

GRADE 4 TEST IN SOCIAL STUDIES

Note to the teacher. The following assessment items are offered to help grade 4 teachers determine how well their students are progressing toward mastery of the Social Studies Standards. All the questions are in the format and -- with the exception of some of the multiple-choice questions -- are at the level of difficulty that students will encounter on the new Grade 5 Test in Social Studies that will be administered for the first time in November 2000. Elementary teachers wrote the multiple-choice questions at a conference held in Cooperstown, New York, during the summer of 1998. The thematic essay was taken from the Social Studies Resource Guide. The constructed response items, presented here in 4 separate sections, and the document-based question, are questions that NYSED piloted in fifth grade classrooms across the state in 1998. Teachers should use these items in any fashion they wish to ascertain student progress toward meeting the standards. They do not have to construct a fourth grade social studies final exam, as such. It is sufficient for teachers to use these assessment items to classify students into one of the achievement levels described below.

Achievement Levels Grade 4

BASIC	PROFICIENT	ADVANCED
<p>Fourth-grade students performing at the basic level should be able to identify and describe a few of the most familiar people, places, events, ideas, and documents in American history. They should be able to explain the reasons for celebrating most national holidays, have some familiarity with the geography of their own state and the United States, and be able to express in writing a few ideas about a familiar theme in American history.</p>	<p>Fourth-grade students performing at the proficient level should be able to identify, describe, and comment on the significance of many historical people, places, ideas, events, and documents. They should interpret information from a variety of sources, including texts, maps, pictures, and timelines. They should be able to construct a simple timeline from data. These students should recognize the ways in which geographic and environmental factors have influenced life and work.</p>	<p>Fourth-grade students performing at the advanced level should have a beginning understanding of the relationships between people, places, ideas, events, and documents. They should know where to look for information, including reference books, maps, local museums, interviews with family and neighbors, and other sources. They should be able to use historical themes to organize and interpret historical topics, and to incorporate insights from beyond the classroom into their understanding of history. These students should understand and explain the role of invention and technological change in history. They should also understand and explain the ways in which geographic and environmental factors have influenced life and work.</p>

Multiple-choice

1. What is the name of our state?
 - 1 California
 - 2 Florida
 - 3 New York
 - 4 Canada
2. A symbol of the United States is:
 - 1 a turkey
 - 2 a rabbit
 - 3 a dinosaur
 - 4 an eagle
3. As a good citizen of our classroom, we should:
 - 1 follow rules and laws
 - 2 talk loud
 - 3 push in line
 - 4 stay home from school
4. Which is a model of the earth?
 - 1 a rocket ship
 - 2 a globe
 - 3 a video game
 - 4 a ball
5. What would be a good decision for your family?
 - 1 to buy the food and clothes you need
 - 2 to steal from a store
 - 3 to throw money in the garbage
 - 4 to buy every toy shown on TV
6. Who were the early inhabitants of New York State?
 - 1 Algonquin people
 - 2 Aztec people
 - 3 Cherokee people
 - 4 French-Canadian people
7. How do local governments have money to pay for the services they provide?
 - 1 have a garage sale
 - 2 collect taxes from families
 - 3 run grocery stores
 - 4 sell Beanie Babies
8. The written idea for a law is called:
 - 1 a petition
 - 2 an assembly
 - 3 a veto
 - 4 a bill
9. What was a person called who was the property of another person?
 - 1 a slave
 - 2 an indentured servant
 - 3 a merchant
 - 4 a tenant
10. "The Turning Point" of the Revolutionary War was:
 - 1 the Battle of Lexington and Concord
 - 2 the Battle of Stoney Point
 - 3 the Battle of Bunker Hill
 - 4 the Battle of Saratoga
11. This fastest and cheapest method of transporting goods in 1825 was:
 - 1 a horse and buggy
 - 2 a sled
 - 3 an airplane
 - 4 a canal line boat
12. The people who worked for a change of governments during the colonial period were called:
 - 1 Loyalists
 - 2 Patriots
 - 3 Redcoats
 - 4 Tories

13. The written plan of government for The United States is called the
 - 1 Mayflower Compact
 - 2 Declaration of Independence
 - 3 Constitution
 - 4 Albany Plan of Union
14. In 1624, which European country claimed what is now New York State?
 - 1 Netherlands
 - 2 France
 - 3 England
 - 4 Spain
15. Lines of latitude are called
 - 1 degrees
 - 2 parallels
 - 3 longitude
 - 4 meridians
16. What country was created as a result of the Revolutionary War?
 - 1 The Thirteen Colonies of America
 - 2 Canada
 - 3 The United States of America
 - 4 New England
17. The system of transportation created 1825 that connected the Hudson River to the Great Lakes is the
 - 1 St. Lawrence Seaway
 - 2 Great Western Turnpike
 - 3 Passenger steam train
 - 4 Erie Canal
18. The way of life that a group of people share including their beliefs, customs, and traditions is called
 - 1 culture
 - 2 economy
 - 3 government
 - 4 environment
19. The leader of Continental Army during the American Revolution was
 - 1 King George
 - 2 Thomas Jefferson
 - 3 Ben Franklin
 - 4 George Washington
20. What is a basic need for survival for all people?
 - 1 computers
 - 2 music
 - 3 money
 - 4 food
21. Which holiday does the U.S. celebrate its freedom from England?
 - 1 Thanksgiving
 - 2 Veteran's Day
 - 3 Independence Day
 - 4 Memorial Day
22. On which continent is the United States located?
 - 1 Europe
 - 2 North America
 - 3 South America
 - 4 New York

Constructed Response Questions

Student Name _____ Date _____

To the student:

This is a test in social studies. Some of the questions are easy and some may be difficult. Do the best you can on each question. You will have about 45 minutes to work on this test.

Write your answers to all the questions on this test in the spaces provided in this test booklet. You may use pen or pencil to write your answers.

Document-Based Question

Student Name _____ Date _____

To the student:

This is a test to find out how well you think and write in social studies. You will have about one-and-a-half-hours to work on this test.

This test booklet contains one composition question. You may use pen or pencil to write your answers. Write all answers in this test booklet.

In preparing your composition, you must take the following steps:

1. Answer Part A, the notes.
2. Write your first draft in the test booklet. Include details, examples, or reasons in your composition to explain your notes in Part A.
3. Read carefully what you have written.
4. Make any changes that will improve your first draft.
5. Write your final copy on a separate answer sheet.
6. Read your final copy before you hand it in to make sure you have not made any copying mistakes.