

Due on Monday

Unit 5 Mini-Lesson 44-16

Social Studies



Why do we study social studies?

In social studies, people learn about the people in our world and how they relate to one another. Learning these things helps give people the intellectual skills they need to be a functioning member of society and get along with a variety of people.

Why do we study government and citizenship?

We study government and citizenship so we understand the organization and rules of the government under which we live. We learn how we can better regulate ourselves and participate in the process.

Why do we study geography?

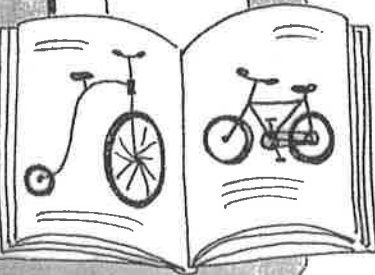
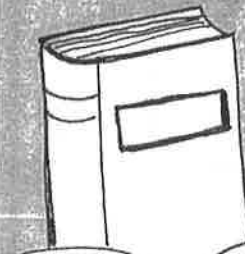
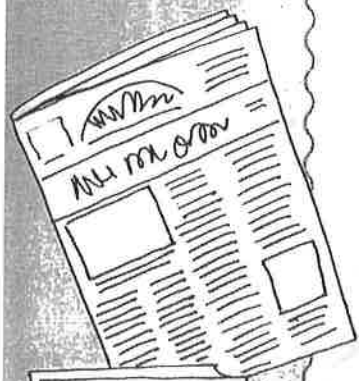
The study of geography helps us understand the world we live in and its systems. We learn the similarities and differences between people in other lands, so as to better understand our own land.

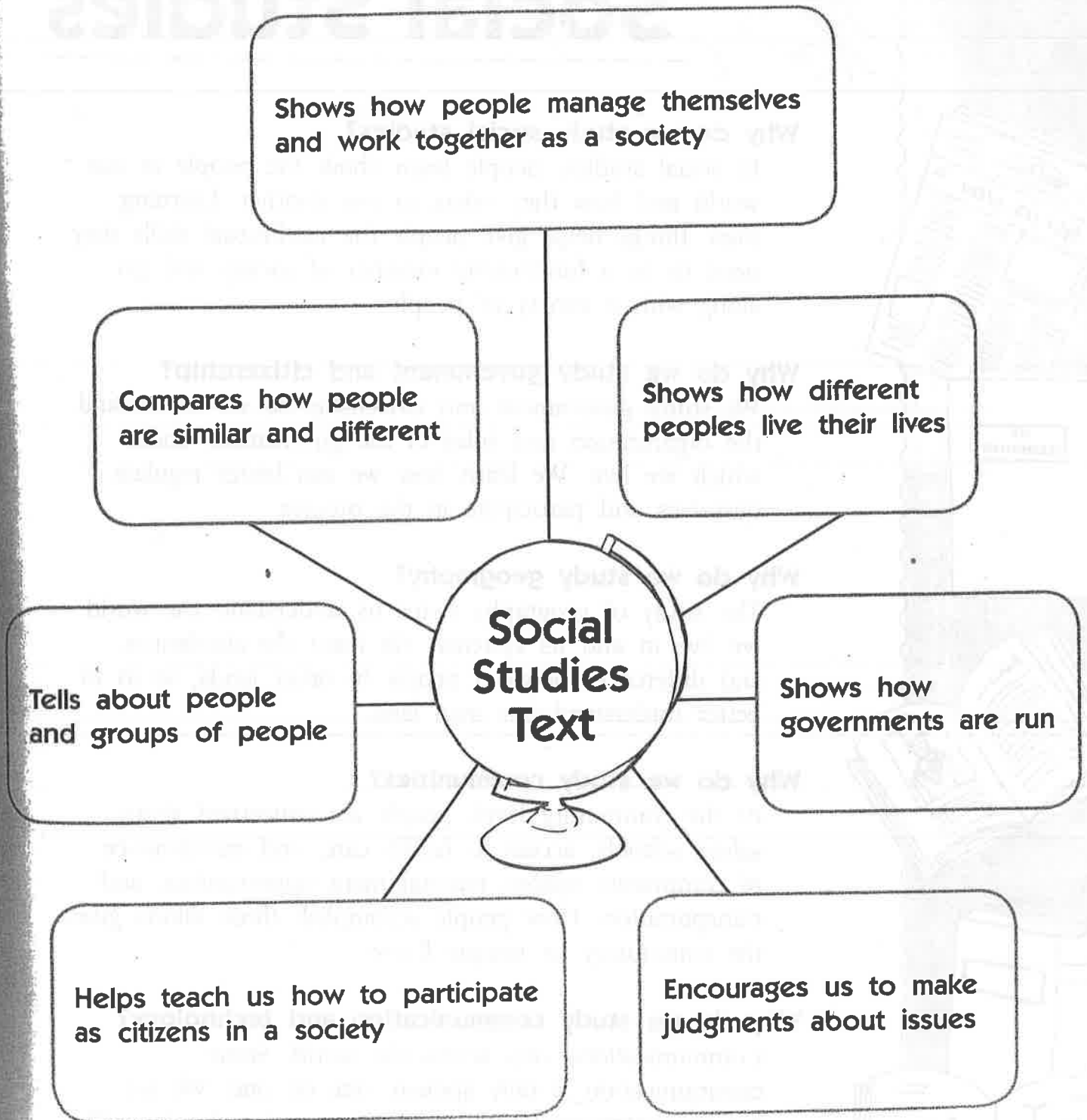
Why do we study communities?

At the community level, people are concerned about safety, schools, access to health care, and maintenance of community spaces, entertainment opportunities, and transportation. How people accomplish those efforts gives the community its unique flavor.

Why do we study communication and technology?

Communications vary across the world. Some communication is only spoken, one on one. We see people communicating through print and technology. The future of communications will bring new technologies that most have us have never even dreamed of.





The Three Branches

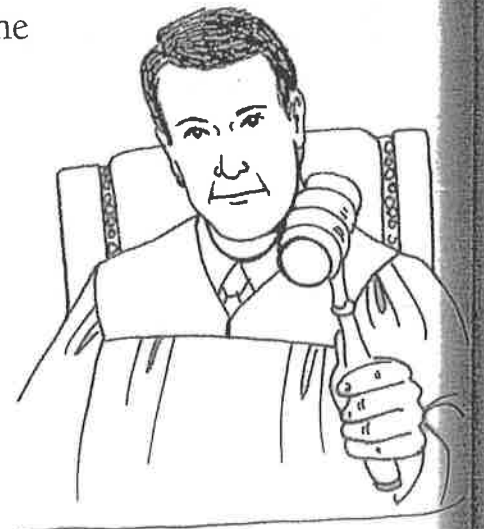
In the United States of America, one national government takes care of the whole country. The heart of that government is based in Washington, D.C. There are also state governments for each state, and local governments for each city and town. In this passage you will learn about the national government and about what it means to be a citizen.

The U.S. government is called a **democracy**. In a democracy, the people decide what the government can and can't do. The people are called **citizens**. A citizen is born in the country or chooses to become a member of the country and passes a test. Citizens make sure that governments work to protect people's rights, or freedoms. All adult citizens of the United States have the right to vote, although it was not always that way.

The national government has three branches, or parts. Each branch has different jobs. The **executive branch** makes sure that laws are followed. The president is the head of the executive branch.

The **legislative branch** makes laws. Congress runs this branch. Congress is made up of the Senate and the House of Representatives. Every state elects people to serve in Congress. These people speak for the citizens of the state. There are 100 senators and 435 representatives in Congress.

The **judicial branch** makes sure that laws are fair to all people. The United States Supreme Court is the head of the judicial branch. Nine people called justices decide if laws obey the United States Constitution. The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land.



Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.**1.** Where is the heart of the U.S. government?

2. How many senators are in Congress?

3. How many representatives are in Congress?

4. How are the three branches of government different?

5. Which branch of government includes the president?

6. What is this passage mostly about?

7. What type of art is on this page? What is the purpose of this art?

8. What words are boldfaced in the passage? Why are they boldfaced?

People Helping People

People around the world face difficult problems. Earthquakes shake and rattle the land. Hurricanes cause wind and water damage. Tornadoes sweep away homes and buildings. There are wars being waged. Places exist where children don't have enough to eat. And there are places where people can't get medicine when they are sick. Some children may not have schools or even a safe shelter.

But there's good news, because there are groups attempting to aid these people. Around the world communities are helping communities, and people volunteer to help others. One such group is the International Committee of the Red Cross. Most people call it the Red Cross. The Red Cross helps anyone who is hurt, hungry, or homeless. If there is a war, they help people on both sides.

In January 2010, there was a horrible earthquake in Haiti. Many people lost their homes and had nowhere to live. The Red Cross gave emergency relief. They built shelters, provided food and clean drinking water, and gave medical services. They brought milk for babies.

In March 2011, a devastating earthquake hit Japan. It was one of the largest earthquakes in history. The earthquake also caused a huge wave, called a tsunami. After the disaster, more than 400,000 people were living in shelters. Millions were without safe drinking water. The Red Cross provided shelter, food, drinking water, medical supplies, and more.

The United States has the American Red Cross, and Canada has the Canadian Red Cross. Millions of dollars were sent to the Japanese people. They even sent millions more by text message. We see good people doing good deeds that give us all hope.



Name _____ Date _____

Use what you read in the passage to answer the questions.**1.** When did Haiti have a horrible earthquake?

2. When did Japan have a terrible earthquake?

3. Which helping groups are mentioned in the passage?

4. What do the helping groups do?

5. What is an example of a good deed?

6. What does the Red Cross do?

7. What countries in the passage have their own Red Cross?

8. Give one reason why communities should help one another.
