The Peoples of the World (page 17)

Why is it important to learn about other peoples’ ways of life?

Advances in communication, transportation, trade, and immigration have brought peoples of the world closer together.

1. What are some examples of ways people have been brought together?

Learning About the World (page 18)

How can social studies help you learn about the world?

Social studies draws on five fields of learning: geography, history, economics, government, and culture. Suppose you were at a new school.

Figuring out how to get around is learning your school’s geography. Asking other students about themselves is learning their history. Making choices about buying school supplies is economics. Learning the school’s rules is learning about its government. Clubs, clothing styles, holidays, and even ways of saying things are part of the school’s culture.

2. What are the five fields of learning that make up social studies?

History and Geography (pages 18–19)

What can you learn about a place from studying its history and geography?

History is a record of the past. Historians use primary sources such as newspapers and journals to find out about the past. Archaeologists study
artifacts such as tools and artwork to learn about people's culture and history.

Geography is the study of people, places, and the environment. Geography focuses on five themes: location, region, place, movement, and human-environment interaction.

3. What are three ways to learn about the history and geography of a place?

Government (pages 19–20)
What is the purpose of government?
Government is the people in a society who have the power to make laws, to see that they are carried out, and to settle disagreements about them. In a limited government, everyone, including those in charge, must obey the laws. Democracy is a form of limited government.

Rulers in an unlimited government have total control and can disregard the law.

A citizen is a legal member of a country. Citizens in a democracy have rights and responsibilities. A citizen may be native-born or naturalized.

4. What is the difference between a democracy and a totalitarian government?

Economics (page 20)
What can you learn about a country by studying its economics?

Economics is the study of how people manage their resources by producing, exchanging, and using goods and services.

Resources to satisfy people's desires are limited. The conflict between the unlimited desires and limited resources is called scarcity.

Natural resources are gifts of nature, such as forests, fertile soil, and water. Human resources are skills people have. Capital resources are tools people make.

5. Give examples of the three types of resources that affect a country's economy.

Kinds of Economies (pages 20–21)
What is the difference between a command economy and a market economy?

In a command economy, the government decides whether a product should be manufactured, in what quantity, and at what price. In a market economy, individual businesses make those decisions based on what consumers want. In a highly developed country, most people are well educated and healthy. Services are plentiful, technology is advanced, and businesses flourish.

A country with a low level of development is marked by few jobs in industry, poor services, and low literacy rates. Life expectancy is low.

6. What are some of the characteristics of a country with a high level of development?

Culture (page 21)
What can you learn about a group of people when you study their culture?

Culture consists of the beliefs, customs, laws, art, and ways of living that a group of people share. Religion is part of most cultures; so is a shared language. Music, dance, literature, and the visual arts are important parts of every culture. So are the technology and tools people use to accomplish various tasks. Each kind of food, clothing, or technology, and each belief, language, or tool shared by a culture is called a culture trait. The culture traits of a people shape their way of life.

7. What are some examples of culture traits?