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GED

EXERCISE BOOK

SOCIAL STUDIES

Practice for the
GED Test Two
covering all areas of Social Studies:

History

Geography

Economics

Political Science

Behavioral Science

Includes two full-length Simulated
GED Social Studies Practice Tests



EXERCISE BOOK

SOCIAL STUDIES

Virginia A. Lowe

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Continued on page 107

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CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
 UNIT 1: PRACTICE EXERCISES	
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 1: Geography	4
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 2: History	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 3: Economics	26
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 4: Political Science	36
<input type="checkbox"/> Chapter 5: Behavioral Science	47
 UNIT 2: SIMULATED GED TESTS	
<input type="checkbox"/> Test A	55
<input type="checkbox"/> Answers Test A	69
<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis of Performance Test A	73
<input type="checkbox"/> Test B	74
<input type="checkbox"/> Answers Test B	89
<input type="checkbox"/> Analysis of Performance Test B	93
 ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS	
(PRACTICE EXERCISES)	94
 ANSWER SHEET	
	109

INTRODUCTION

The *Steck-Vaughn Exercise Book: Social Studies* provides you with practice in answering the types of questions found on the actual GED Social Studies Test. It can be used with the *Steck-Vaughn GED Social Studies* book or with the *Steck-Vaughn GED Comprehensive Review* book. Cross references to pages in the other two books are supplied for your convenience on exercise pages 4-47. This exercise book has two sections: practice exercises and simulated tests.

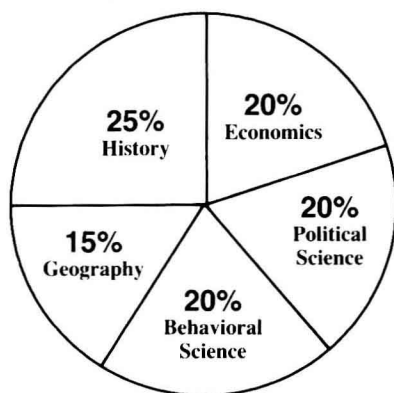
PRACTICE EXERCISE SECTION

The GED Social Studies Test examines your ability to understand, apply, analyze, and evaluate information in five social studies areas. The practice exercise section is divided into the same five content areas by chapter. The geography chapter examines topography and location of major features of the landscape in the United States and globally. The history chapter examines American history from the founding of the United States to the Vietnam War. The economics chapter covers the study of the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. The political science chapter covers governmental institutions and processes and the relationships between political and economic processes. The last chapter, behavioral science, examines human actions and generalizations about human behavior in society.

SIMULATED TESTS SECTION

The second main part of this workbook consists of two complete full-length Simulated GED Social Studies Tests. Each Simulated Test has the same number of items as the GED Test. In addition, each test provides practice with similar item types that are found on the GED Test. The Simulated Tests can help you decide if you are ready to take the GED Social Studies Test. To benefit most from the Simulated Tests Section, take each test under the same time restrictions as you will have for the actual GED Test. For each test, complete the 64 items within 85 minutes. Space the two examinations apart by at least a week.

CONTENT AREAS



The GED Social Studies Test is divided into five content areas: **geography, history, economics, political science, and behavioral science.**

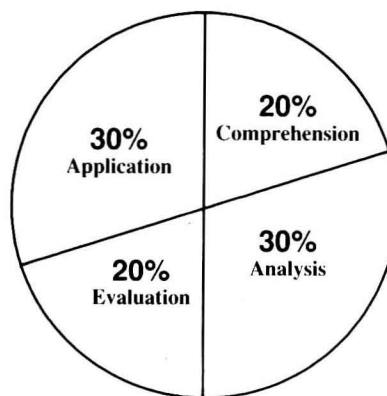
The short reading passages on the GED Test usually have only one question following them. Longer reading passages have several related questions. Approximately 15% of the passages and related items are about geography, 25% are about history, 20% are about economics, 20% are about political science, and 20% are about behavioral science. From your life experience, you may easily relate to these items.

COGNITIVE LEVELS

All of the questions on the GED Social Studies Test are multiple-choice. You will not be tested on your knowledge of social studies, but rather on your ability to understand, apply, and analyze social studies concepts. Following is an explanation of the four cognitive levels of questions that you will practice in this book and that are found on the GED Test.

1. **Comprehension** items require you to identify restated information or information that is paraphrased. They require you to summarize ideas or identify implications.
2. **Application** items require you to apply a rule and make a prediction of what would happen in a similar instance. They require you to use the information provided to solve a problem.
3. **Analysis** items require you to classify information. Sometimes you will be asked to distinguish or compare and contrast information presented.
4. **Evaluation** items test your ability to identify opinions and/or recognize assumptions. Other evaluation items ask you to identify cause and effect relationships.

Approximately 20% of the items are comprehension, 30% are application, 30% are analysis, and 20% are evaluation.



Graphic Illustrations

Approximately one-third of the items relate to a drawing, chart, map, or graph. Practice with graphic illustrations is essential to develop the skills to interpret information presented on the GED Social Studies Test. Always read the title, key, and any other information associated with the illustration before answering any questions.

Answers

The answer sections give complete explanations of why an answer is correct, and why the other answer choices are incorrect. Sometimes by studying the reason an answer is incorrect, you can learn to avoid a similar problem in the future.

Analysis of Performance Charts

After each Simulated Test, an Analysis of Performance Chart will help you determine if you are ready to take the GED Social Studies Test. The charts give a breakdown by content area (geography, history, economics, political science, and behavioral science) and by question type (comprehension, application, analysis, and evaluation). By completing these charts, you can determine your own strengths and weaknesses as they relate to the social studies area.

Correlation Chart

The following correlation chart shows how the sections of this exercise book relate to sections of other Steck-Vaughn GED preparation books. You can refer to these two books for further instruction or review.

CONTENT AREAS	Geography	History	Economics	Political Science	Behavioral Science
BOOK TITLES Steck-Vaughn GED Exercise Book	p. 4-14	p. 15-25	p. 26-35	p. 36-46	p. 47-54
Steck-Vaughn GED Social Studies	p. 12-37	p. 38-77	p. 78-103	p. 104-135	p. 136-153
Steck-Vaughn GED Comprehensive Review Book	p. 392-398	p. 399-412	p. 413-426	p. 427-440	p. 441-447

UNIT 1

PRACTICE EXERCISES

Chapter 1 Geography □

Directions: Choose the one best answer for each item below.

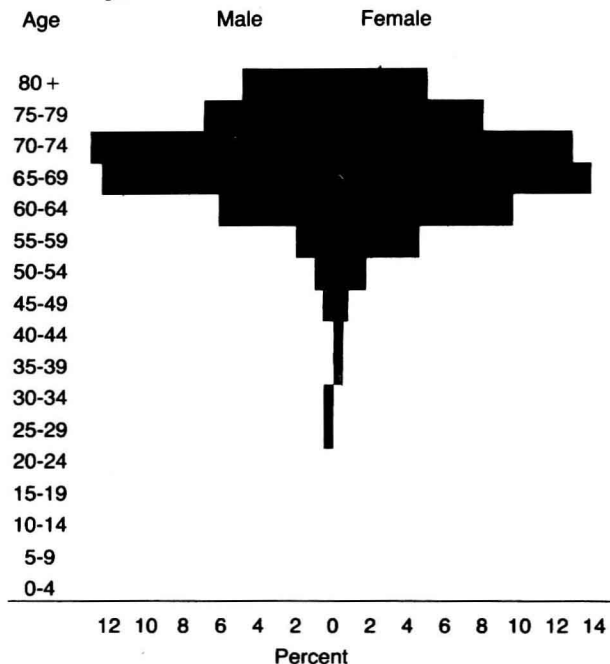
Items 1–4 refer to the following passage.

For several weeks early every spring, thousands of sandhill cranes land on the banks of the Platte River near Kearney, Nebraska. Here they feed and rest for their long northward migration. But this section of the Platte, once almost a mile wide, has been reduced to only several hundred feet by upstream dams which regulate the early spring floods. The cranes' natural rest stop may be further threatened by the building of a new dam that would divert water from the Platte for the use of Denver and possibly other cities. This project has resulted in a dispute between the water planners and environmentalists.

1. Which of the following statements is suggested by the passage?
 - (1) The sandhill crane population is in danger of extinction.
 - (2) Nebraska no longer receives enough rainfall.
 - (3) Flooding is still a problem for Denver and other cities.
 - (4) Denver does not have an adequate water supply.
 - (5) The Platte River is more than sufficient for the needs of both humans and birds.
2. If other areas follow the example of diverting water from already depleted rivers, the result will most likely be
 - (1) the further growth of cities in water-poor areas
 - (2) a mass relocation of animal sanctuaries
 - (3) a serious environmental problem
 - (4) a revitalization of river systems
 - (5) a whole new network of rivers
3. Which of the following statements is most likely to be an argument presented in favor of the dam project?
 - (1) Human use of resources is more important than preservation of a single bird's habitat.
 - (2) The birds can easily find somewhere else to rest.
 - (3) About half the water will be needed for watering lawns.
 - (4) Annual flooding will still take place on the Platte River.
 - (5) The cranes will be allowed to use the dam's reservoir as a watering hole.
4. Environmentalists involved in this dispute most likely will
 - (1) eventually agree with the water planners
 - (2) try to stop construction of the dam
 - (3) urge a diversion of water away from Denver
 - (4) use the Platte River problem as an example of cruelty to animals
 - (5) try to restrict further spring flooding of the Platte

Items 5–6 refer to the following graph.

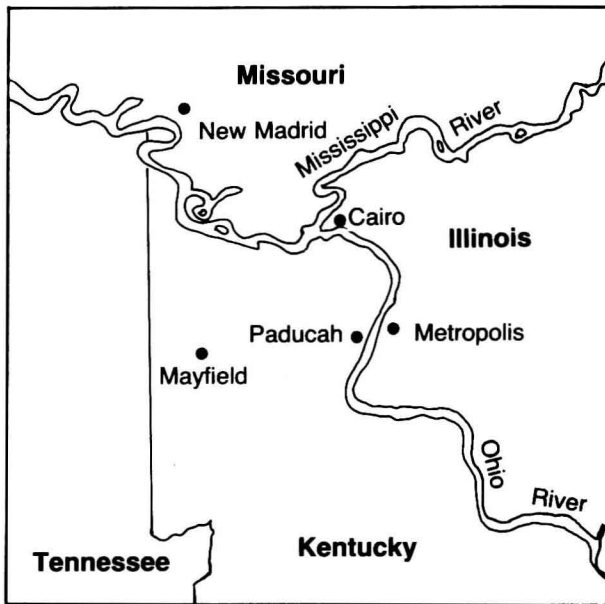
Sun City, Arizona



5. According to the graph, which of the following is most likely true of Sun City?
 - (1) The population is rapidly declining.
 - (2) The climate attracts people of retirement age.
 - (3) The population growth rate is fairly steady.
 - (4) Sun City is a popular family vacation spot.
 - (5) There are twice as many women as men.
6. According to the information on the graph, which of the following public facilities would you expect to find the most of in Sun City?
 - (1) high schools
 - (2) colleges
 - (3) hospitals
 - (4) day care centers
 - (5) libraries

7. Hurricanes are large rotating tropical storms with winds up to 150 miles per hour and torrential rains that can produce almost instant flooding. People living in hurricane-prone areas would be most likely to prefer which of the following architectural features?
 - (1) dirt floor cellars
 - (2) high-rise apartment buildings
 - (3) glass-enclosed patios
 - (4) ranch style buildings
 - (5) New England style gable roofs
8. In 1957, France, Belgium, Luxembourg, West Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands formed the European Economic Community, also known as the Common Market. This move improved their economies by removing the tariffs (taxes) on mutually imported or exported goods. Even when countries such as Denmark and Great Britain joined the group, the Common Market continued to make sense because
 - (1) all Western European nations are in financial trouble
 - (2) shipping distances between the nations are quite small
 - (3) world peace depends on the cooperation of dissimilar cultures
 - (4) each nation grows completely different crops
 - (5) all these nations have adjoining borders

Items 9–10 refer to the following map.



9. According to the map, which of the following statements is not true?

- (1) The Mississippi River forms a natural boundary between Illinois and Missouri.
- (2) The Ohio River forms a natural boundary between Kentucky and Illinois.
- (3) Three states meet at the junction of two rivers.
- (4) The natural boundary between Missouri and Kentucky is the Ohio River.
- (5) It is possible to travel down the Ohio to the Mississippi.

10. At which of the following cities would a shipping company be most likely to set up a main office?

- (1) Paducah
- (2) Metropolis
- (3) Mayfield
- (4) Cairo
- (5) New Madrid

Items 11–12 refer to the following passage.

Latitude and longitude are imaginary lines that form a grid pattern around the earth. Latitudes, or parallels, run east and west at equal distances from each other, never meeting. Latitudes are measured in degrees (°) northward from the Equator (0°) to the North Pole (90° N) and southward to the South Pole (90° S). Longitudes, or meridians, run north and south meeting at the poles. These lines are measured eastward for 180° from the Prime Meridian in Greenwich, England and westward for 180°.

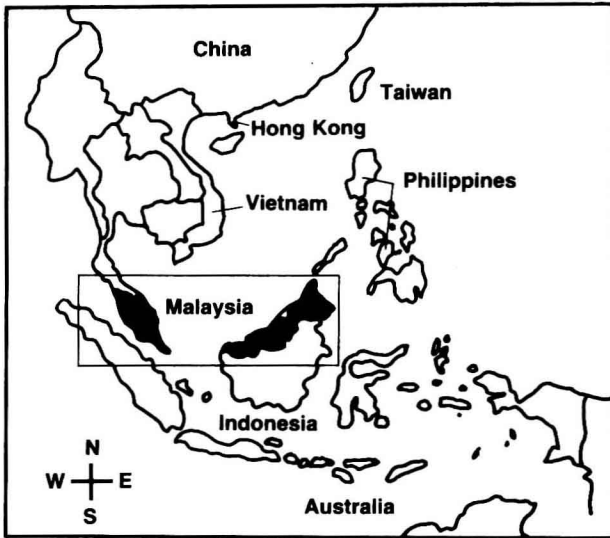
11. From the passage it can be assumed that Greenwich, England is at

- (1) 0° latitude
- (2) 180° E longitude
- (3) 90° W longitude
- (4) 0° longitude
- (5) the Equator

12. For which of the following would knowledge of longitude and latitude be most important?

- (1) river transportation
- (2) city driving
- (3) ocean navigation
- (4) rural driving
- (5) cross-country hiking

Items 13–16 refer to the following maps.



13. Which of the following is not a city in Malaysia?

- (1) Kuala Lumpur
- (2) Ipoh
- (3) Brunei
- (4) Kuching
- (5) Kota Kinabalu

14. People living in East Malaysia probably find trade easiest with

- (1) Thailand
- (2) Australia
- (3) China
- (4) Indonesia
- (5) Vietnam

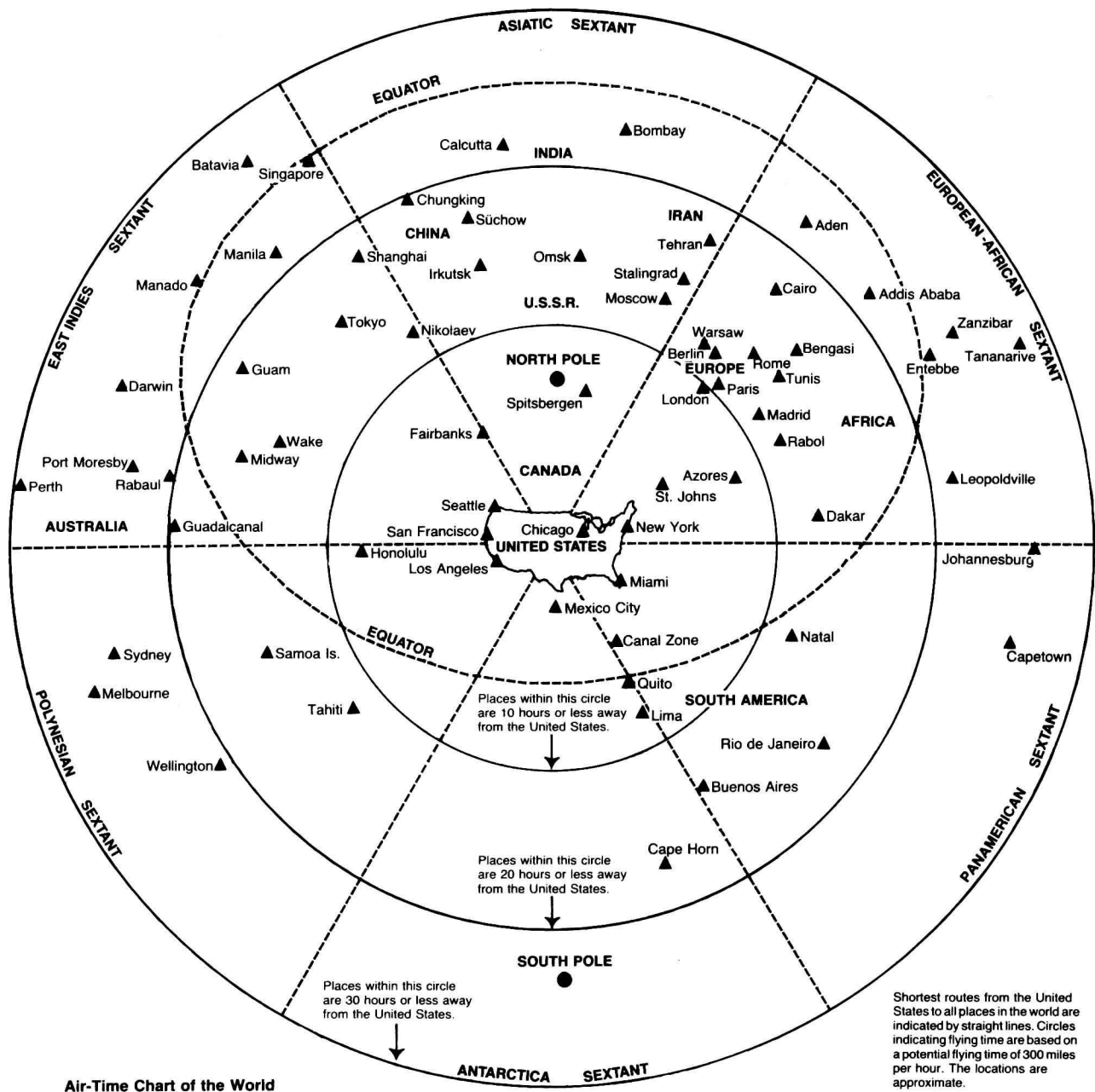
15. Which of the following statements best explains why Singapore, which had united in 1963 with Sabah and Sarawak to join Malaysia, is now an independent nation?

- (1) Singapore was granted independence from British rule in 1957.
- (2) Singapore was dominated by a Chinese, rather than Malay, government.
- (3) The island was too far from the Malay peninsula.
- (4) The islanders felt isolated.
- (5) Officials in Singapore believed that Sabah and Sarawak were too close to the island.

16. Considering that Malaysia's religious groups include Muslims and Hindus, which of the following foods is most likely the main source of protein in Malaysia?

- (1) rice
- (2) beef
- (3) pork
- (4) fruit
- (5) fish

Items 17–20 refer to the following diagram.



17. The information on the diagram suggests that

- (1) air travel has changed people's perspective on world geography
- (2) most people flew out of Chicago in 1943
- (3) the Poles are closer than we thought they were
- (4) the Equator does not really run around the center of the globe
- (5) air traffic runs only in straight lines

18. In which of the following ways would a similar diagram drawn in the 1990's differ from the one above?

- (1) The shortest route line would be changed.
- (2) Tehran would be removed from the diagram.
- (3) The flying time estimates would be shorter.
- (4) The location of Tokyo would be changed.
- (5) The United States would not be in the middle of the diagram.

19. Why would the information on the diagram influence a development of more overseas United States military bases?

- (1) It indicates that Americans have easy access to foreign countries.
- (2) It suggests that enemy planes could reach the U.S. quickly.
- (3) It reveals that Europe is too close for comfort.
- (4) It shows how unprotected Australia is.
- (5) It reveals how few overseas bases there are.

20. If the diagram indicates that this is a small world after all, what would be the best conclusion for major world powers to reach?

- (1) The military can start using smaller planes.
- (2) World peace should be their next objective.
- (3) Hand-to-hand fighting will be back in style.
- (4) Nuclear war is inevitable.
- (5) Space is the new frontier.

21. Demography is the study of population distribution. Density of population is measured by the number of people living in a square mile of land. Cities of more than one million inhabitants are called population nuclei. Which of the following is not an example of demography?

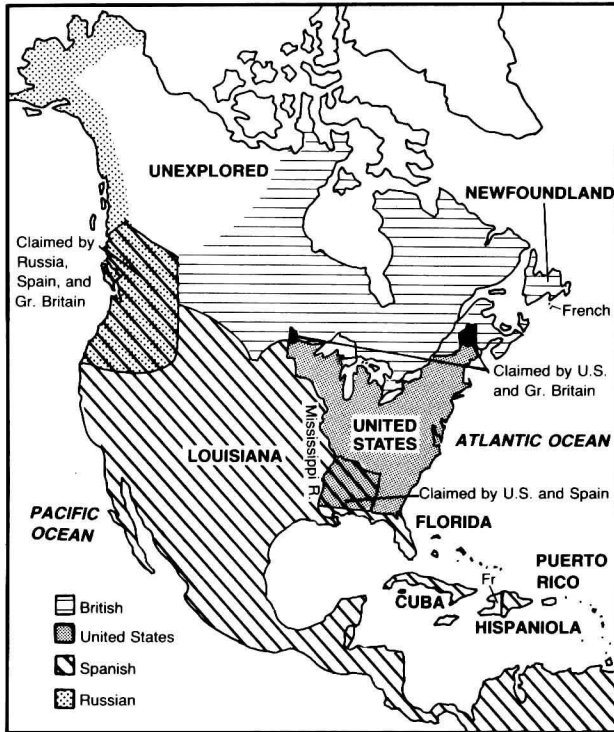
- (1) In 1966, New Zealand had a density of 23 per square mile.
- (2) In 1980, there were as many people over the age of 30 in the United States as there were under 30.
- (3) Between 1940 and 1950, the population of South Dakota rose by only 1.5%.
- (4) Indiana has a land area of 35,936 square miles.
- (5) New York City, with over 7,071,000 inhabitants, is one of the larger metropolitan nuclei in the United States.

22. Scientists have found new evidence that the earth is warming up due to the greenhouse effect. Since 1982, the temperature of the world's oceans has risen 0.2 degrees Fahrenheit each year. If the gases that result from the use of fossil fuels are partially responsible for this problem, then our best course of action is to

- (1) start using oil instead of coal and gas
- (2) find alternate sources of energy
- (3) find a way to cool the oceans
- (4) find a way to contain the gases
- (5) prepare for warmer winters

Items 23–24 refer to the following map.

North America in 1783



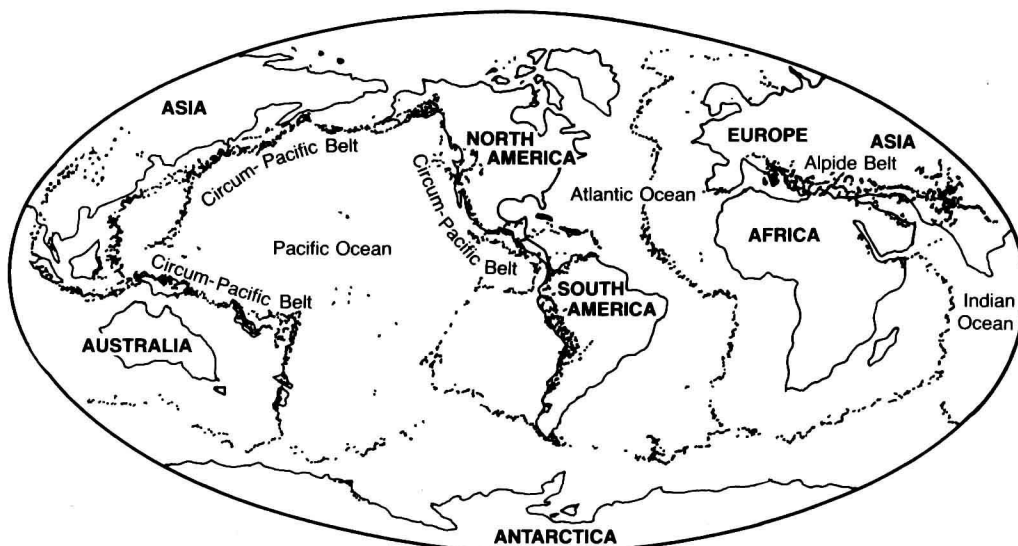
23. Which of the following best explains why Russia claimed land on the Northwest coast?

- (1) The Louisiana Territory was already claimed by Spain.
- (2) Russia didn't want to interfere with Spain.
- (3) Russian ships had fairly easy access to the Alaskan Territory by sea.
- (4) The Russian government wanted to claim land far from the United States.
- (5) The Northwest coast was the only land left unclaimed.

24. Which of the following is best explained by the information on this map?

- (1) the location of the Mexico-United States border
- (2) the purchase of the Louisiana Territory from France by the United States
- (3) the cold war between the United States and the Soviet Union
- (4) the prevalence of Spanish place names in California
- (5) the definition of the Canada-United States border

Items 25–26 refer to the following map.



Almost all the world's major earthquakes occur in the circum-Pacific belt and the Alpide belt.

25. According to the map, earthquakes are most frequently associated with

- (1) rivers
- (2) lakes
- (3) oceans
- (4) mountains
- (5) valleys

26. Which of the following major world cities would most likely be affected by earthquakes?

- (1) New York, New York
- (2) Chicago, Illinois
- (3) Sidney, Australia
- (4) Johannesburg, South Africa
- (5) Acapulco, Mexico

Items 27–30 refer to the following passage.

The state of Oregon has over 97,000 square miles of land. It is surrounded by the states of Washington, Idaho, Nevada, California, and the Pacific Ocean. The western third of Oregon is dramatically divided from the rest of the state by the Cascade Mountain Range. To the west of the Cascades, the land is drenched in rain for most of the year and is lush with vegetation. To the east of the Cascades, dust storms parch the land to the extent that many of the lakes listed on maps are referred to as dry. Much of Oregon is forested, even to the east where the woodlands are scattered and less dense. But due to the ever-increasing need for lumber, even the forests in the mountains and to the west are being cut too quickly for new growth to replace the old.

27. Which of the following statements best explains why the Bureau of Land Management might support the recycling of paper?

- (1) The steady rainfalls in western Oregon occur through most of the year.
- (2) Large-scale forest fires are frequent.
- (3) Tree planting teams have been working on reforestation for at least twenty years.
- (4) Oregon was one of the first states to pass a bottle recycling bill.
- (5) There are not enough lumber mills in Oregon.

28. Which of the following slogans is supported by data in the passage?

- (1) Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires
- (2) It's More Than a Tree; It's a Home
- (3) Oregonians Don't Tan; They Rust
- (4) Go West, Young Man
- (5) Keep Our Cities Clean

29. Eastern Oregon is drier than the western section because

- (1) there is more land to the east
- (2) many of the lakes have long since dried up
- (3) frequent storms carry moisture into Washington
- (4) the Cascades block the wet ocean winds
- (5) the scattered forests don't retain much moisture

30. Crops grown in eastern Oregon are most likely similar to those grown in

- (1) California
- (2) Washington
- (3) Ohio
- (4) Iowa
- (5) Idaho

Items 31–34 refer to the following chart.

**Geographic Distribution of U.S. Population,
1930–1970 (in percentages)**

YEAR	CENTRAL CITIES	SUBURBS	RURAL AREAS & SMALL TOWNS
1930	31.8	18.0	50.2
1940	31.6	19.5	48.9
1950	32.3	23.8	43.9
1960	32.6	30.7	36.7
1970	31.4	37.6	31.0

Source: Adapted from U.S.
Bureau of the Census, *Decennial
Censuses, 1930–1970*
(Washington, U.S. Government
Printing Office).

31. According to the chart, during a forty-year period, the percentage of the United States population living in cities
- (1) dropped dramatically
 - (2) increased dramatically
 - (3) rose steadily
 - (4) remained fairly stable
 - (5) rose and fell dramatically
32. If many city dwellers were moving to the suburbs during the 1960's and 1970's, which of the following best explains the percentages for central cities during those years?
- (1) a major increase in the national birthrate
 - (2) growing unemployment in small towns and rural areas
 - (3) the building of high-rise apartments
 - (4) the growth of a thriving middle class
 - (5) increased highway construction in rural areas
33. Which of the following groups was most likely affected the least by the population shifts between 1950 and 1970?
- (1) city government officials
 - (2) automobile manufacturers
 - (3) highway construction workers
 - (4) housing contractors
 - (5) gas station operators
34. If the trend indicated in this chart continues, the population distribution in the year 2000 most likely will be
- (1) 32.9% living in rural areas and small towns
 - (2) 56.3% living in the suburbs
 - (3) 16.5% living in the suburbs
 - (4) 56.3% living in rural areas and small towns
 - (5) 37.6% living in the suburbs
-
35. When a massive oil spill occurred in Prince William Sound, Alaska on March 23, 1989, a large oil skimmer sailed from the Soviet Union to assist in the cleanup of the Alaskan coast. Which of the following statements is best supported by this information?
- (1) Major world powers are realizing the importance of mutual cooperation in preserving the ecology.
 - (2) Oil spills have become a routine problem for the Soviet Union.
 - (3) The United States is no longer capable of handling its own environmental problems.
 - (4) The Soviet Union was aware that this was the largest oil spill ever to have occurred.
 - (5) The political differences between the United States and the Soviet Union have been settled.
36. The trade imbalance between the United States and Japan has narrowed since 1984 when Japan imported less than \$30 billion of merchandise from the United States. In 1988, of Japan's total imports, \$40 billion came from the United States. What additional information is needed to determine the amount of the trade imbalance in 1988?
- (1) the total amount of Japan's imports in 1984
 - (2) the total amount of Japan's imports in 1988
 - (3) the amount the United States imported in 1984
 - (4) the amount the United States imported in 1988
 - (5) the total amount of United States exports in 1988

37. You are traveling from Indianapolis, Indiana to Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Your map shows the location of major cities, roads, and rivers. It shows direction and changes in elevation. It even indicates rest areas and campgrounds. Which of the following will you be unable to determine using your map?

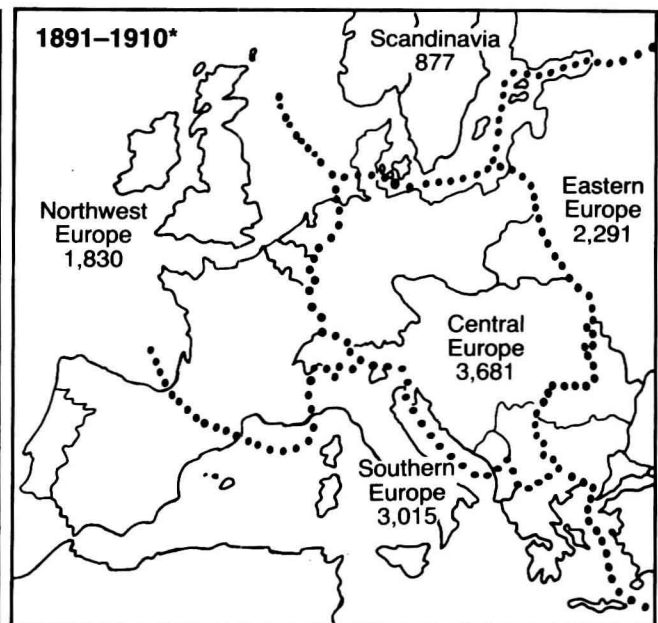
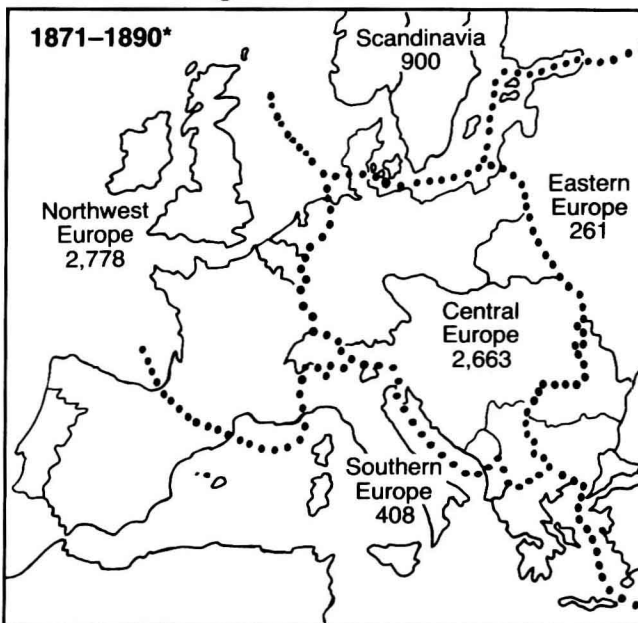
- (1) if Chicago lies along your route
- (2) if you can stop for a picnic along the way
- (3) whether Sioux Falls is east or west of Rapid City
- (4) how many rivers you will be crossing
- (5) how far you will have to travel

38. Panama, a long, narrow country, links the North and South American continents. The Panama Canal crosses the width of Panama from one ocean to the other. Interestingly, the Pacific Ocean end of the canal lies east of the Atlantic Ocean end. What does this reveal about Panama's geographic position?

- (1) The Pacific Ocean is east of Panama.
- (2) The Atlantic Ocean is south of Panama.
- (3) Panama's length extends from north to south.
- (4) Panama's length extends from east to west.
- (5) Panama lies across the Equator.

Items 39–42 refer to the following maps.

Sources of Immigration, 1871–1910



*Immigration in thousands

39. Which statement best explains why the ethnic make-up of many American cities changed considerably over a forty-year period?

- (1) Thousands of people from different cultural groups arrived in America from 1871 to 1910.
- (2) Immigration from Northwest Europe was highest between 1871 and 1891.
- (3) Limits on immigration quotas were established in 1914.
- (4) America really was the new land of milk and honey.
- (5) Immigrants from the Orient were arriving to work on the new cross-country railroad.

40. In 1910, New York City had half as many Italians as the city of Naples. This is best explained by

- (1) the decline of Naples as a major city
- (2) the fact that over 3,453,000 people had immigrated from Southern Europe
- (3) the fact that 6,344,000 people had immigrated from Central Europe
- (4) the map's evidence that 3,453 of the immigrants were Italian
- (5) the large Italian population of New York City today

41. Which of the following American monuments best represents the hopes of the immigrants?

- (1) the Lincoln Memorial
- (2) the Liberty Bell
- (3) the Statue of Liberty
- (4) the Washington Monument
- (5) Mount Rushmore

42. The pattern of immigration from 1891 to 1910 supports the conclusion that

- (1) Scandinavians were no longer interested in immigration
- (2) shortly after the turn of the century, language barriers forced many new arrivals into low-paying factory jobs
- (3) by 1910 the immigrants had begun to adjust to their new surroundings
- (4) only Eastern Europeans were interested in finding a new way of life
- (5) more and more European intellectuals were becoming aware of the opportunities that America offered

Answers begin on page 94.