

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

GRADE 8

INTERMEDIATE-LEVEL TEST SOCIAL STUDIES

BOOKLET 1 OBJECTIVE AND CONSTRUCTED RESPONSE

JUNE 1–2, 2005

Student Name _____

School Name _____

Print your name and the name of your school on the lines above.

The test has three parts. Parts I and II are in this test booklet; Part III is in Booklet 2.

Part I contains 45 multiple-choice questions. Record your answers to these questions on the separate answer sheet. Use only a No. 2 pencil on your answer sheet.

Part II consists of several short-answer questions. Write your answers to Part II in this test booklet.

You will have $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours to answer **all** the questions in Booklet 1.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

Part I

DIRECTIONS

There are 45 questions on Part I of the test. Each question is followed by four choices, numbered 1–4. Read each question carefully. Decide which choice is the correct answer. On the separate answer sheet, mark your answer in the row of circles for each question by filling in the circle that has the same number as the answer you have chosen. Use a pencil to mark the answer sheet.

Read the sample question below.

Sample Question

Which city is the capital of the United States?

- (1) Boston
- (2) Washington, D.C.
- (3) New York City
- (4) Philadelphia

The correct answer is **Washington, D.C.**, which is choice number **2**. On your answer sheet, look at the box showing the row of answer circles for the sample question. Since choice number **2** is the correct answer for the sample question, the circle with the number **2** has been filled in.

Answer all of the questions in Part I in the same way. Fill in only one circle for each question. Be sure to erase completely any answer you want to change. You may not know the answers to some of the questions, but do the best you can on each one.

When you have finished Part I, go right on to Part II.

Part I

Answer all questions in this part.

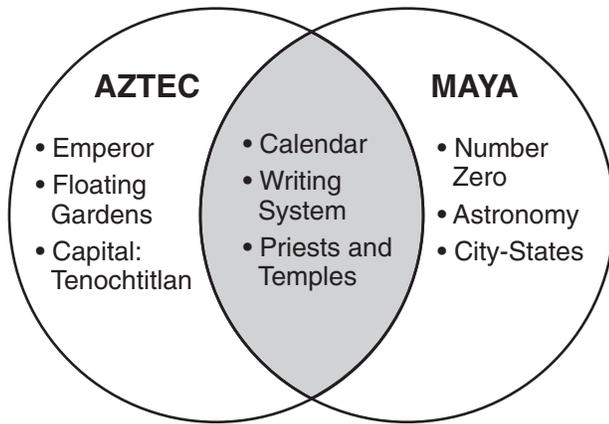
Directions (1–45): For each statement or question, write on the separate answer sheet the *number* of the word or expression that, of those given, best completes the statement or answers the question.

1 Mountains, hills, plains, and plateaus are examples of

- (1) landforms
- (2) vegetation
- (3) mineral resources
- (4) political barriers

Base your answer to question 2 on the diagram below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Comparison of Aztec and Maya Cultures



2 According to this diagram, which feature was a characteristic of both the Maya and Aztec civilizations?

- (1) creation of floating gardens
- (2) use of the number zero
- (3) improvement of fishing methods
- (4) creation of a writing system

3 What was one result of the Columbian Exchange (the Encounter)?

- (1) Native American Indian populations continued to increase.
- (2) The African slave trade ended.
- (3) Diseases were spread to native populations.
- (4) Spain's empire in the New World declined.

4 Many different native cultures developed in North America primarily because

- (1) Native American Indians worshiped many gods
- (2) Native American Indian groups did not trade with each other
- (3) hunting for food was an important activity
- (4) a variety of environmental conditions existed throughout this region

5 The creation of the Virginia House of Burgesses was an important step in the development of democracy in colonial America because it

- (1) adopted a bill of rights for women
- (2) allowed citizens to vote directly on proposed laws
- (3) provided the first written constitution
- (4) established a representative form of government

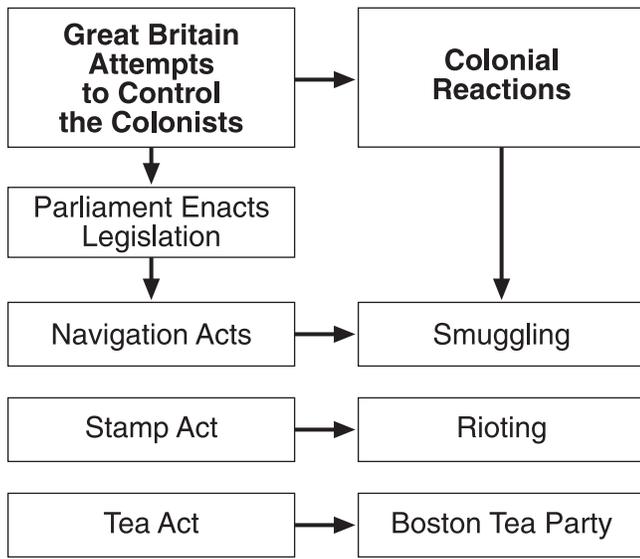
6 Which group controlled the colony that was surrendered to England in 1664 by Governor Peter Stuyvesant?

- (1) French
- (2) Dutch
- (3) Spanish
- (4) Swedish

7 The main reason most of the early settlers came to the colonies of Maryland, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island was to

- (1) seek religious freedom
- (2) purchase inexpensive farmland
- (3) profit from the fur trade
- (4) obtain better jobs

Base your answers to questions 8 and 9 on the chart below and on your knowledge of social studies.



8 Which conclusion is best supported by the chart?

- (1) The Stamp Act led to widespread smuggling.
- (2) Colonists raised revenue by imposing new taxes.
- (3) British policies were opposed by many colonists.
- (4) The colonists reacted to British laws in a nonviolent way.

9 The series of events shown in the chart led directly to the

- (1) start of the French and Indian War
- (2) outbreak of the American Revolution
- (3) formation of a colonial alliance with Prussia
- (4) rejection of the Albany Plan of Union

10 Which statement represents one of the main ideas in the Declaration of Independence?

- (1) The United States needs a strong central government.
- (2) The power of the president must be limited by the legislative and judicial branches.
- (3) People have a right to rebel against an unjust government.
- (4) Americans cannot afford to pay high British taxes.

11 During the Revolutionary War, the most common way American women helped the Patriot cause was by

- (1) acting as spies
- (2) serving in the military
- (3) managing farms
- (4) taking their children to Canada

12 The Constitution of the United States was considered an improvement over the Articles of Confederation because the Constitution changed the

- (1) status of slavery
- (2) civil rights of minorities
- (3) number of Americans eligible to vote
- (4) balance of power between national and state governments

13 Which provision was included in the United States Constitution to allow it to adapt to changing times?

- (1) separation of powers
- (2) an electoral college
- (3) a federal system
- (4) an amendment process

14 The authors of the United States Constitution included a system of checks and balances to

- (1) prevent any one branch of government from controlling the other branches
- (2) protect states against the power of the national government
- (3) guarantee respect for the freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights
- (4) safeguard the United States against foreign attacks

15 Which land acquisition added the most territory to the United States?

- (1) annexation of Texas
- (2) purchase of Florida
- (3) treaty for Oregon
- (4) Louisiana Purchase

16 Before 1820, most factories and mills in the United States were powered by

- (1) oil
- (2) water
- (3) electricity
- (4) coal

17 Which abolitionist leader was a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad?

- (1) John Brown
- (2) William Lloyd Garrison
- (3) Harriet Beecher Stowe
- (4) Harriet Tubman

18 Which event led directly to the secession of Southern States from the Union in 1860 and 1861?

- (1) election of Abraham Lincoln as president
- (2) passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act
- (3) adoption of a new fugitive slave law
- (4) decision of the Supreme Court in *Dred Scott v. Sanford*

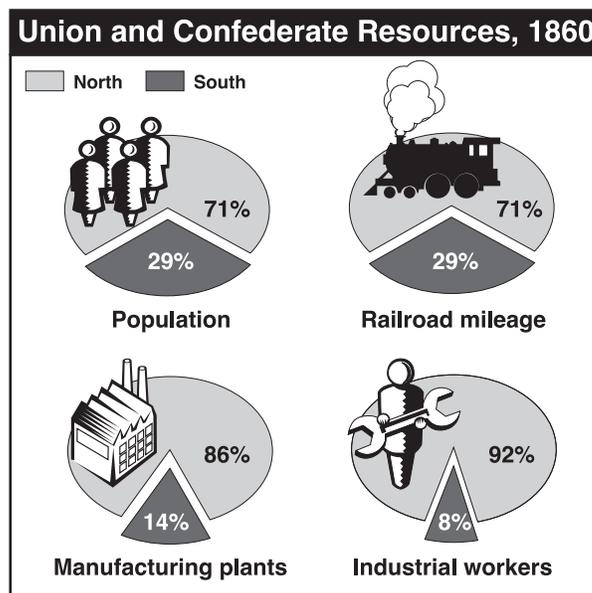
19 During the Reconstruction Era, one reason for the formation of the Ku Klux Klan was to

- (1) prevent formerly enslaved persons from exercising their rights
- (2) encourage immigration from southern and eastern Europe
- (3) support the South during the Civil War
- (4) eliminate sharecropping in the Southern States

20 Which development led to the other three?

- (1) United States troops fought a series of battles with Native American Indians.
- (2) The buffalo population was greatly decreased.
- (3) Thousands of settlers migrated west of the Mississippi River.
- (4) Native American Indians were forced to move to reservations.

Base your answer to question 21 on the illustration below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: *Encyclopedia Americana* (adapted)

21 Which conclusion can best be supported by the information in the illustration?

- (1) The North and the South had equal percentages of their population working for railroads.
- (2) The North had fewer manufacturing plants than the South.
- (3) Most of the nation’s railroads ran through the South.
- (4) The North had a major advantage in industrial production when compared to the South.

22 In 1892, the United States government opened Ellis Island primarily to

- (1) process immigrants arriving from overseas
- (2) defend New York City from attack
- (3) check the safety of imported products
- (4) serve as the first federal prison in New York State

23 What was an immediate economic result of the use of mass-production techniques in American factories?

- (1) increased use of homemade goods
- (2) reduced cost of goods
- (3) improved safety conditions
- (4) expanding membership in labor unions

24 Progressive Era writers such as Upton Sinclair and Ida Tarbell were called muckrakers because they

- (1) exposed corruption in business and government
- (2) based their writings on unsupported opinions
- (3) were members of political machines
- (4) supported changes in farming methods

25 Which event led to the passage of laws that created safer working conditions?

- (1) Haymarket riot
- (2) Pullman strike
- (3) Triangle Shirtwaist fire
- (4) breakup of the Standard Oil Company

26 Which source of information is a primary source on trench warfare during World War I?

- (1) a novel about World War I
- (2) a textbook map showing World War I battlefields
- (3) an encyclopedia article about World War I
- (4) a diary kept by a soldier fighting on the western front during World War I

27 Senate opposition to United States membership in the League of Nations was based mainly on the

- (1) fear that the United States would be forced to pay most of the costs of League operations
- (2) belief that League decisions would involve the United States in foreign conflicts
- (3) demand by President Woodrow Wilson that the nation not join the League
- (4) assumption that the League would ask the United States to reduce the size of its army

28 Which feature of the Harlem Renaissance best reflects the image of the Roaring Twenties?

- (1) demands for equal civil rights
- (2) concerns for economic prosperity
- (3) expression through jazz and dance
- (4) calls to eliminate racial prejudice

Base your answer to question 29 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Daniel Fitzpatrick, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, December 18, 1935 (adapted)

29 The point of view of the cartoonist was that President Hoover

- (1) developed policies that effectively ended the Great Depression
- (2) blamed poor people for causing the Great Depression
- (3) failed to meet the needs of many Americans
- (4) supported the creation of more "Hoovervilles"

30 One reason the stock market collapsed in October 1929 was that

- (1) many stocks had been purchased on credit
- (2) the prices of most stocks were too low
- (3) banks refused to loan money to purchase stocks throughout the 1920s
- (4) many companies stopped selling shares of stock

31 Which New Deal agency was set up to provide unemployment insurance and pensions for retired workers?

- (1) Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC)
- (2) National Recovery Administration (NRA)
- (3) Social Security Administration (SSA)
- (4) Works Progress Administration (WPA)

32 “Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — . . .”

— President Franklin D. Roosevelt

President Roosevelt used these words to describe the

- (1) start of World War II in Europe
- (2) surprise attack on Pearl Harbor
- (3) D-Day invasion at Normandy
- (4) dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima

33 What was one way United States participation in World War II affected the American economy?

- (1) Many factories were forced out of business.
- (2) Military supplies were produced instead of some consumer goods.
- (3) Imports of products from Europe significantly increased.
- (4) Shortages caused by the war contributed to the start of the Great Depression.

34 Most historians agree that the world came closest to nuclear war during which event?

- (1) Berlin blockade
- (2) Communist takeover of China
- (3) Cuban missile crisis
- (4) Vietnam War

35 The Cold War developed following World War II as a result of the

- (1) renewed threats from Nazi leaders
- (2) conflicts between communist and democratic governments
- (3) space race between the United States and the Soviet Union
- (4) invasion of Poland by Germany

Base your answer to question 36 on the cartoon below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Walt McDougall, *New York Evening Journal*, reprinted in *American Review of Reviews*, September 1898 (adapted)

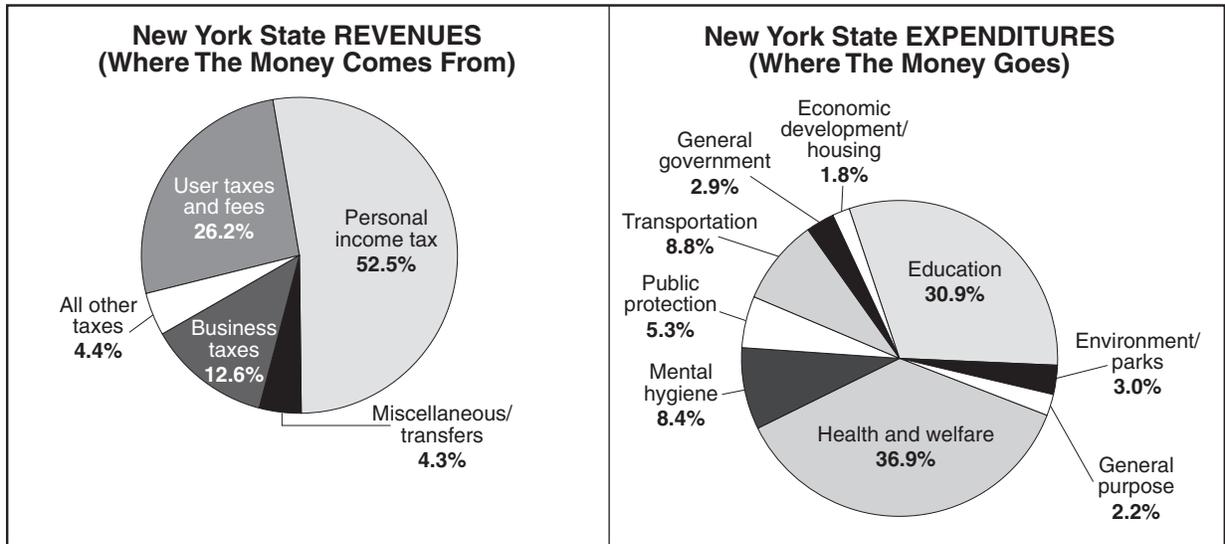
36 This cartoon was most likely inspired by the

- (1) Spanish-American War
- (2) construction of the Panama Canal
- (3) signing of the Treaty of Versailles
- (4) start of World War II

37 One long-term result of the creation of an interstate highway system was that it

- (1) led to the passage of the GI Bill
- (2) caused a decline in the automobile industry
- (3) improved relations with Canada and Mexico
- (4) supported the growth of American industry

Base your answers to questions 38 and 39 on the graphs below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: Farran and Wattman, *New York and the Nation*, AMSCO (adapted)

38 According to the graph on the right, New York State spends the highest percentage of its tax dollars on which single category?

- (1) transportation
- (2) public protection
- (3) health and welfare
- (4) environment and parks

39 According to the graphs, which conclusion about New York State government is most accurate?

- (1) Most government income comes from business.
- (2) The government does not spend a lot of money.
- (3) New York State has an unbalanced budget.
- (4) New York State provides a wide variety of public services.

40 In the American Revolution and in the Vietnam War, guerrilla warfare tactics favored

- (1) foreign invaders
- (2) those most familiar with the land
- (3) well-trained military forces
- (4) troops with better military equipment

41 Which document was the first to specifically propose equal rights for American women?

- (1) Declaration of Independence
- (2) Bill of Rights
- (3) Seneca Falls Declaration
- (4) Emancipation Proclamation

42 Which heading best completes the outline below?

<p>I. _____</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. River trade expanded by steamboats B. Turnpikes and the National Road built C. Erie Canal opened D. First transcontinental railroad completed

- (1) Advances in Transportation
- (2) North-South Cooperation
- (3) America's Waterways
- (4) New Inventions

Base your answer to question 43 on the song lyrics below and on your knowledge of social studies.

Where Have All the Flowers Gone?

Where have all the flowers gone? Long time passing,
Where have all the flowers gone? Long time ago,
Where have all the flowers gone? The girls have picked
them ev'ry one;
Oh when will you ever learn? Oh when will you ever learn?
.

Where have all the young men gone? Long time passing,
Where have all the young men gone? Long time ago;
Where have all the young men gone? They're all in uniform.
Oh, when will they ever learn? Oh, when will they ever learn?

Where have all the soldiers gone? Long time passing,
Where have all the soldiers gone? Long time ago;
Where have all the soldiers gone? They've gone to
graveyards, ev'ry one,
Oh, when will they ever learn? Oh, when will they ever learn? . . .

— Pete Seeger/Joe Hickerson, 1956–1960

- 43 These song lyrics express the view that war is a
- (1) necessary evil to defend our way of life
 - (2) senseless waste of young lives
 - (3) patriotic effort supported by most Americans
 - (4) way to recognize national heroes
-

- 44 One reason the United States fought in the Persian Gulf War (1991) was to
- (1) protect the United States supply of Middle East oil
 - (2) increase food distribution in Kuwait
 - (3) contain the spread of communism in the Middle East
 - (4) honor its commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) alliance
-

- 45 The presidencies of Woodrow Wilson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Harry Truman were similar in that each president served during
- (1) severe economic depressions
 - (2) United States participation in world wars
 - (3) times when women could not vote
 - (4) national Prohibition of alcoholic beverages

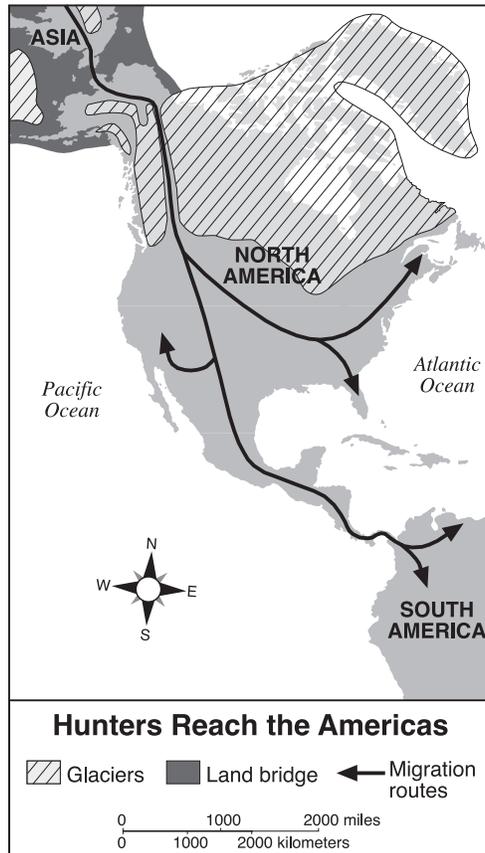
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Part I Score _____

Part II

Directions: Write your answers to the questions that follow in the spaces provided in this test booklet.

Base your answers to questions 1 through 3 on the map below and on your knowledge of social studies.



Source: *The American Nation*, Prentice-Hall
(adapted)

- 1 According to the theory on which this map is based, from which continent did hunters migrate to North America? [1]

Score

- 2 According to this map, which geographic feature probably allowed the hunters to migrate? [1]

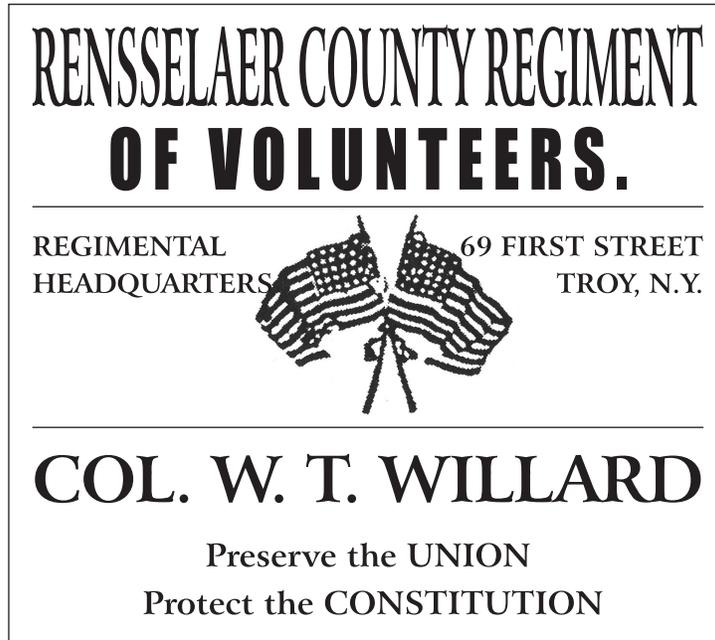
Score

- 3 State **one** reason hunters migrated further south rather than settling in the northernmost part of North America. [1]

Score

Base your answers to questions 4 through 6 on the poster below and on your knowledge of social studies.

A Call for Volunteers During the Civil War



Source: Joy Hakim, *War, Terrible War*, Oxford University Press (adapted)

4 According to this poster, in which city were volunteers asked to report for duty? [1]

Score

5 Based on this poster, state **one** cause that volunteers were asked to fight for in the Civil War. [1]

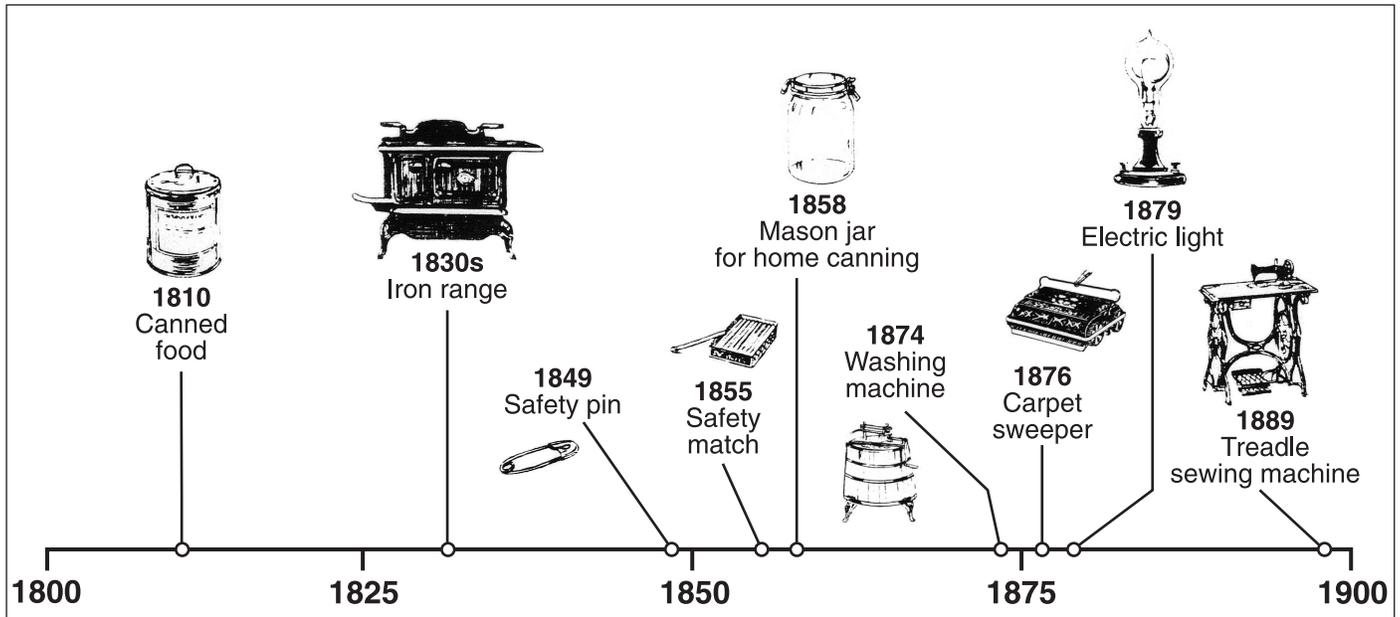
Score

6 In addition to the two stated wartime goals on the poster, what became **another** wartime goal of the North as the Civil War continued? [1]

Score

Base your answers to questions 7 through 9 on the time line below and on your knowledge of social studies.

New Products for the Home



Source: *The United States: Its History and Neighbors*, Harcourt Brace (adapted)

7 According to the time line, which product was developed three years after the invention of the safety match? [1]

_____ Score

8 Select **one** product from the time line and state how it made life easier in the home. [1]

Product: _____

How the product made life easier in the home: _____

_____ Score

9 State **one** way the manufacturing of new products for the home affected American business. [1]

_____ Score

Base your answers to questions 10 and 11 on the letter below and on your knowledge of social studies.

To: Mr. Samuel Rudderow
Pensaikin, near the city of Camden, New Jersey

From: Louisa County, Iowa Territory, April 25, 1843.

Brother and Sister,

It has been sometime since I wrote particularly to you, but you have heard from me frequently by letters to Rebecca Fish. I am in good health, but have had the hardest winter that I ever experienced. I got my feet badly frozen Dec. 8th and suffered more pain than I am able to describe, but my right foot has got well and I can wear my shoes but my toes are all stiff at the two outer joints and some of the bones came out of three toes. The toes of my left foot are all off and two of them healed over and the other 3 in a good way so that I will be but very little lame in a few more weeks. . . .

When I wrote to you last I recommended this country to you and probably told you that it would be profitable for you to emigrate. . . . I would be the last one to recommend such a thing to connections of mine if I was not positive, and I know NJ well, I understand Iowa well enough not to be mistaken, a man that pays rent or interest money in NJ had better be in Iowa, if he gets a farm paid for in a lifetime in NJ he had done well. . . . here the land will produce at least 3 times as much to the acre, as it will there and with less labor. . . . when I first came to Bloomington there was only 7 families there, now there is 15 good stores there and merchandise of all kinds and the cost has improved as fast as the town, but here with only \$80 you would be better off than you would be there in 200 years, even if you could live so long. We do not tell you this under any fake pretense but for the benefit of you and family, weigh the matter and write me and I will tell you more.

Respectfully yours,
Jeremiah Fish

Source: Joy Hakim, *Liberty for All?*, Oxford University Press

10 In which territory of the United States was Jeremiah Fish living when he wrote this letter? [1]

Score

11 State **two** reasons Jeremiah Fish encouraged his brother and sister to join him in the West. [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

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Part II Score _____

