

Chapter 1

Inquiry and the Social Studies

Who has walked the same streets as you? Who has lived where you live? What was there before your school was built? Why did people build the town where you live? Who were the leaders and decision-makers? How have people in your area satisfied their needs and wants? How has the location of your area affected people's decisions about how to live their lives? How can this information be used to build a better life for people today? Inquiry is asking these types of questions to acquire information. These are some of the many types of questions that may be asked in this class called social studies.

You have probably taken a class called social studies in an earlier grade. But have you ever asked yourself: What is social studies? Social studies is a class designed to help you become an effective citizen in your community, state, and nation. The goal of the class is to give you the knowledge and skills to ask and answer questions so you can make good decisions in a democratic society. You need knowledge and skills to understand information, think about different points of view and outcomes, and make choices based on your thinking. Social studies also prepares you to ask questions (inquiry) and then make and defend claims with evidence.

Background: The Old Louisiana State Capitol.

This class brings together several areas of study from the social sciences that focus on people, their lives, their societies, and their culture. Studying social sciences means learning history, geography, political science, economics, and more!

To understand events and problems in today's world, and to find solutions to these problems, citizens like you need information and the skills to use that information to make good decisions. One of the ways you will benefit from the knowledge and skills you gain in this social studies course is the ability to become the best citizen you can be.

CHAPTER PREVIEW

TERMS:

history, historian, geography, environment, absolute location, latitude, longitude, relative location, human geography, physical geography, geographer, political science, politics, government, political scientist, economics, scarcity, trade, specialization, economist

"No office in the land is more important than that of being a citizen."

– **Felix Frankfurter**
(1882–1965), justice of the United States Supreme Court

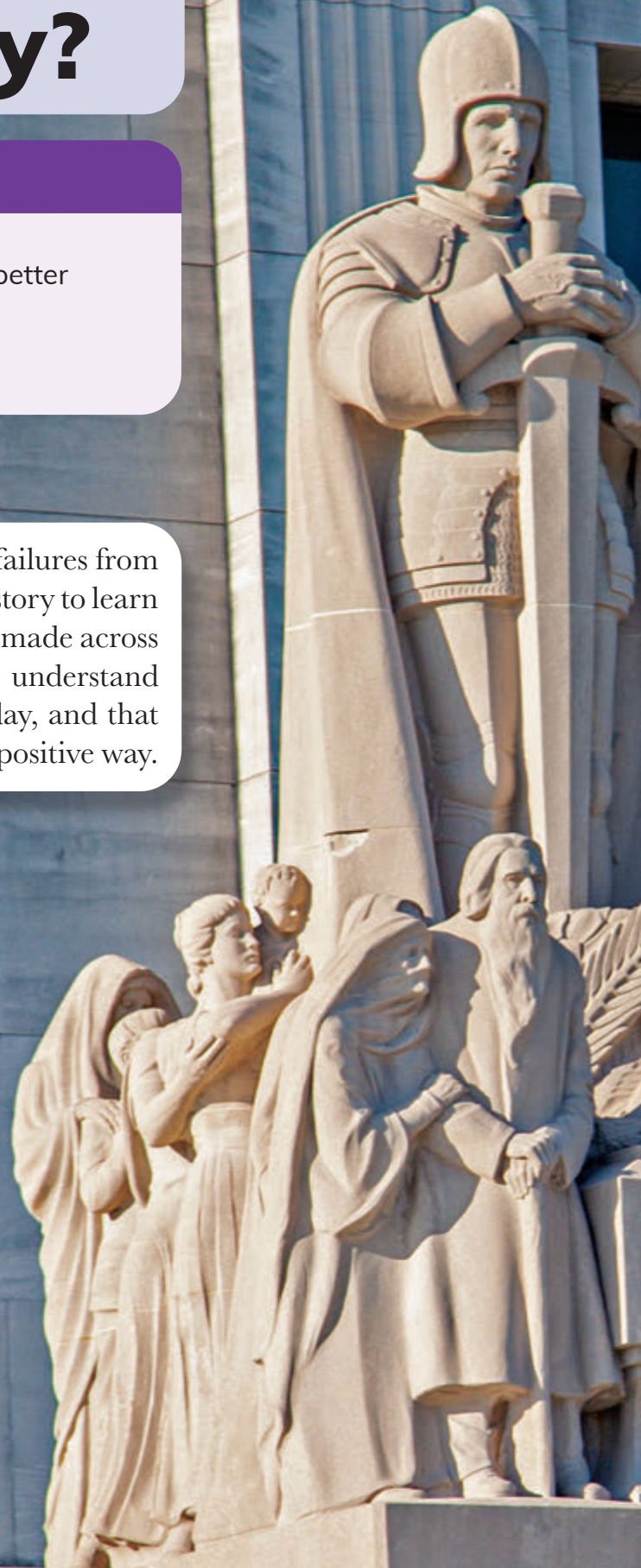
SECTION 1

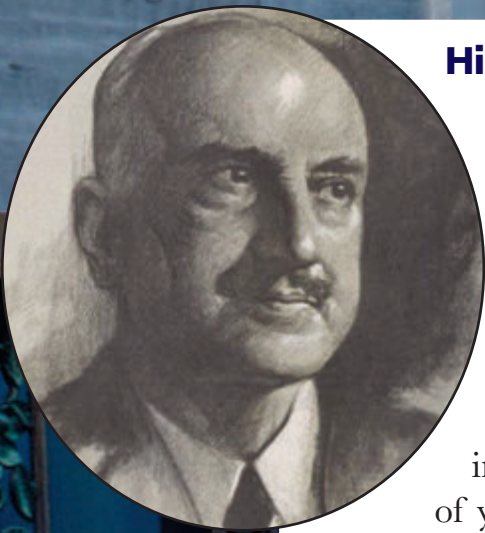
What Is History?

 As you read, look for...

- » an explanation of the study of history;
- » how studying history can help people make better decisions;
- » questions asked by historians;
- » terms: **history, historian.**

History is the story of the successes and failures from the past that shaped our world. We study history to learn about events and the decisions people have made across time that shaped who we are today. If we understand our past, we can make better decisions today, and that will help us move into the future in a more positive way.





History and Decision-Making

Studying history means learning about decisions that people have made over time. The Spanish-American philosopher George Santayana wrote, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.” A simple example is this: You and your family visit a shoe store to buy shoes. You find the store to be messy and disorganized. When you decide to try on a pair of shoes you like, the clerks are unhelpful in finding your size. If you did not remember this bit of your family’s history, you might end up at the same store in the future and have another bad experience. On the other hand, when you have a good experience at a store, your family may remember it and choose to visit the same place again. Your family’s past experiences affect their decisions now and in the future.

A part of history is learning about decisions people have made, and how those decisions have affected events, issues, and movements. That includes learning about failed decisions (so we do not repeat those mistakes today) and decisions that made life better for people, their country, and the world. In other words, one reason to study history is the hope that we do not repeat the mistakes of our ancestors and have a better world now and moving forward.

History Preview

This textbook has information on the beginnings of our state, Louisiana, and our country, the United States of America, from 1791 to 1877. Learning the history of our state and country provides the information you need for inquiry and decision-making as a citizen today. The book contains the stories of some important people, places, and events that shaped our state and country.

Background: The Patriots sculpture at the entrance of the Louisiana State Capitol. **Above:** George Santayana.

The First Years

George Washington, who served as president from 1789 to 1797, led our country in its earliest years. The country was forging a new path. Unlike most of the world, our country would have a government led by elected citizens following the structure of a written constitution. President Washington realized that this approach to government was new and untested. Each of his decisions would affect not only the people of his time but also the nation's future citizens. During Washington's two terms in office, the nation grew and expanded its territory. It faced conflicts with native peoples on its borders and potential conflicts with the Spanish, the French, and the British. There were also conflicts within the country as people worked out the best way for the nation to operate successfully.

Louisiana Purchase

In 1803, the United States nearly doubled in size when France sold its claim on Louisiana to the United States. The Louisiana Purchase became one of the most important events of Thomas Jefferson's presidency. It was also important for the people of Louisiana because it led to the formation of the state of Louisiana in 1812.



Regional Differences

With the addition of the Louisiana territory, settlers began to move westward in search of land and opportunity. This migration caused increasing conflict with indigenous people living on the land and eventually resulted in the displacement of many of them. As more people moved west, more states were added, and the country continued to grow through the 1800s.

During this time, the northern states adopted new inventions to add industries to their economy. In the South, the plantation economy expanded. Many southern states came to depend on the cotton crops grown by enslaved people to expand their economies. Louisiana's location encouraged the addition of sugar plantations that also depended on the labor of enslaved people.

Regional differences grew as the country expanded. In the South, slave labor and the racist views that supported it were seen as essential for survival. But a growing number of people in the non-slave states rejected the practice of slavery because it was inhumane and at odds with the ideals upon which the country was founded.

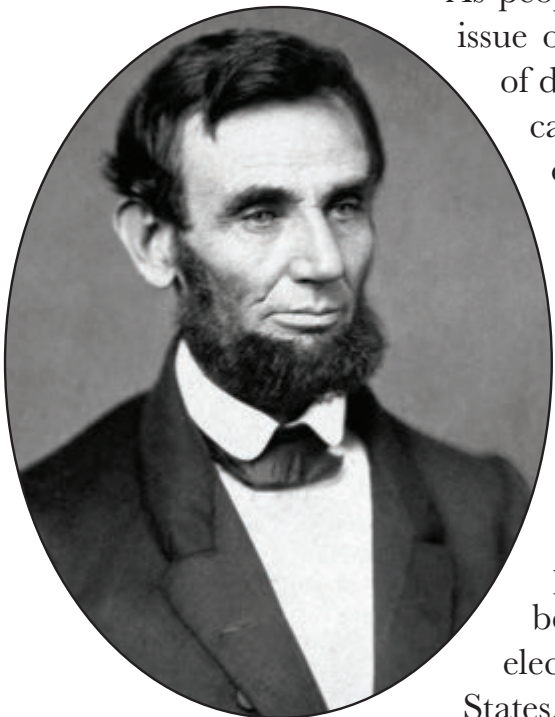


Opposite Page: George Washington delivered his inaugural address on April 30, 1789, in New York City's Old City Hall. **Above:** Cotton became the number one cash crop in many southern states.



Civil War and Reconstruction

As people in the North and South disagreed over the issue of slavery, they began to see themselves as part of distinct sections of the country. The outcome was called sectionalism. Eventually, the disagreement over slavery that caused sectionalism led to the outbreak of civil war in 1861. Abraham Lincoln was elected president in 1860, but he did not win any southern states where slavery was legal. Lincoln considered slavery a “monstrous injustice,” but it was such a central part of the South’s society and culture that those who held slaves, or aspired to, found it impossible to imagine giving up their access to enslaved people on whom the section’s economy had become dependent. Within a month of Lincoln’s election, South Carolina seceded from the United States. More southern states, including Louisiana, did the same. The seceded states formed the Confederate States of America, and by April 1861, the country was at war with itself.



Top: The Civil War Battle of Antietam. **Above:** President Abraham Lincoln. **Opposite Page, Top:** African America Civil War Memorial, in Washington, D.C. **Opposite Page, Bottom:** After the Civil War, women traveled to the South to educate former slaves.



For four years, the American Civil War raged. The war ended with a Union victory and, eventually, freedom for all enslaved people. However, the cost was high. Estimates are that nearly three quarters of a million people lost their lives. The destruction of bridges, factories, and railroads disrupted the economy of the southern states for decades and led to shortages of goods and the cash to purchase them.

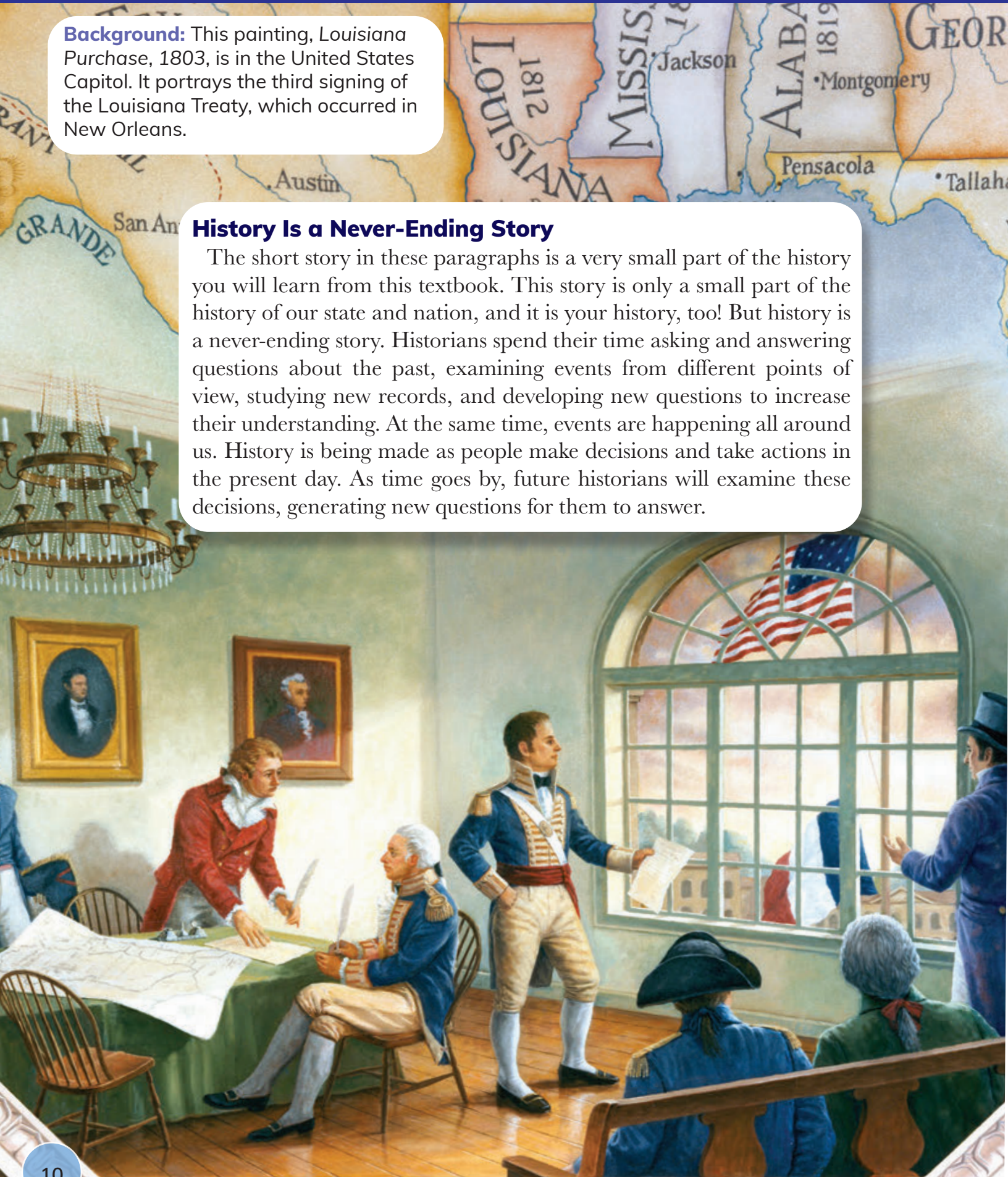
To bring the rebel states back into the Union and help them rebuild, the country entered a period known as Reconstruction. During this time, Congress passed laws to assist the poor and to provide rights and resources for those who had been enslaved but were now free. During Reconstruction, there were attempts to make the formerly enslaved into fully equal citizens, but racism endured and helped to create inequalities that would persist into the 20th century.



Background: This painting, *Louisiana Purchase, 1803*, is in the United States Capitol. It portrays the third signing of the Louisiana Treaty, which occurred in New Orleans.

History Is a Never-Ending Story

The short story in these paragraphs is a very small part of the history you will learn from this textbook. This story is only a small part of the history of our state and nation, and it is your history, too! But history is a never-ending story. Historians spend their time asking and answering questions about the past, examining events from different points of view, studying new records, and developing new questions to increase their understanding. At the same time, events are happening all around us. History is being made as people make decisions and take actions in the present day. As time goes by, future historians will examine these decisions, generating new questions for them to answer.



LOUISIANA PURCHASE, 1803

Inquiry

As you study history, you learn many facts. But history is more than facts! Learning history means learning to ask and answer questions like a **historian** (a person who is an expert or student of the past). Historians may study a particular period of time, an area of the world, a person, or a group of people and their activities and/or culture. To become an expert, historians ask and answer questions such as the following:

- » What happened?
- » Where did it take place?
- » When did it happen?
- » What were the causes?
- » What were the effects?
- » Who were the people involved? How were they interacting?
- » What evidence is available to explain what happened?
- » What story might be told from an event?
- » What questions need to be answered?
- » Are there multiple points of view?
- » How might things be different today?

When you learn about a person, place, movement, or event in the past, you can ask and answer similar questions. You will begin thinking like a historian!

REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. Which of the social sciences focuses on the events and people from the past?
2. How can studying history help people make better decisions?
3. What is the purpose of the questions asked by historians?
4. Describe a time when you learned something from your own or another person's success or failure that helped you make a better decision.

SECTION 2

What Is Geography?

🔍 *As you read, look for...*

- » the five themes of geography;
- » the difference between absolute and relative location;
- » characteristics that are part of human geography;
- » the importance of studying the relationship between people and their environment;
- » terms: **geography, environment, absolute location, latitude, longitude, relative location, human geography, physical geography, geographer.**

The study of **geography** is the study of our surroundings—the physical features that describe places on Earth and how people make decisions about adapting to their **environment** (surroundings). The study of geography may be described by five themes. These themes help us understand our world. The themes are location, place, human/environment interaction, movement, and regions.

Theme 1 – Location: Position on Earth’s Surface

Location describes where a place is on Earth. It can be described in two different ways: absolute location and relative location. **Absolute location** uses a grid system such as latitude and longitude to find the exact location of a place on Earth. **Latitude** is an imaginary line that measures a location’s distance north or south of the equator. **Longitude** is an imaginary line that measures a location’s distance east or west of the prime meridian. For example, the coordinates of our nation’s capital, Washington, DC, are 38.9072° north latitude and 77.0369° west longitude. On the other hand, **relative location** is a location described by where it is in relation, or compared, to somewhere else. For example, Washington, DC, is about 1,000 miles northeast of our state capital, Baton Rouge. Another example of relative location is this: Louisiana is east of the state of Texas.

Background: When viewed from space, Earth has been described as a big blue marble.



Theme 2 – Place: Physical and Human Characteristics

All places have physical and human characteristics that make them unique. Places can be defined by **human geography** characteristics that include languages spoken, customs practiced, and belief systems. For example, in the United States, English is the dominant language. Other languages are spoken, but English is by far the most common. Even with the common language of English, however, there is diversity in how people live. Customs, traditions, and even accents differ in different parts of the country. This makes each place special and unique.

By the Numbers

New Orleans is about 4,100 miles south of the North Pole, and 8,300 miles north of the South Pole.

MAP 1.1 SKILL

What is the purpose of the two small maps in the bottom-left corner of the map?

MAP 1.1
THE UNITED STATES





Above: The bayou region of Louisiana is associated with Acadian cultural groups. **Opposite Page, Top:** This plowed field near Natchez is ready for planting. **Opposite Page, Bottom:** Louisiana ranks second in the country in seafood production.

Places can also be described by **physical geography** characteristics that include landforms, climate, vegetation, and other natural characteristics. When learning about a place, it is important to understand the relationship between culture and location. The bayou region of Louisiana, for instance, is a geographic feature of the coast of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River Delta. Water and wetlands define this region, which is associated with Acadian cultural groups, setting it apart from other regions of the state.

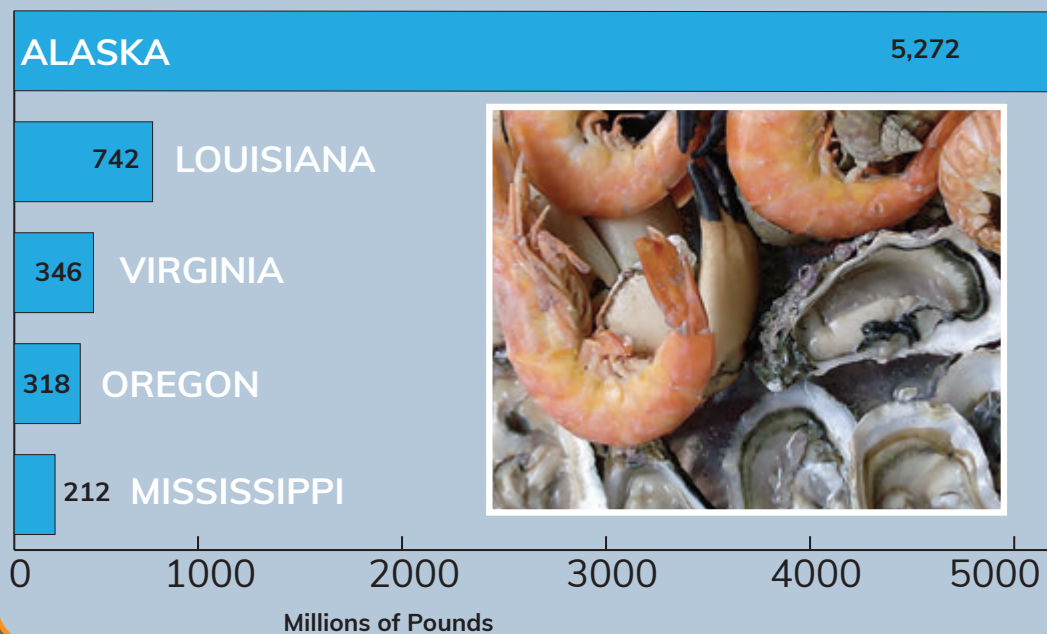
Theme 3 – Human/Environment Interaction: Shaping the Landscape

This theme describes how people make decisions about interacting with their environment and how the environment responds. For example, sugarcane is one of the most suitable crops for the climate and soil of South Louisiana. This crop has been important to the history of the state. People have cleared many acres of forest, tilled the soil, and sometimes added irrigation to help grow healthy crops. However, the state sometimes has droughts (times with little rainfall), which damage or kill sugarcane. In times of drought, Louisianans must decide whether to water the crops or store the water to supply the drinking water needs of the people.



In this short example, we see humans making choices about how to live and interact with the environment. This is an example of humans adapting the landscape to fit their needs, but there can be negative consequences. Clearing land can cause erosion that washes away fertile soil. Animals and plants in a region can suffer from loss of habitat. There can be short-term and long-term consequences to decisions humans make about how they choose to live in their environment.

FIGURE 1.1
Top States for Seafood Production (2021)



By the Numbers

There are about 30,000 farms in Louisiana according to the Louisiana State University Agricultural Center. The average farm is about 370 acres.

In 2021, Louisiana's farmers grew over \$1.5 billion worth of rice and soybeans.

Below: Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport moves people and their ideas throughout the country and the world.

Theme 4 – Movement: People and Ideas Travel

Movement is when people, goods, and ideas travel from one location to another. An example is when the European countries began to explore other parts of the world, creating colonies and spreading their languages, culture, and religion called Christianity. Inventions like the airplane have allowed people and goods to move quickly between nations and across continents in the 21st century. The invention of the Internet has allowed ideas to spread through social media websites because people can communicate easily with others from all around the world.

The movement of people can happen quickly in today's world. However, travel in the past was much slower. In 1800, a traveler could expect the journey from New York City to New Orleans to take four to five weeks. Today, a traveler can make this trip in less than three hours by commercial aircraft. It would take about twenty hours by car!



Theme 5 – Regions: How They Form and Change

Regions are areas with distinctive human and/or physical characteristics. In other words, a region is any unit of space that is united by the presence of some common characteristic. For example, Louisiana can be described as part of the “Deep South” states. The states in the Deep South are among the most southern in the United States and share a history and culture somewhat different than the other states in the Union. Deep South states were known in the 1800s for their dependence on plantations that grew cash crops using enslaved people as labor. Citizens of the Deep South have worked over the past 150 years to overcome poverty, improve civil rights, and increase the level of education for their people. Good soil and a warm climate continue to support agriculture in the economy. The region is known for its distinctive foods and flavors and the variety of “southern accents” found among its people.

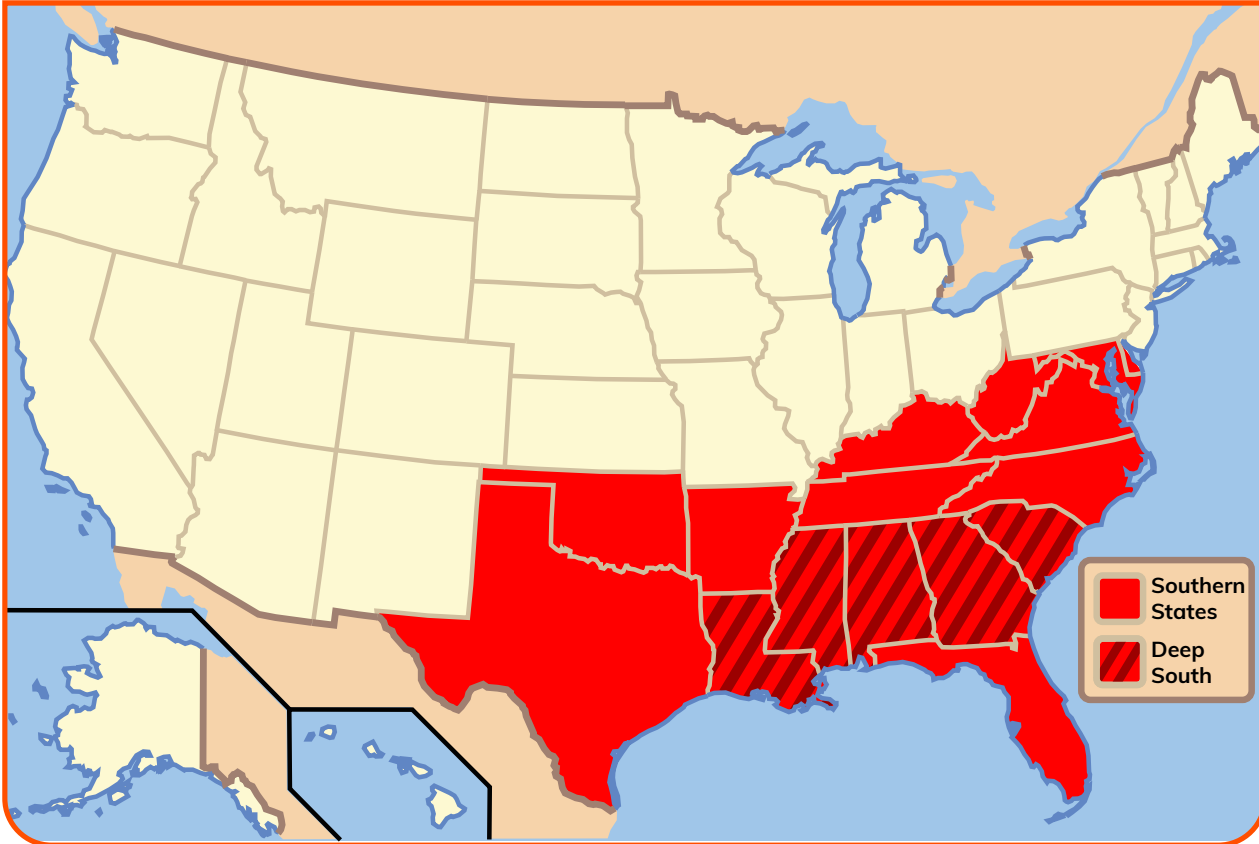
MAP 1.2 SKILL

What two buildings are at opposite ends of Pennsylvania Avenue?

MAP 1.2
WASHINGTON, DC



MAP 1.3
THE SOUTHERN STATES



MAP 1.3 SKILL

Which of these southern states are part of the “Deep South”?

It is important to remember that regions are different from countries. Regions usually involve an area that includes partial or whole countries or can be found across more than one country.

In this book, you will learn about the geographic decisions people have made over time and how these decisions have shaped the world you live in today. You will learn where people, places, and resources are and why they are there. You will also explore the relationship between humans and the environment. As you study cultural diversity, you will learn how humans create, learn, share, and adapt. You will also learn how culture has shaped our lives and society, as well as the lives and societies of others. The study of geography helps us understand that where we live affects how we live.

Inquiry

As you study geography, you learn many facts about different places. But geography is more than facts! Learning geography means learning to ask and answer questions like a geographer. A **geographer** is a person who is an expert on the physical features of Earth and its atmosphere. But geographers also study ways that humans affect, and are affected by, these features. To become an expert, geographers ask and answer questions such as the following:

- » Where did it happen?
- » How does location affect events?
- » What borders or boundaries have people created?
- » How does where people live affect how people live?
- » How do movement and migration change people, land, or culture?
- » How do people use Earth's resources?

When you learn about how people are affected by the places where they live and the effect of people on those places, you can ask and answer questions similar to these. You will begin thinking like a geographer!

REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. What are the five themes of geography?
2. What is the difference between absolute and relative location?
3. What are examples of characteristics that are part of human geography?
4. Why is it important to study the relationship between people and their environment?
5. What is one way geography affects how you live your life?

SECTION 3

What Is Political Science?

🔍 *As you read, look for...*

- » why people study government;
- » the three parts of political science;
- » the importance of civic education;
- » terms: **political science, politics, government, political scientist.**

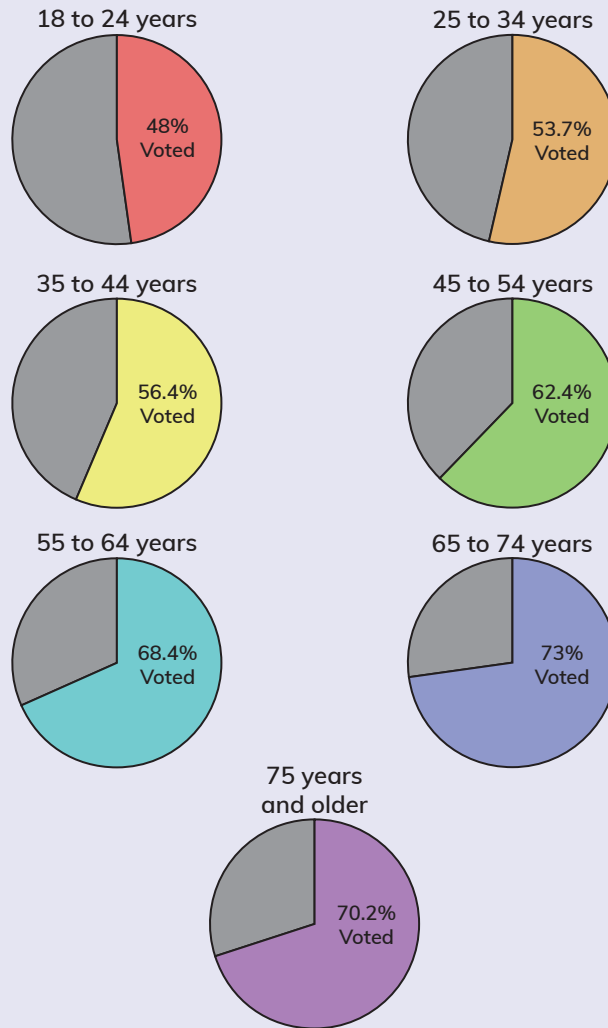
Political science is the study of different types of governments. Once you understand different types of governments, you will begin to understand the decisions different governments make in the hope of helping their citizens. We can think of political science as having three main parts: civic life, politics, and government.

Civic Life

You can think of your own life as both public and personal. You have a public (civic) life when you are living out in the world, going to school, shopping, participating in sporting events, or going to church. Your personal life is that part of your life you spend alone or with your family. As a citizen of Louisiana and the United States, you will make, or help to make, decisions that affect others around you. Civic life looks at how citizens' decisions affect the local community. This includes voting for a candidate in an election or running for office. On the other hand, private or personal life includes decisions that people make about their personal interests, like making the decision about what to eat for lunch.



FIGURE 1.2
Percent of Registered Voters, by Age Group, Who Voted in the 2020 Election in Louisiana



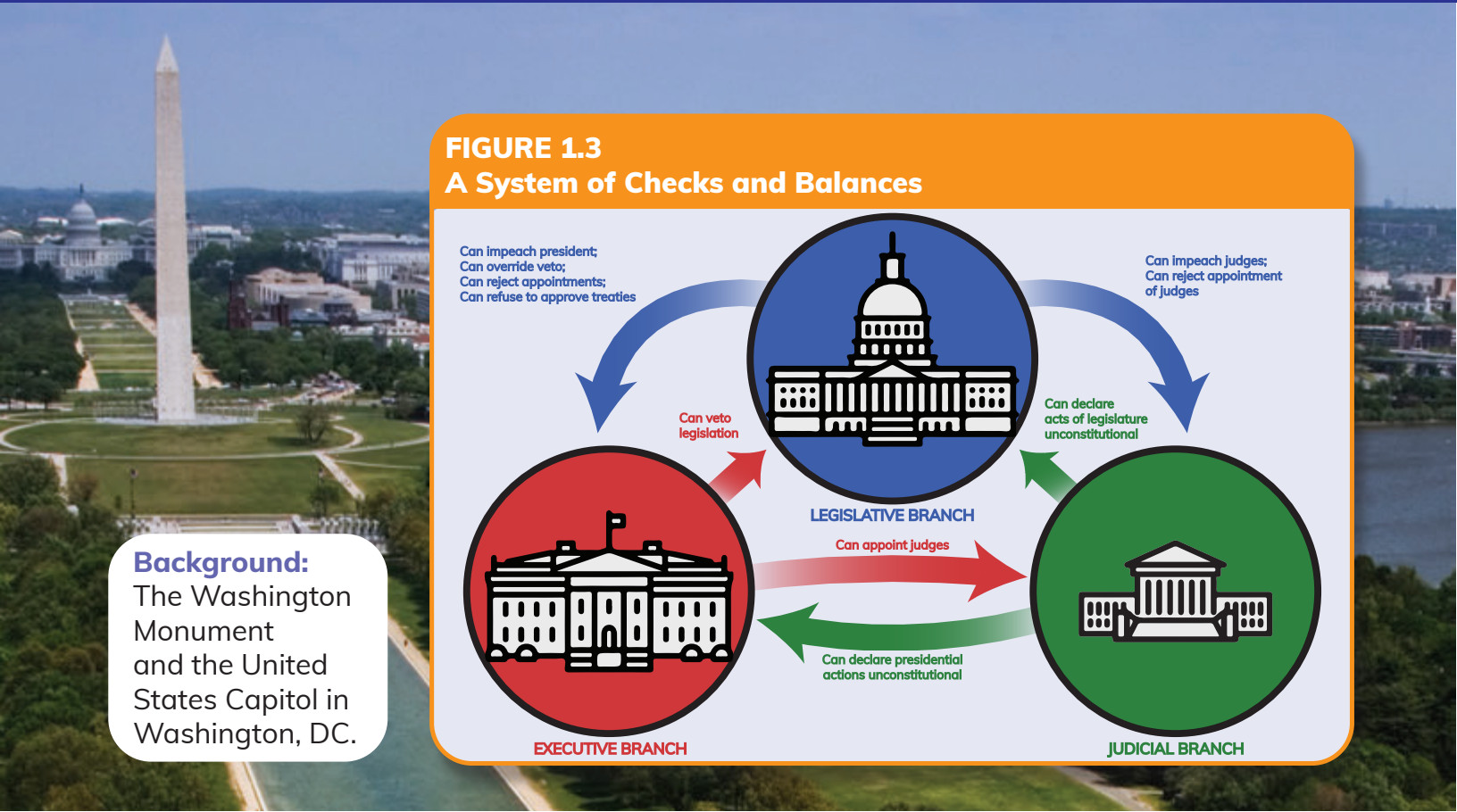
Background: Voters wait in line to cast their vote.

By the Numbers

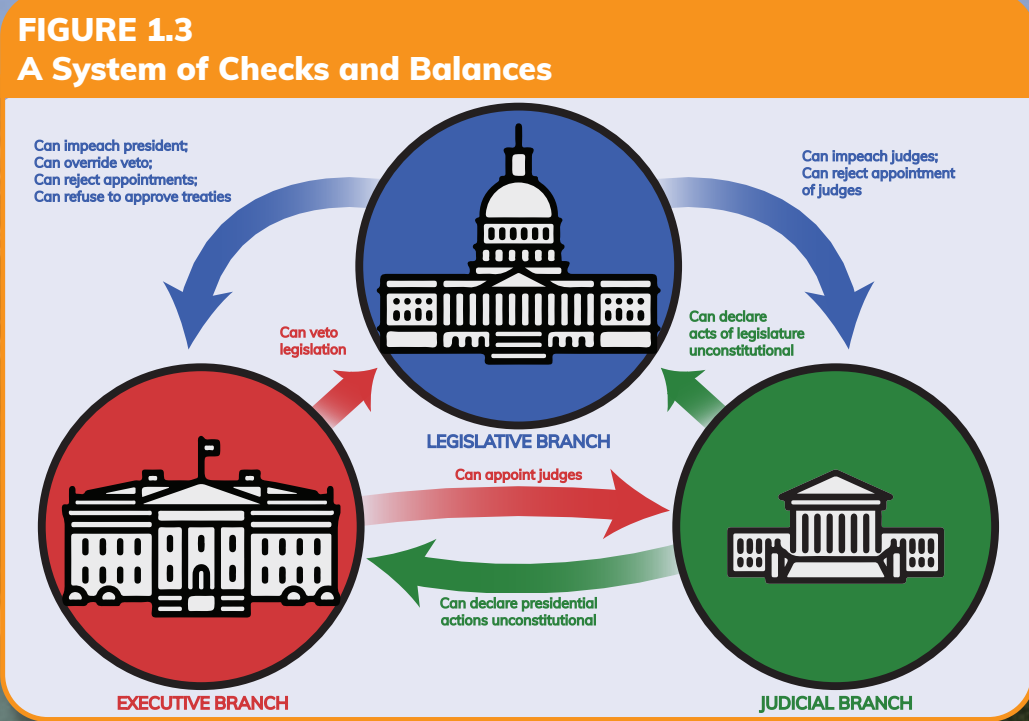
In 2022, about 66 percent of Louisiana's population was registered to vote.

Politics

Politics is a process through which people with different opinions can reach decisions that are agreed to and enforced. Every social group—family, schools, clubs, and governments—is engaged in politics. Political life helps people accomplish goals they could not reach by themselves. Sometimes people think of politics in a negative way. They imagine that politics is just another name for people arguing. Politics is necessary, though, in our community, state, and nation. People have different experiences, beliefs, and traditions. Each of these affects the decisions we make. In governments where people vote on issues, or where people elect leaders to make decisions, politics is important. It is through politics that voices can be heard and issues can be debated. In politics, individuals do not make decisions alone. Instead, through politics, citizens can have an active role in their governments.



Background:
The Washington Monument and the United States Capitol in Washington, DC.



Government

The final part of political science is government. **Government** is made up of the people and institutions in a society that have the authority to make, carry out, and enforce laws, as well as settle disputes. Most government decisions are focused on the distribution of resources in a society, as well as the allocation of benefits and burdens and the management of conflict.

It is important for citizens to understand that people have different opinions and views about civic life, politics, and government. Citizens must be able to make informed, or educated, decisions about their government and what their government should and should not do. Citizens must also be able to make decisions about how they live their lives together and how they can support the proper use of power in the government. It is very important for citizens to understand civic ideals and practices so they can fully participate in society. Such awareness is an essential part of citizenship in a democratic society.

One important part of citizenship education is understanding the relationship between historical events and government. In this textbook, you will learn about the purposes and functions of government at the start of the new nation of the United States. Your study will examine the power, duties, and responsibilities exercised at each level of government, as well as actions in the three branches of government. This knowledge will help you understand the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy and the importance of being an active citizen in your country.

Inquiry

As you learn more about **civic life**, politics, and government, you will learn many facts. But political science is more than facts! Learning political science means learning to ask and answer questions like a **political scientist**, a person who is an expert in the study of government and politics. To become an expert, political scientists ask and answer questions such as the following:

- » Who are the leaders?
- » How were they chosen?
- » How are rules or laws made and enforced?
- » What is the role of the citizen?
- » How does a good citizen behave?
- » How do people work together?
- » What kind of government exists?
- » How is power distributed?

When you learn about civic life, governments, and politics, you can ask and answer similar questions. You will begin thinking like a political scientist!

REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. Why do people study government?
2. What are three parts of political science?
3. Why is civic education important to citizens of our state and country?
4. Describe a time when people you know were involved in politics in some way. What did they hope to accomplish by their involvement?

SECTION 4

What Is Economics?

🔍 *As you read, look for...*

- » why people study economics;
- » the role scarcity and specialization play in trade;
- » why people and countries trade with each other;
- » terms: **economics, scarcity, trade, specialization, economist.**

Economics is the study of how decisions are made about how to allocate, or distribute, limited resources to satisfy our unlimited wants. Resources are limited; therefore, people cannot have all the goods and services they want. Because resources are limited, individuals, groups, and societies all experience **scarcity** (when demand exceeds the supply of a good or service). As a result, people must choose some things and give up others. Effective economic decision-making requires a person to compare the additional costs of alternatives, or choices, with the additional benefits.

Trade

Trade is the voluntary exchange of goods and services among people and countries. Trade occurs because of scarcity and specialization. **Specialization** is when an individual or country focuses on producing the goods and services they can make best and trading for what they are unable to produce. Scarcity and specialization lead to trade among individuals or organizations within a country, as well as individuals or organizations between different countries. In this book, you will find examples of how people in Louisiana and the United States have dealt with scarcity, learned to specialize in what they can best produce, and then engaged in trade to get other goods and services they need or want.



Background: The Mississippi River is an important highway for the distribution of goods like oil and gas.
Above: This artist specializes in producing distinctive artworks that he hopes consumers will want to buy.

Production, Distribution, and Consumption

Production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services are key steps in the economic process. Production has to do with using resources to create goods or services. During the 19th century, a revolution occurred in manufacturing. Goods that were once produced by hand began to be produced more quickly and cheaply by machines. Distribution involves transporting goods from where they are produced to a market. In the 19th century, inventions such as the steamship and railroad, and improvements to roads and bridges, increased the speed at which goods could be delivered to market. Consumption is the use of goods and services by consumers. This is usually the final step in the economic process. During the 19th century, the overall wealth of the United States increased, which increased the demand for goods and services that people could not provide for themselves.

As you study the history of this period, think about the role of trade and the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services in the decisions people made. You can also think about the role of these economic issues today. They were as important to Americans in the 19th century as they are in the 21st.

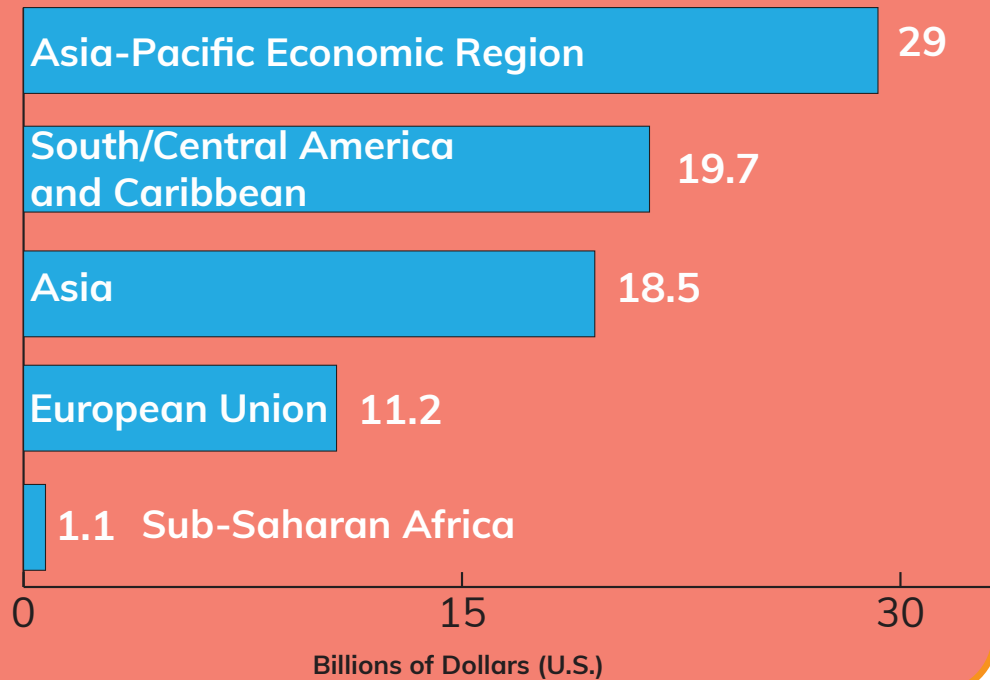
By the Numbers

Louisiana exported \$67.3 billion in goods to international markets in 2018.

About 129,000 people in Louisiana earned a living creating goods for export in 2016.



FIGURE 1.4
Export Regions for Louisiana Goods (2018)



Top: Louisiana products are exported to all regions of the world.

This chapter introduced you to the idea that social studies is more than just one subject in school. It is an area of study that brings together experts from at least four areas: history, geography, political science, and economics. As you study Louisiana and the United States from these points of view, you will have a better understanding of our past, present, and future.

Inquiry

As you study economics, you learn many facts. But economics is more than facts! Learning economics means learning to ask and answer questions like an **economist**, a person who is an expert on the choices people and societies make about the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. Economists ask and answer questions such as the following:

- » What do people produce?
- » How do they produce?
- » For whom do they produce?
- » When do they produce?
- » How do people get the goods and services they want?
- » How do people satisfy their needs and wants?
- » How does scarcity affect people's lives?
- » How do people earn income?
- » What types of exchanges or trade occur?

When you start thinking about how people use their limited, or scarce, resources, you are thinking like an economist.

When you ask and answer questions about how goods are produced and how they are distributed, you are thinking like an economist. When you ask and answer questions about the choices people make as they satisfy their wants and needs, you are thinking like an economist.

REVIEW AND SUMMARIZE

1. What is economics?
2. Why are scarcity and specialization important to understanding global economics?
3. Why do countries choose to trade with each other?
4. Describe a time when you have exchanged a good or service with someone in order to satisfy a want or need in your life.

Special Feature

Oliver Pollock

Politics, economics, social issues, and geography all play a part in a person's life. That is one of the reasons to study social studies. This feature briefly describes the life of Oliver Pollock, a long-time New Orleans resident. As you read, think about how history, economics, geography, and civics each played a part in his life.

Pollock was born in Ireland in 1737. At this time, the British ruled the country. In his early life, he survived several particularly brutal winters and famine, which killed nearly 500,000 Irish people. In 1760, Pollock sought an opportunity to improve his life by moving to Pennsylvania, a British colony. He became a sea captain and successful merchant and began trading wheat flour from the colony with the Spaniards in Cuba and other countries. Wheat flour was important for making bread and other foods. He spent several years engaging in profitable trade before moving to the lower Mississippi valley in 1768. His friendship with a Spanish general within the area meant he was able to increase his profits by avoiding trade restrictions. Because Pollock was a British citizen and a friend of the Spanish general, he could access both areas for trade and took advantage of his situation. He eventually purchased several plantations where he grew corn, indigo, rice, and tobacco.

When the American Revolution started in 1775, Pollock was a wealthy man. He threw his support behind the Americans. Pollock convinced his friends in Spanish Louisiana to secretly support the American war effort. The Spanish sent blankets, gunpowder, medicines, and weapons. Pollock used his wealth and connections to make New Orleans a base of operations for Americans, sending goods upriver to the Patriots using the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. He was so successful, Congress named him their commercial agent in the city in 1777. He participated in several raids and used his money to support the war effort. It was around this time that some say he created the dollar (\$) symbol that Americans use today. He also led a group of American volunteers, alongside the Spanish governor of Louisiana, Bernardo de Gálvez, to remove the British from West Florida.

Background: This sculpture of Oliver Pollock was installed in 1979 at Gálvez Plaza in Baton Rouge. It is one of the few images (perhaps the only image) of this man who supported the Americans in their Revolutionary War.



His enthusiasm eventually lost him his fortune, and by 1781, his wealth was gone. He traveled to Philadelphia to petition Congress to fulfill their financial commitments to him, but it took over 30 years to receive what he was owed. In 1782, he declared bankruptcy. The following year, he moved to Cuba, where he briefly served as a commercial representative of the United States. Then he was imprisoned for failing to pay his debts to the Spanish government and many wealthy people in New Orleans. He spent the next few years rebuilding his fortune and eventually returned to the United States, where he continued to request that Congress repay him for his loans supporting the Revolutionary War. After an unsuccessful political run, he retired to his Tunica Plantation in Pinckneyville, Mississippi. He is an example of many people of British ancestry living and working in Louisiana and the lower Mississippi region under the rule of France, Spain, and, eventually, the United States.

Chapter Review

CHAPTER SUMMARY

Section 1: What Is History?

- History is the study of how people in the past lived and the decisions they made. These past decisions have shaped our world today.
- Studying history helps us understand our world and make better decisions based on examples from the past. Understanding the stories of our past helps us understand the present and make decisions about the future.
- Our country and our state have a history of people who came from many parts of the world.

Section 2: What Is Geography?

- Geography is the study of the physical features of Earth. It also studies how humans adapt to these places.
- Location (a position on Earth's surface) can be described as an absolute location or a relative location.
- Place describes the unique human and physical characteristics of an area.
- Human/environment interaction describes how humans adapt to or change physical environments and how people's decisions shape the environment and human lifestyles.
- Movement is when people, goods, and ideas travel from one location to another.
- A region is an area with a distinct human and/or physical characteristic that does not necessarily follow political boundaries.

Section 3: What Is Political Science?

- Political science is the study of different types of governments.
- Civic life examines how citizens' decisions affect their local community and its choices.
- Politics is the process by which people with different opinions reach decisions and agree on enforceable rules.
- Government is the people and institutions with the authority (power) to make, carry out, and enforce laws and to settle disputes.

Section 4: What Is Economics?

- Economics is the study of how decisions are made to distribute limited resources to satisfy people's unlimited wants.
- Scarcity (a lack of products and services) and specialization (mainly producing your best product) encourage domestic and international trade.
- Trade is the voluntary exchange of goods and services among people or countries.
- Today, countries are interdependent because of a global economy formed from many international trade deals.

Below: Streetcars move people along Canal Street in New Orleans.

Opposite Page: Shreveport is Louisiana's third most populous city.



ACTIVITIES FOR LEARNING

Vocabulary

On sticky notes or index cards, create a word map for six of the terms listed below:

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| economics | latitude |
| environment | longitude |
| geography | political science |
| government | politics |
| history | scarcity |

For each term, your word map will include:

- The vocabulary word/term
- The term's definition
- A synonym
- A sentence from the text using that word.

Understanding the Facts

- What is the purpose of studying the social studies?
- Broadly speaking, what two types of stories does history tell about the past?
- How much was the United States enlarged by the Louisiana Purchase?
- How long did the Civil War last?
- What are the five themes of geography?
- For which crop are South Louisiana's soil and climate particularly suited?
- Which region (including Louisiana) is the most southern in the United States?
- What are the three parts of political science?
- Broadly speaking, what three things do governments have the authority to do?
- How did the production of goods change in the 19th century?

Developing Critical Thinking

- In your opinion, which topics should be studied to best prepare you to be a responsible and knowledgeable citizen?
- Political science is also often closely connected to the use of power. How is power used in civic life, politics, and government? Write a three-sentence response.
- Finish this sentence stem: "Geography is about ..." Be sure to use **two** of these three terms (*environment*, *location*, and/or *movement*) in your sentence.

Writing across the Curriculum

Think about the last time you purchased a good or service. Write a paragraph description of this decision by answering four questions economists often ask: Why did you decide to purchase this good or service? Was this good or service a need or a want? Was the supply of this good or service scarce or plentiful? How do you think the supply of this good or service affected the price? Be sure to write a complete sentence in response to each of the economics-related questions.

Applying Your Skills

Select two different types of social scientists (historians, geographers, political scientists, and economists). Then, write two paragraphs comparing how these two social scientists go about making decisions in their discipline.

Exploring Technology

Watch the video (7:08) "Why Is History Important?" as found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LT6vkZT1tmw>. Then, list at least six reasons history is important.

