

**Flash Cards of**  
**Vocabulary and Concepts**  
**for**  
**Grade 8**  
**Social Studies**  
**TAKS Test**



**Time and date  
measurements based  
upon an exact date  
(example: July 4, 1776)**

**Time and date calculated  
from a major event  
(example: “Ten years  
after the birth of Jesus”,  
“25 years before World  
War I”, etc.), one event  
comes before or after  
another one**

**First document of  
English rights, trial by  
jury, could not be  
deprived of life, liberty,  
and property, signed by  
King John in 1215**

**Passed by Parliament in  
1689 – English rights  
reinforced, no taxation,  
right to petition,  
individual rights**

**Relative chronology**

**Absolute chronology**

**English Bill of Rights**

**Magna Carta**

**Year of the first  
successful British colony,  
established in  
Jamestown, Virginia**

**Settlement by a  
European country and its  
citizens of land in the  
Americas, Africa, and  
Asia**

**Issues related to  
government and a  
citizen's relationship  
with government**

**Issues related to how  
people make a living and  
the production of goods  
and services**

**Colonization**

**1607**

**Economic reasons**

**Political reasons**

**Issues related to society in general including the people, language, religion, education, the arts, etc.**

**Document written in 1620 by founders of Plymouth Colony that provided the basis for law and government in the colony**

**Power is held by the people and exercised through the efforts of representatives elected by those people**

**First representative government in colonial America in 1619**

**Mayflower Compact**

**Social reasons**

**Virginia House  
of Burgesses**

**Representative  
government  
(republicanism)**

**Right to practice one's religious beliefs without interference from the government**

**Economic system where a colony provides raw materials to the mother country and serves as a market for finished goods**

**Large farm that grew cash crops, run by an owner and farmed by laborers (usually slaves) who lived on the farm**

**Buying and selling of humans for forced labor**

**Mercantilism**

**Religious freedom**

**Slave trade**

**Plantation system**

**Factors related to natural environment – topography, climate, vegetation, land forms, water bodies, natural resources, and location on earth**

**Factors related to people – population distribution, population density, population growth rates, agriculture and industry, culture, environment, government, language, religion, history, economy, education, etc.**

**Area with distinct characteristics such as the three colonial regions (New England, Middle Colonies, Southern Colonies) or the North and the South before the Civil War**

**War between Great Britain and France from 1754 to 1763 for control of the Ohio Valley area of North America**

**Human geographic  
factors**

**Physical geographic  
factors**

**French and Indian War**

**Region**

**Political leader in Boston who helped form the Committees of Correspondence and the Sons of Liberty in opposition to British attempts to tax the colonies**

**Virginian opposed to British taxation (“Give me liberty or give me death”) and opponent of the proposed U.S. Constitution because the national government was too powerful**

**When the government requires people to give it money to finance its operation**

**Colonists felt that if the British government was going to force colonists to pay taxes that they should have representation in Parliament**

**Patrick Henry**

**Samuel Adams**

**Taxation without  
Representation**

**Taxation**

**In protest to the Tea Act,  
the Sons of Liberty in  
Boston destroyed tea  
from Great Britain**

**Declaration of  
Independence signed,  
start of Revolutionary  
War, United States  
established as an  
independent nation**

**King of Great Britain  
during the American  
Revolution**

**Author of *Common Sense*  
and *The American Crisis*  
in support of the  
American Revolution**

**1776**

**Boston Tea Party**

**Thomas Paine**

**King George III**

**Author of Declaration of Independence, American representative in Great Britain and France, and delegate to Constitutional Convention**

**Armed rebellion, uprising of the people against the government or authority, a period of great change**

**Free from influence or control of other nations, sovereign nation**

**The institution in society that rules on behalf of the people, makes the laws, and taxes the people**

**Revolution**

**Benjamin Franklin**

**Government**

**Independence**

**The power of a country  
to make its own decisions  
without approval of other  
countries**

**Document approved on  
July 4, 1776, written by  
Thomas Jefferson,  
American colonies  
declare independence  
from England, list of  
grievances against King  
George III**

**Main author of the  
Declaration of  
Independence, 3<sup>rd</sup>  
President of U.S.**

**Rights/privileges which,  
according to Declaration  
of Independence, cannot  
be taken away, these  
include life, liberty, and  
the pursuit of happiness  
(and property)**

**Declaration of  
Independence**

**Self government**

**Unalienable rights**

**Thomas Jefferson**

**Free from restrictions  
placed on individual  
actions**

**Taxation without  
consent, no  
representation, no trial  
by jury, quartering  
troops, standing armies,  
etc. – these complaints  
were addressed by the  
U.S. Constitution and  
Bill of Rights**

**War for U.S.  
Independence, 1775 –  
1783, major battles –  
Lexington and Concord,  
Saragota, Yorktown**

**Commander in Chief of  
Continental Army, 1<sup>st</sup>  
President of U.S.**

**Colonial Grievances**

**Liberty**

**George Washington**

**American Revolution**

**First battle of the  
American Revolution in  
April 1775**

**American victory  
considered the turning  
point of the Revolution,  
because of this victory in  
1777, France pledged  
assistance to the  
Americans to fight  
against the British**

**Alliance of states where  
states have the majority  
of the powers and retain  
their sovereignty**

**First government of  
United States from  
1781-1788, states had  
more power than weak  
national government – no  
standing army, no power  
to tax, no courts, no  
executive branch**

**Saratoga**

**Lexington and Concord**

**Articles of Confederation**

**Confederation**

**Final major battle of the  
American Revolution,  
British defeated**

**Treaty which ended the  
American Revolution**

**Law passed in 1787 to  
bring American  
territories into the United  
States as states on equal  
basis with original  
13 states**

**Strong supporter of the  
U.S. Constitution, wanted  
to create a strong  
national government, 1st  
Secretary of Treasury,  
supporter of free  
enterprise system**

**Treaty of Paris (1783)**

**Yorktown**

**Alexander Hamilton**

**Northwest Ordinance**

**The Father of the Constitution, described the events in the Constitutional Convention, also the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the United States**

**Year that the U.S. Constitution was written at Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia, ratification of Constitution and Federalist Papers in 1788**

**A document that defines the government, restrains the powers of the government, and guarantees certain rights to the people**

**Constitutional meeting in 1787 resulting in creation of federal government (separate executive, judicial, and legislative branches), replaced the Articles of Confederation and wrote the U.S. Constitution**

**1787**

**James Madison**

**Philadelphia Convention**

**Constitution**

**Basic law and government of the United States, based on seven principles – republicanism, popular sovereignty, federalism, limited government, separation of power, checks and balances, individual rights**

**Newspaper articles in New York state – explained reasons why people should adopt the new US constitution, authors: Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay**

**Basic rights - ① Speech, press, religion, assembly, petition ② Bear arms, ③ Quarter soldiers, ④ Searches, ⑤ Due process, ⑥ Fair trial, ⑦ Jury trial, ⑧ Cruel/unusual punishment, ⑨ States rights reserved, ⑩ Individual rights not listed**

**Proposed a one-house legislature where each state had one vote and equal representation**

**Federalist Papers**

**U.S. Constitution**

**New Jersey Plan**

**Bill of Rights**

**Proposed a two-house legislature with representation based on the population of a state**

**Known as Connecticut Plan or Sherman Compromise, provided for a two-house legislature with upper house based on equality (2 senators for each state) and lower house based on the population of each state**

**When determining population for representation in the House of Representatives, a slave would only count as 3/5 of a person**

**National government given the power to regulate foreign trade and trade among the states, states have power to regulate trade within each state**

**Great Compromise**

**Virginia Plan**

**Commerce Compromise**

**Three-fifths Compromise**

**Branch of government  
responsible for making  
the laws, in the U.S.  
system this is Congress**

**Branch of government  
responsible for enforcing  
the laws, in the U.S.  
system this is the  
President**

**Branch of government  
that interprets the laws,  
in the U.S. system this is  
the Supreme Court**

**Limits are placed on the  
powers of government,  
everyone including all  
authority figures must  
obey the laws**

**Executive branch**

**Legislative branch**

**Limited government**

**Judicial branch**

**Power is held by the people and exercised through the efforts of representatives elected by those people**

**Each branch of the government shares its power and checks the other two, prevents any branch of government from becoming too powerful**

**Distribution of the powers of government between a central (federal) government and the regional (states) governments**

**Form of government organized in three branches – a legislative branch (Congress), an executive branch (the President) and a judicial branch (Supreme Court)**

**Checks and balances**

**Republicanism  
(representative  
government)**

**Separation of powers**

**Federalism**

**All political power rests with the people who can create, alter, and abolish government**

**Rights of the people protected in the Bill of Rights including economic rights related to property, political rights related to freedom of speech and press, and personal rights like bearing arms and maintaining private residences**

**To give official approval to a document, the Constitution was ratified by the states in 1788**

**1<sup>st</sup> Amendment right, right to speak one's own mind**

**Individual rights**

**Popular sovereignty**

**Free speech**

**Ratification**

**1<sup>st</sup> Amendment right,  
right to state anything  
in the printed form**

**Supporter of the U.S.  
Constitution during  
its ratification**

**Opponent of the U.S.  
Constitution during  
its ratification**

**Group of people  
organized together to  
win elections and govern  
a state or country**

**Federalist**

**Free press**

**Political party**

**Anti-Federalist**

**People are free to produce what they can and to buy what they can afford, economic system that began in the United States in 1790s**

**Writing by Pres. Washington, warned U.S. against dangers of political parties and “entangling alliances” with foreign nations**

**Year in which the United States purchased Louisiana from the country of France for 15 million dollars**

**Land U.S. gained from France in 1803 for 15 million dollars, included all land drained by Mississippi River and its tributaries**

**Washington's Farewell  
Address**

**Free enterprise system**

**Louisiana Purchase**

**1803**

**U.S. Supreme Court case  
in 1803 that gave  
the Supreme Court  
the power of  
judicial review**

**Power of U.S. Supreme  
Court to declare an act  
of the President,  
Congress, or a state  
unconstitutional**

**Conflict between United  
States and Great Britain,  
major cause was British  
violations of American  
neutral rights, main  
battle at New Orleans in  
1815 after war was  
officially over**

**5th President of United  
States, remember chiefly  
for his foreign policy,  
especially the doctrine  
that the Americas were  
closed to European  
colonization**

**Judicial review**

***Marbury v. Madison***

**James Monroe**

**War of 1812**

**U.S. would not interfere with colonies under European rule but was opposed to any new European colonies in the Americas**

**Agreement in 1820 admitting Missouri as a slave state and Maine as a free state, prohibited slavery in Louisiana Purchase north of  $36^{\circ} 30'N$ , first sectional issue between North and South**

**Support and loyalty to a certain region of a country, for example, the North or the South before the Civil War**

**The practical use of scientific discoveries**

**Missouri Compromise**

**Monroe Doctrine**

**Technology**

**Sectionalism**

**Change in society from mostly farming to a society based on industry and manufacturing, the United States began this change early in the 1800s**

**Production of goods and products in factories by machines, began in the United States in the early 19th century, led to more goods being produced at lower prices**

**New ways of doing things that are based on a technology, major changes that improve how people live, examples – fire, agriculture, writing, electricity, industry, telephones, airplanes, computers, A/C**

**Major movement of people from countryside to cities in 19<sup>th</sup> century, caused growth of cities and four major problems as a result – inadequate public services, overcrowding, social tensions, and corruption**

**Industrialization**

**Industrial Revolution**

**Urbanization**

**Technological  
innovations**

**Invention developed by  
Eli Whitney in 1790s to  
separate cotton fiber  
from the seeds**

**Tax or duty on an import  
into a country**

**Tax on an import in  
order to protect a  
domestic industry of a  
country**

**Movement of people and  
goods across land and  
water**

**Tariff**

**Cotton gin**

**Transportation**

**Protective tariff**

**All-weather road paid for  
by taxes or tolls on the  
travelers on the road**

**Narrow man-made  
waterway that connects  
two large bodies of water  
and is used to transport  
goods and people**

**Form of transportation  
that developed after 1830  
and used steam engines  
and tracks to transport  
people and goods  
across the land**

**Invention that allowed  
the transport of people  
and goods on water  
upstream against  
the current**

**Canal**

**Turnpike**

**Steamboat**

**Railroad**

**New ways of doing things  
which are based on  
technology**

**Addition of new territory  
by a country, Texas was  
annexed by the United  
States in 1845**

**How people in a country  
are spread out, for  
example, urban or rural  
settlement, distribution  
by age, wealth, sex, etc.**

**How people live on the  
land, for example, rural  
or urban living, location  
of major cities, etc.**

**Annexation**

**Innovation**

**Settlement patterns**

**Population distribution**

**Belief in 19th century that the United States had God's approval to expand westward to the Pacific Ocean and into Mexican and Native American lands**

**Conflict between United States and Mexico in 1846, U.S. victory, Mexico gives up one-third of its land in Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1848)**

**Growth of the United States in the early 19th century from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean**

**To give up land by a treaty, transfer of land from one country to another country**

**Mexican War**

**Manifest Destiny**

**Cession**

**Westward expansion**

**8th U.S. President, kept slavery out of national politics, moved Native Americans west of Mississippi River, opposed second Bank of United States, prepared to use force against South Carolina in Nullification Crisis**

**Vice President under Pres. Adams and Jackson, leader in South Carolina to nullify federal tariff in 1832, leader of Southern position on slavery in territories**

**Massachusetts senator, opposed to South Carolina's attempt to nullify federal tariff law, believed the United States was union of people not compact of states**

**View held by Southerners before the Civil War that the states were sovereign and had rights independent of the federal government and law**

**John C. Calhoun**

**Andrew Jackson**

**States' rights**

**Daniel Webster**

**Attempt by South Carolina to nullify federal law in 1832, issue – high federal tariffs that South Carolina protested/ refused to pay, Pres. Jackson –Force Act, South Carolina backed down**

**Bank chartered by the national government in 1791 and 1816 to provide bank notes to be used as money and to regulate state banks**

**Law passed in 1830 for the removal of all Native American tribes from land east of the Mississippi to Indian territory (today Oklahoma)**

**One of the five civilized tribes in Eastern United States, forced to move west in winter of 1837-38, Trail of Tears with one-fourth of the tribe dying during the journey**

**Bank of the United States**

**Nullification Crisis**

**Cherokee Indians**

**Indian Removal Act**

**Need to change things for the better, for example major changes in the early 19th century were abolition of slavery, temperance, free public education, and women's rights**

**Movement in 19th century for equal rights for females, especially the right to vote**

**Leader of the women's rights movement in the 19th century, helped organize Seneca Falls Convention in 1848**

**Meeting of women in upstate New York in 1848, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, call for equal rights for women**

**Women's rights**

**Reform**

**Seneca Falls Convention**

**Elizabeth Cady Stanton**

**Document passed in Seneca Falls Convention, listed grievances of women, said “all men and women are created equal,” began women’s rights movement**

**Leader of the movement for free public education in Massachusetts**

**Providing free schooling to children at the expense of the state government and taxpayers**

**Movement to limit or outlaw the use of alcoholic drinks**

**Horace Mann**

**Declaration of  
Sentiments**

**Temperance**

**Public education**

**African American who escaped from slavery and became leader in abolition movement to end slavery in mid 19th century, later mayor of Washington, D.C.**

**Practice in South of forced labor without rights of African Americans**

**To bring something to an end, generally used in association with attempts to slavery in the United States**

**Person who was opposed to slavery and wanted it to end in the United States**

**Slavery**

**Frederick Douglass**

**Abolitionist**

**Abolition**

**Failed attempt in 1846 to prohibit slavery in any territory acquired as a result of the Mexican War, caused split on issue of slavery in the territories**

**California admitted as free states, Utah and New Mexico organized as territories with popular sovereignty, slave trade outlawed in D.C., new federal fugitive slave law to recover runaway slaves in Northern states**

**Law in 1854 dividing Louisiana Purchase into territories of Kansas and Nebraska, repealed Missouri Compromise line prohibiting slavery**

**U.S. Supreme Court case in 1857, upheld slavery in United States, declared Missouri Compromise line unconstitutional**

**Compromise of 1850**

**Wilmot Proviso**

*Dred Scott v. Sandford*

**Kansas-Nebraska Act**

**Author of anti-slavery  
novel, *Uncle's Tom Cabin*  
(1852) showing evils of  
slavery**

**Election where  
Democratic party split,  
Abraham Lincoln elected  
U.S. President, led to  
secession of Southern  
states and the Civil War**

**Before the Civil War the  
Northern states had a  
mixed economy based  
both on agriculture and  
the manufacture of  
finished products**

**Before the Civil War the  
Southern states largely  
had an agricultural  
economy based on cotton  
production and slavery**

**Election of 1860**

**Harriet Beecher Stowe**

**Economy of the South**

**Economy of the North**

**Act of a state of leaving the Union, the Southern states left the United States in 1860-1861, resulting in a civil war**

**Armed conflict between different factions, groups, or regions within a country**

**President of the United States during the American Civil War, won the election of 1860, assassinated in April 1865**

**Years of the American Civil War**

**Civil war**

**Secession**

**1861-1865**

**Abraham Lincoln**

**1861 – 1865, war between  
the Northern and  
the Southern states,  
North wins the war**

**Union General who  
forced General Lee  
to surrender in 1865,  
ending the Civil War,  
later became 18<sup>th</sup>  
President of U.S.  
from 1869 to 1877**

**Confederate General  
who commanded the  
Army of Northern  
Virginia, his surrender  
at Appomattox Court  
House in 1865 ended  
the Civil War**

**President of the  
Confederate States of  
America during  
the Civil War**

**Ulysses S. Grant**

**Civil War**

**Jefferson Davis**

**Robert E. Lee**

**First battle of the American Civil War, Southern troops capture fort in Charleston, South Carolina, harbor in 1861**

**Northern victory in 1863 gave the North control of all of Mississippi River and divided South into two parts**

**Battle in Pennsylvania in July 1863, only battle fought on Northern soil, Southern troops withdraw back to South after battle**

**General Lee surrendered his troops to General Grant on April 8, 1865, ended the Civil War**

**Vicksburg**

**Ft. Sumter**

**Appomattox Court  
House**

**Gettysburg**

**Given in 1861, North  
would not interfere  
with slavery in South  
but would persevere  
the Union by force  
if necessary**

**To be set free from  
bondage**

**Written by Abraham  
Lincoln, issued in  
September 1862, freed  
all slaves who lived  
in areas of rebellion  
on January 1, 1863**

**Speech given by Lincoln  
during the dedication  
of the Gettysburg  
battlefield as a national  
burial site**

**Emancipation**

**Lincoln's First Inaugural  
Address**

**Gettysburg Address**

**Emancipation  
Proclamation**

**Given in 1865, focused on ending slavery and binding up the wounds caused by the Civil War**

**Belief that all people had the same basic rights, without regard to race, sex, religion, social class, or place of birth**

**Belief that the United States was a permanent organization of states from which a state could not leave**

**Pres. Lincoln was shot and killed by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater on April 14, 1865**

**Equality**

**Lincoln's Second  
Inaugural Address**

**Assassination of Lincoln**

**Union**

**Ended slavery in United States, adopted in 1865 during Reconstruction period**

**Due process and equal protection under the law, applied to the states, defined U.S. citizenship, adopted in 1868 during Reconstruction period**

**Guaranteed right to vote to African American males, adopted in 1870 during Reconstruction period**

**13<sup>th</sup> – 1865 – abolished slavery**  
**14<sup>th</sup> – 1868 – guaranteed all citizens, including former slaves, civil rights and equality**  
**15<sup>th</sup> – 1870 – guaranteed voting rights to former male slaves**

**Fourteenth Amendment**

**Thirteenth Amendment**

**Reconstruction  
amendments**

**Fifteenth Amendment**