Court ruling in *Dred Scott v. Sandford*?
- A** The Dawes Act
  - B** The Fourteenth Amendment
  - C** The Compromise of 1877
  - D** The Kansas-Nebraska Act



Which of these best completes the diagram?

- F** California
- G** Nevada
- H** Texas
- J** Florida

- 21** In the 1840s, thousands of Irish immigrants came to the United States seeking to escape —
- A** a civil war between Protestants and Catholics
  - B** a famine caused by the failure of a staple food crop
  - C** a series of violent conflicts between the British and Irish governments
  - D** a series of smallpox epidemics

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**22** What was one major effect of the opening of the Erie Canal?

- F** The cost of shipping goods on eastern roads increased.
- G** The number of ships passing through northern ports decreased.
- H** The cost of shipping goods from the Midwest decreased.
- J** The volume of trade passing through southern ports increased.

**23** The primary goal of the American Temperance Society was to —

- A** ban the spread of slavery to new territories
- B** decrease the consumption of alcohol
- C** gain the release of mentally ill people from prisons
- D** create a self-sufficient utopian society

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**24** Patrick Henry opposed ratifying the U.S. Constitution because he believed that under it —

- F** the states would surrender too much power to the federal government
- G** alliances could not be formed with other countries
- H** the courts would not be able to hold government officials accountable
- J** individuals would exercise too much power over the federal government

We, reposing special trust and confidence in your patriotism, valor, conduct, and fidelity, do, by these presents, constitute and appoint you to be General and Commander in chief, of the army of the United Colonies, and of all the forces now raised, or to be raised, by them, and of all others who shall voluntarily offer their service. . . .

—*Commission from the Continental Congress, June 17, 1775*

The Continental Congress issued this commission to —

- A** Benedict Arnold
- B** Alexander Hamilton
- C** John Hancock
- D** George Washington

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

—*Tenth Amendment, U.S. Constitution*

**26** Which principle of U.S. government is most clearly reflected in the amendment above?

- F** Checks and balances
- G** Federalism
- H** Separation of powers
- J** Due process

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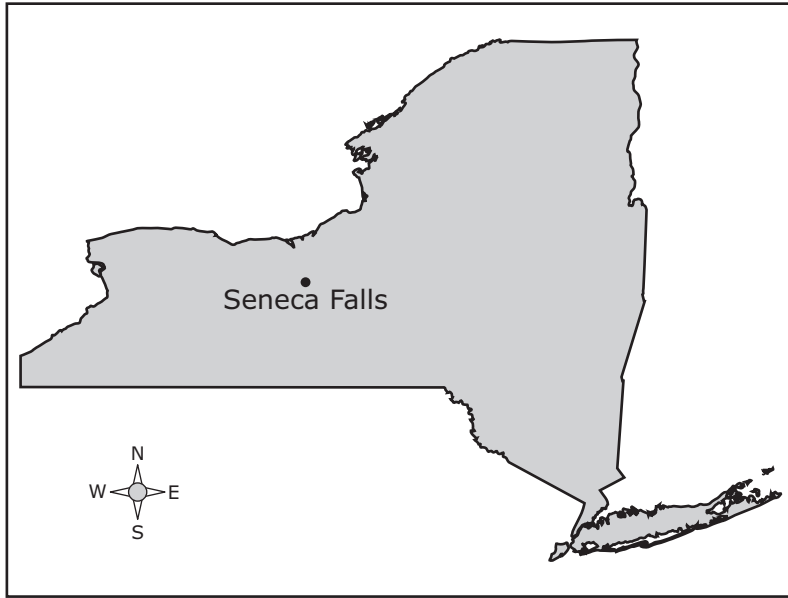
**27** Which of these was an effect of the Industrial Revolution on U.S. women in the early nineteenth century?

- A** Women in unions gained bargaining power with employers.
- B** The government passed laws to improve safety for women in the workplace.
- C** Women seeking work migrated from rural communities to cities.
- D** State governments called conventions in support of women's suffrage.

- 28** Which of the following was a result of the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854?
- F** Fighting broke out between pro-slavery and anti-slavery groups in Kansas.
  - G** Kansas entered the Union as a slave state through popular sovereignty in 1856.
  - H** Nebraskan settlers who supported abolition moved to Kansas.
  - J** The boundary established by the Missouri Compromise of 1820 was extended farther south.
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- 29** Which precedent was established by the Supreme Court ruling in *Marbury v. Madison*?
- A** The federal government has the power to regulate trade among the states.
  - B** State governments lack the authority to regulate federal bureaus.
  - C** Federal courts determine the constitutionality of a law.
  - D** State courts lack the authority to hear cases challenging federal law.
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- 30** After General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House, the main priority of the United States was to —
- F** elect a new president and vice president
  - G** complete construction of the Capitol
  - H** establish Union forts in the former Confederate states
  - J** implement a plan to bring Confederate states back into the Union



A tourist would most likely go to the location shown on the map to visit —

- A** the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House in Women’s Rights National Historical Park
- B** Historic Jamestowne in Colonial National Historical Park
- C** Independence Hall in Independence National Historical Park
- D** George Washington’s Headquarters in Valley Forge National Historical Park



BERWYN, Pennsylvania: A new mosque recently opened in this . . . suburb of Philadelphia. . . .

[The] leaders . . . did not seek publicity for the happy occasion, only continued peace with their neighbors: a Jewish synagogue next door and Baptist church across the street.

—Kathy Matheson, *Associated Press*, September 10, 2010

This event best demonstrates which feature of the American way of life?

- F** The First Amendment guarantees personal freedoms.
- G** The Declaration of Independence asserts the principle of popular sovereignty.
- H** The U.S. Constitution establishes the structure of the federal government.
- J** The Fifth Amendment protects the rights of the accused.

*Niagara Falls*, Thomas Cole, 1830



Source: National Park Service

This painting shares a common theme with which literary work?

- A** "The Tell-Tale Heart," by Edgar Allan Poe
- B** *The Scarlet Letter*, by Nathaniel Hawthorne
- C** "Paul Revere's Ride," by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
- D** *Nature*, by Ralph Waldo Emerson

- 34** In 1787 the United States was at a crossroads. Farmers in western Massachusetts had rebelled the year before over property taxes. The state struggled to end the rebellion. Events such as this one contributed to the decision to —
- F** sign the Treaty of Paris
  - G** repeal the Intolerable Acts
  - H** declare an embargo on imported goods
  - J** restructure the federal government

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**35** How did the development of the factory system encourage urbanization?

- A** Manufacturers produced goods to export overseas.
- B** Labor unions were formed to protect mill workers.
- C** Workers moved closer to manufacturing centers.
- D** Industrialists invested in cotton plantations.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights. . . .

—*Declaration of Independence, 1776*

This excerpt refers to rights that people —

- F** earn by demonstrating loyalty to their government
- G** receive by becoming citizens of a country
- H** have as a result of being human
- J** are granted after enlistment in the military

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**37** In 1787, Congress awarded John Paul Jones the Congressional Gold Medal in honor of his “valor and brilliant services” during the Revolutionary War. Which accomplishment was Congress recognizing?

- A** Leading the evacuation of Washington, D.C., during the British invasion
- B** Preparing the strategy for the American victory at Yorktown
- C** Persuading France to provide military assistance to the Continental army
- D** Commanding a victory at sea against the British navy

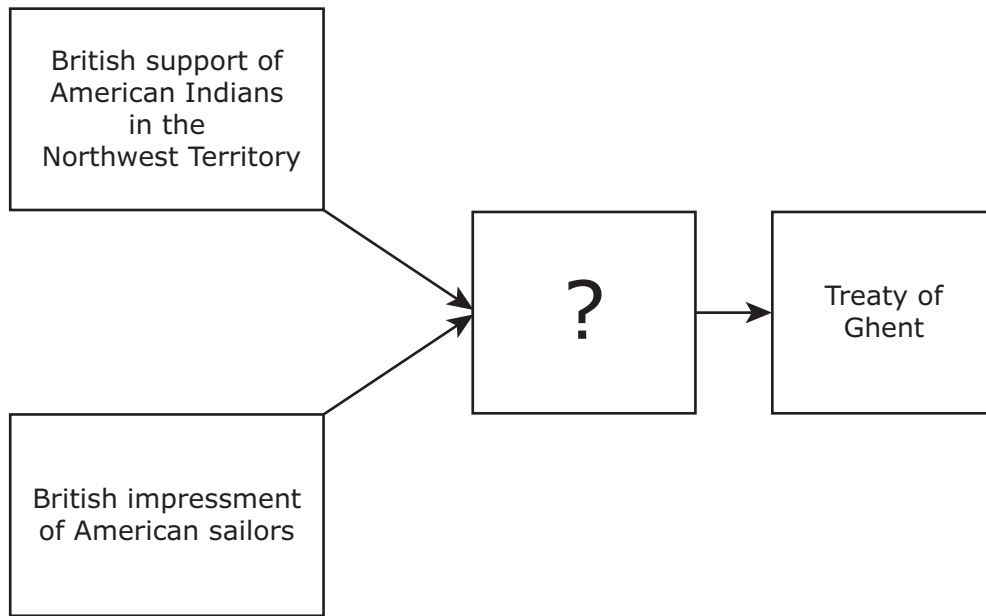
We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone, all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

— *Abraham Lincoln,*  
*first inaugural address, 1861*

- 38** Which idea does President Lincoln express in this excerpt?
- F** The Union exists only through the consent of sovereign states.
  - G** The Union requires a nationwide decision on slavery.
  - H** The Union matters more than current disagreements between states.
  - J** The Union will be preserved through military force if necessary.

- 39** After the War of 1812, thousands of settlers and immigrants moved to the western frontiers of the United States in search of farming and business opportunities. In response, the government began building roads. This transportation network was intended to —
- A** promote the free-enterprise system
  - B** establish federal control over industry
  - C** discourage the organization of new territories
  - D** prevent border disputes between states

- 
- 40** The introduction of interchangeable parts led directly to the —
- F** formation of the patent system
  - G** creation of labor unions
  - H** use of mass-production techniques
  - J** eight-hour workday



Which of the following best completes the diagram above?

- A Boston Tea Party
- B War of 1812
- C American Revolution
- D Civil War

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42 Which statement best explains the significance of the Mayflower Compact?

- F It limited the power of future colonial governments.
- G It weakened the influence of religion in government.
- H It established a form of self-government based on a social contract.
- J It guaranteed liberties for colonists through local government.

- 43** George Mason refused to sign the Constitution and opposed its ratification because he believed that it —
- A** did not adequately protect individuals from potential government abuse
  - B** did not give the executive branch enough power to oversee the military
  - C** prevented the legislative branch from effectively governing the states
  - D** prevented the judicial branch from using judicial review to overturn acts of the legislature

- 
- 44** The first political parties in the United States were established in the 1790s largely because of political differences between —
- F** John Adams and Benjamin Franklin
  - G** Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Paine
  - H** George Washington and James Madison
  - J** Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton



For the well Governeing of this Province and Territories there shall be an Assembly yearly Chosen by the Freemen thereof to Consist of foure persons out of each County. . . .

—William Penn, *Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges*, 1701

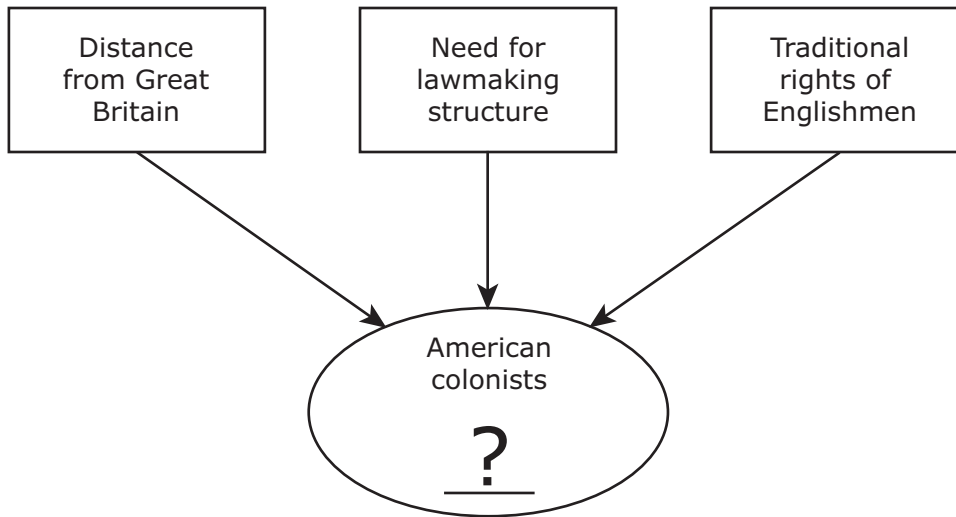
Which feature of colonial self-government does this charter establish?

- A Direct democracy
- B An elected legislature
- C Separation of powers
- D Checks and balances

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46 Which of the following was a defining characteristic of the Era of Good Feelings?

- F The United States ceded territory to Great Britain in an attempt to avoid war.
- G There was a renewed sense of nationalism.
- H Evangelical revivalists challenged religious traditionalists.
- J Many states called for a restructuring of the federal government.



**47** Which of the following best replaces the question mark in the diagram above?

- A** Created a general council to manage the colonies
- B** Experienced strict control by Parliament
- C** Established their own representative institutions
- D** Appointed governors who reported to the king

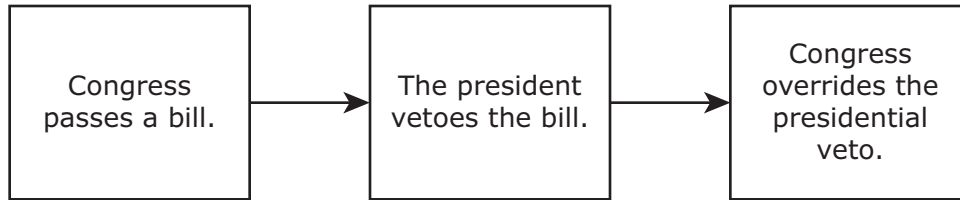
- How do we finance a war?
- Who has the power to negotiate treaties?
- What prevents the executive from becoming too powerful?

Which group was responsible for answering these questions?

- F** Settlers creating the Mayflower Compact
- G** Delegates writing the Articles of Confederation
- H** Representatives drafting the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
- J** Colonists negotiating the Albany Plan of Union

- 49** The Bessemer steel process affected westward expansion in the United States by enabling —
- A** clipper ships to be built in order to transport passengers from the East Coast to the West Coast
  - B** interstate canal systems to be built in order to transport agricultural goods from west to east
  - C** Conestoga wagons to be built in order to carry people and goods to the West
  - D** railroads to be built in order to carry people and goods to the West

- 
- 50** How did the plantation system influence the economic development of the United States?
- F** It prevented the development of industry in the Northeast.
  - G** It turned the South into a major producer of the cotton used in northern mills.
  - H** It restricted agricultural expansion in the western territories.
  - J** It increased federal dependency on tariffs for revenue.



**51** Which principle of U.S. government is illustrated in the sequence shown above?

- A** Judicial review
- B** Checks and balances
- C** Popular sovereignty
- D** Federalism

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**52** The growth of railroads during the nineteenth century affected U.S. businesses by —

- F** discouraging Congress from instituting tariffs
- G** increasing the cost of raw materials
- H** decreasing the wages of unskilled workers
- J** opening new markets for goods

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS  
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.







**STAAR**  
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