Social Studies Diagnostics

Teachers Guide

The Social Studies Proficiency Assessments are made up of multiple-choice items focused on one of the Disciplinary Core Concepts of Social Studies. It is recommended that teachers make a class set of the student test booklets to use with all groups. Remind students that they are to record their answers on the Student Answer Sheet only.

Before Administering the Assessment
- Teachers should read and take the proficiency assessment before giving it to students.
- Print all Student Answer Sheets and test booklets according to CASCADE directions.
- Make sure answer sheets match the assessment.
- Make a class set of Student Test Booklets to reuse with each class.
- Arrange for accommodations for ECE and ESL students as indicated on the IEP or PSP.

Directions for Administering the Assessment
- Explain to the students that this assessment will help you determine what they know at this point. Encourage them to do their best.
- Remind students of appropriate test-taking procedures for Multiple-Choice questions. They should answer every question. If they are unsure of an answer, they should determine a best guess.
- Review how to record answers on the scan form. Emphasize that they SHOULD NOT WRITE ANY ANSWERS IN THE TEST BOOKLET.
- Distribute assessment materials and review directions.
- Monitor students during the assessment to make sure they are recording answers correctly.
- When finished, the student answer sheets should be checked for stray marks before scanning.

After Administering the Assessment
- Follow the LEXMARK Scanner directions for scanning student answer sheets.
- Reuse the Student Test Booklets during the analysis with students.
- Test Booklets are considered secure test material and are not to be sent home with students.
Grade 3 Social Studies Diagnostic

Historical Perspective

Directions: Select one answer for each question.

1. Why do we celebrate Veterans Day?
   a. To honor all working citizens in our country
   b. To show respect for Americans who died in war
   c. To honor all Americans who have died
   d. To show respect for Americans who served in the military.

2. Which of these is not a symbol of America?
   a. Liberty Bell
   b. Bald Eagle
   c. Niagara Falls
   d. American Flag

3. What was the main source of food for Native Americans on the Great Plains?
   a. Buffalo
   b. Cow
   c. Corn
   d. Tomatoes

4. Martin Luther King, Jr. day is celebrated in
   a. January
   b. February
   c. March
   d. October

5. On what day do we celebrate our country’s independence?
   a. June 14th
   b. January 1st
   c. September 17th
   d. July 4th
Los Angeles Grows

In 1781, people from Mexico built a farming town where Los Angeles stands now. They called the new community “El Pueblo de la Reyna de los Angeles.” This means “The Town of the Queen of the Angels.”

The Early Days
The people quickly built houses. On Olvera Street, they built a plaza. A plaza is a town square. There farmers came to sell their produce. People talked with their neighbors. They celebrated holidays together. The plaza felt just like home. The small town grew quickly. It filled with many people. Some came from Mexico. Others came from different parts of the United States. People came from other countries too. Los Angeles was a popular place to live.

The City Grows and Changes
Life in Los Angeles began to change. As the city got larger, new neighborhoods popped up. Families moved away from Olvera Street. They built new houses in other parts of town.
The plaza had been busy and joyful. Now it was quiet and sad. Buildings were ready to fall down. Olvera Street looked like a dirty alley. The smell of garbage filled the air. No one seemed to care about the old town of Los Angeles.

A Big, Busy City
Los Angeles kept growing. Today the city is spread over many miles. Homes, schools and stores fill the neighborhoods. The city has railroads, highways, skyscrapers, hotels, museums and parks. It also has crowded sidewalks and traffic.
What happened to old Los Angeles? The old Plaza still stands. People raised money to fix the old buildings and markets there.
Now people visit the old part of town. They hear Mexican music there. They walk through the old houses. They dance in the plaza. Los Angeles has changed, but the plaza remains to remind people of how the city began.

Source: Social Studies Alive! My Community. 2010, Teacher’s Curriculum Institute, Palo Alto, CA
6. According to the passage, Los Angeles was built by people from
   a. America
   b. Mexico
   c. the United States
   d. the country of Peru

7. People used the plaza for all of these reasons except to
   a. sell produce
   b. meet with neighbors
   c. celebrate holidays
   d. pay taxes

8. What happened to the plaza as families moved away?
   a. It continued to be busy and joyful
   b. It was torn down
   c. It became quiet and sad
   d. Olvera Street became a shopping mall

9. The plaza of the old town reminds people
   a. of how Los Angeles began.
   b. that the city has many skyscrapers.
   c. that families continue to move away.
   d. of the many people in Los Angeles.
# Grade 3 Social Studies Diagnostic

## Historical Perspective

### Answer Key

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