

MEANINGFUL IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS

For Social Studies Content



AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE





Meaningful Image Descriptions for Social Studies Content

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Accessible Test Editor

<https://sites.aph.org/accessible-tests/>

Learning Objectives

- Define an image description
- Evaluate when it is appropriate
- Recognize the basics
- Compare braille formatting options
- Locate resources
- Feel better prepared to construct your own

Social Studies

- U.S. History
- World History
- State specific history
- Geography
- Civics





UNDERSTANDING IMAGE DESCRIPTIONS



An Image Description is

- A description of an image
- A quick and short method to share information found in print graphics
- An alternative to a tactile graphic, when appropriate
- A Transcriber's Note

An Image Description is

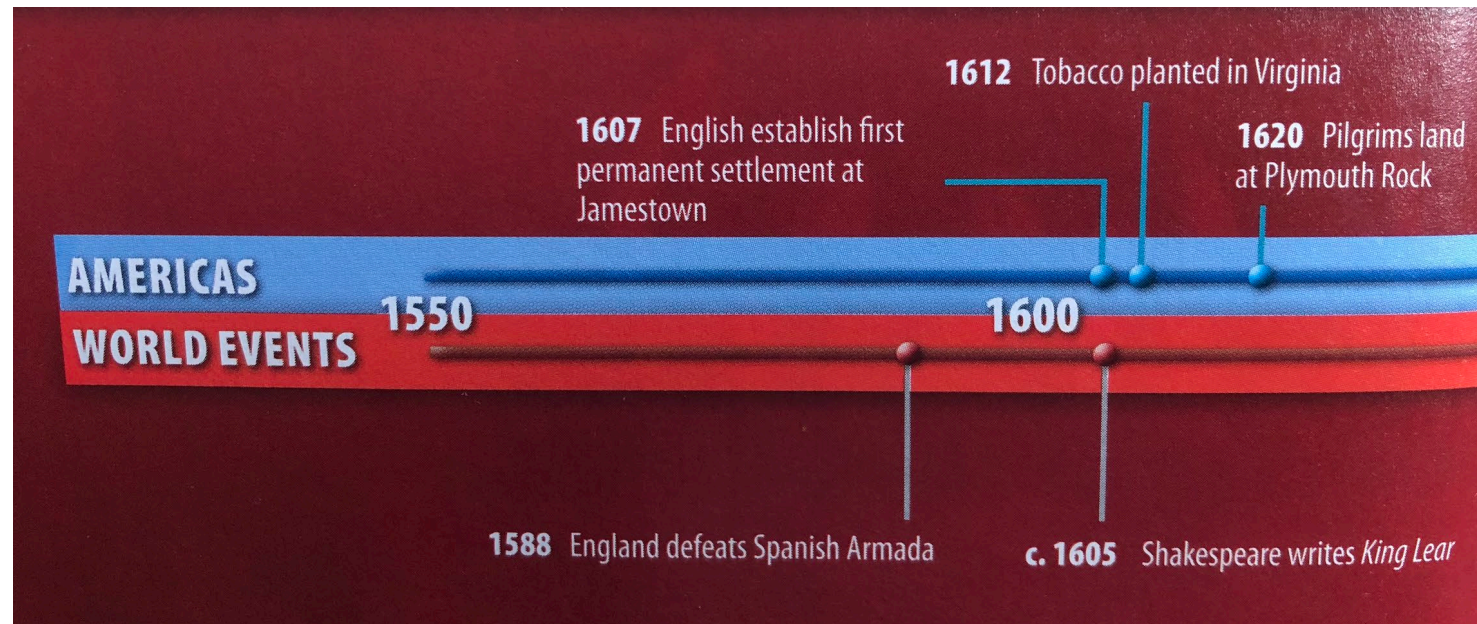
NOT the same as

- Alternative Text
- Video Descriptions
- Verbal Descriptions

An Image Description is

NOT necessary for certain types of images

- Tables
- Timelines
- Ancestral Charts
- Organizational Charts
- Pictographs



An Image Description is

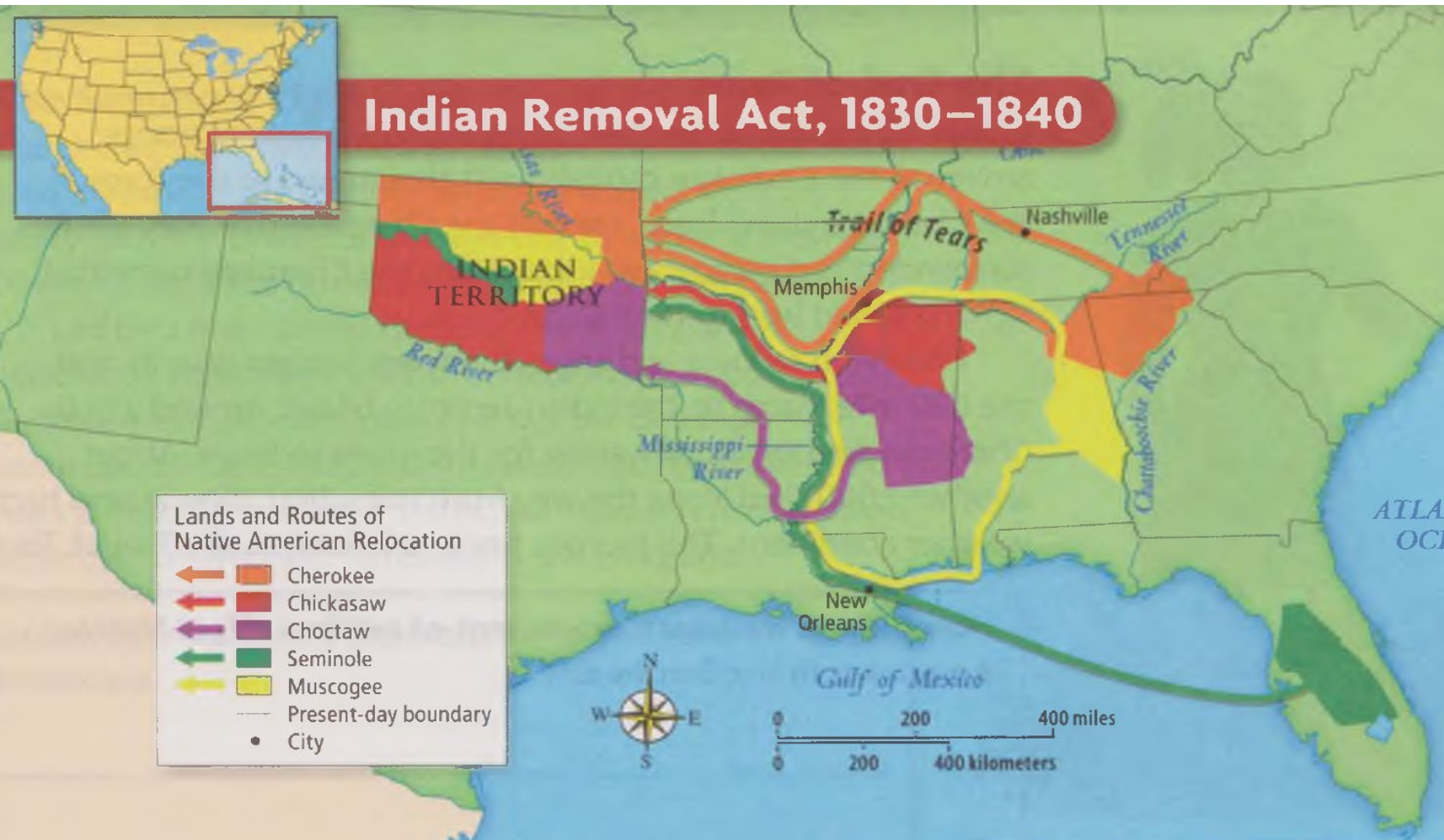
NOT able to replicate certain skills being taught



Tactile Graphic Skills

Reading a map

Tactile Graphic Skills continued



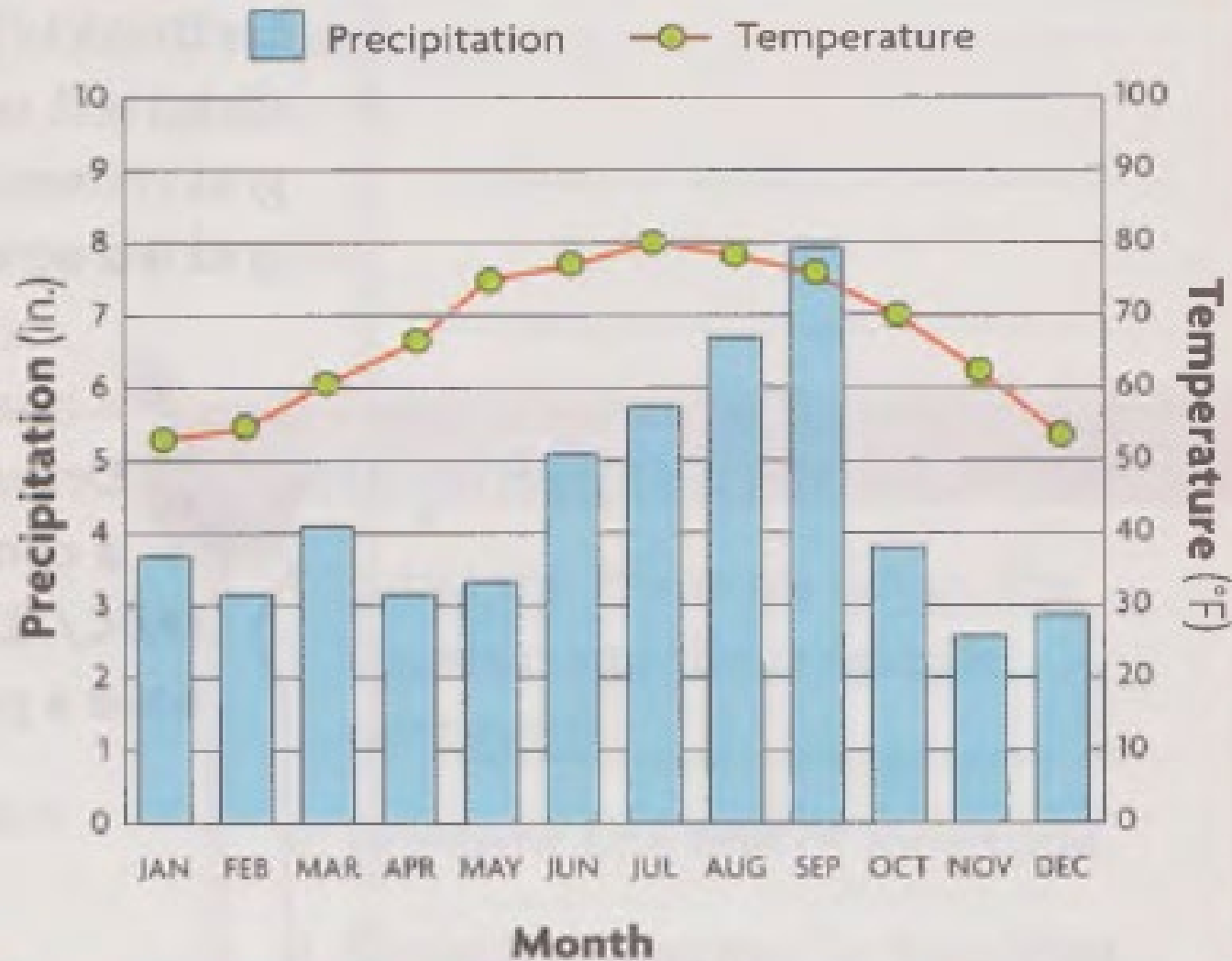
Following
movement

Tactile Graphic Skills continued



Measuring

Climate of Jacksonville, 1971–2000



Tactile Graphic Skills continued

Reading a graph



DECISION MAKING PROCESS



Keep or Omit?

- Not just for visual appeal
- Provides unique information
- Referenced elsewhere
- Needed for activities

Explain omissions with a Transcriber's Note

Description or Tactile?

- The student
- Information overload
- The requesting agency
- Your skill set
- Timeliness



THE BASICS OF GOOD DESCRIPTIONS



1. Consider the Context

- Read the surrounding text
- Check for questions and tasks associated with the image
- Review the caption

Context

- Caption details longest place name in the US and origins of the name.
- Surrounding text discusses the significance of place names.



▲ **FIGURE 1-14** LONGEST U.S. PLACE NAME The longest place name in the United States may be Lake Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg, Massachusetts. One hypothesis is that the name is Algonquian language for "fishing place at the boundaries—neutral meeting grounds." Others believe that the original meaning is unknown, and the current meaning and spelling are recent inventions.

Braille Fun

,*>go7ago7man*au7ago7*aubunagungamaugg

Chargoggagoggmanchauggagoggchaubunagungamaugg

Context

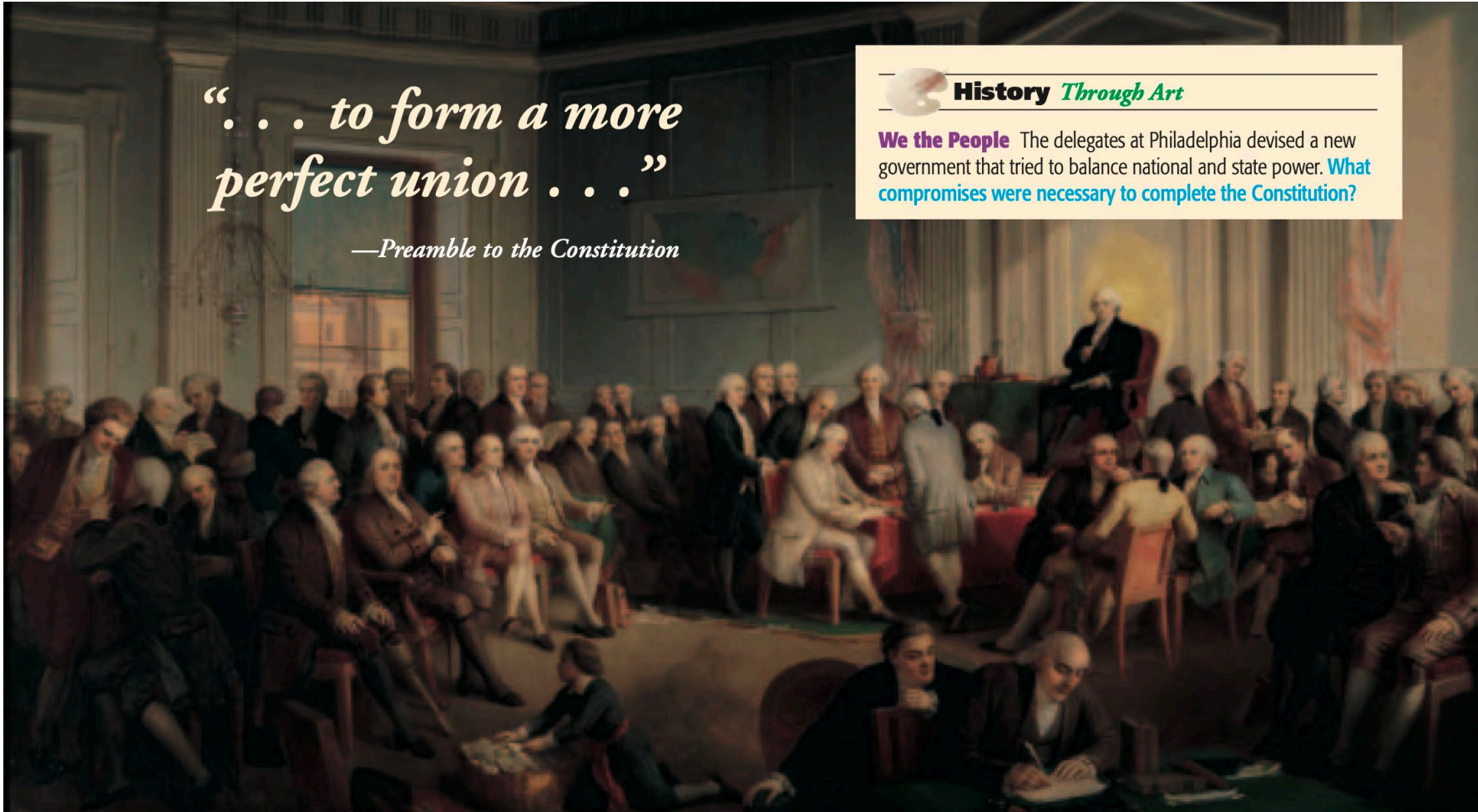
“ . . . to form a more perfect union . . . ”

—Preamble to the Constitution



History *Through Art*

We the People The delegates at Philadelphia devised a new government that tried to balance national and state power. **What compromises were necessary to complete the Constitution?**



Context



7. Analyzing Paintings
Examine the painting of the Constitutional Convention on page 127. How does the tone of the painting compare with the text’s description of difference and difficulties at the convention? What purpose do you think the artist had that might account for any difference?

Context

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918–19

The most severe influenza outbreak of the 20th century and, in total number of deaths, among the most devastating pandemics in human history

WHAT IS INFLUENZA?

Disease caused by a virus transmitted between people by airborne respiratory secretions

WHAT IS A PANDEMIC?

Outbreak of infectious disease that occurs over a wide geographical area and that is of high prevalence, generally affecting a significant proportion of the world's population, usually over the course of several months


ORIGINS

No universal consensus

WHAT DO WE KNOW NOW?

H1N1 virus with genes of avian origin


SYMPTOMS



- fever
- aches
- pneumonia
- nausea
- diarrhea

WHY WAS IT CALLED THE SPANISH FLU?

Initial reports of mass illness first appeared in Spanish newspapers. During World War I, Spain was neutral and could report freely while combatant countries censored news of the flu.



HOW DID IT SPREAD SO QUICKLY?

- World War I placed large numbers of people close to one another
- 30% of U.S. physicians were deployed
- Health services were limited
- Medical technology and countermeasures were limited or nonexistent
- No diagnostic tests or vaccines existed
- Doctors didn't know influenza viruses existed
- No coordinated pandemic plans existed

THE PANDEMIC OCCURRED IN THREE WAVES

MARCH 1918	AUGUST 1918	WINTER–SPRING 1919
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparatively mild • Spread through western Europe during World War I 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More lethal • Quickly caused pneumonia <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Camp Devens, Massachusetts: 6,674 cases existed 6 days after the first case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added to death toll • Subsided in summer 1919

DEATHS IN THE UNITED STATES

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918–19

675,000

WORLD WAR I

116,516

WORLD WAR II

292,131

Unusually, nearly half of all deaths occurred in healthy people

20–40 years old

DEATHS AROUND THE WORLD

1 person icon = 1 million people

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918–19

25 million

By some estimates, 40–50 million may have died

WORLD WAR I

8.5 million

WORLD WAR II

19.4 million

WORST PANDEMICS

1 square icon = 5 million deaths

BLACK DEATH

25 million (by some estimates, 50 million)

INFLUENZA PANDEMIC OF 1918–19

25 million (by some estimates, 40–50 million)


HIV/AIDS

35 million

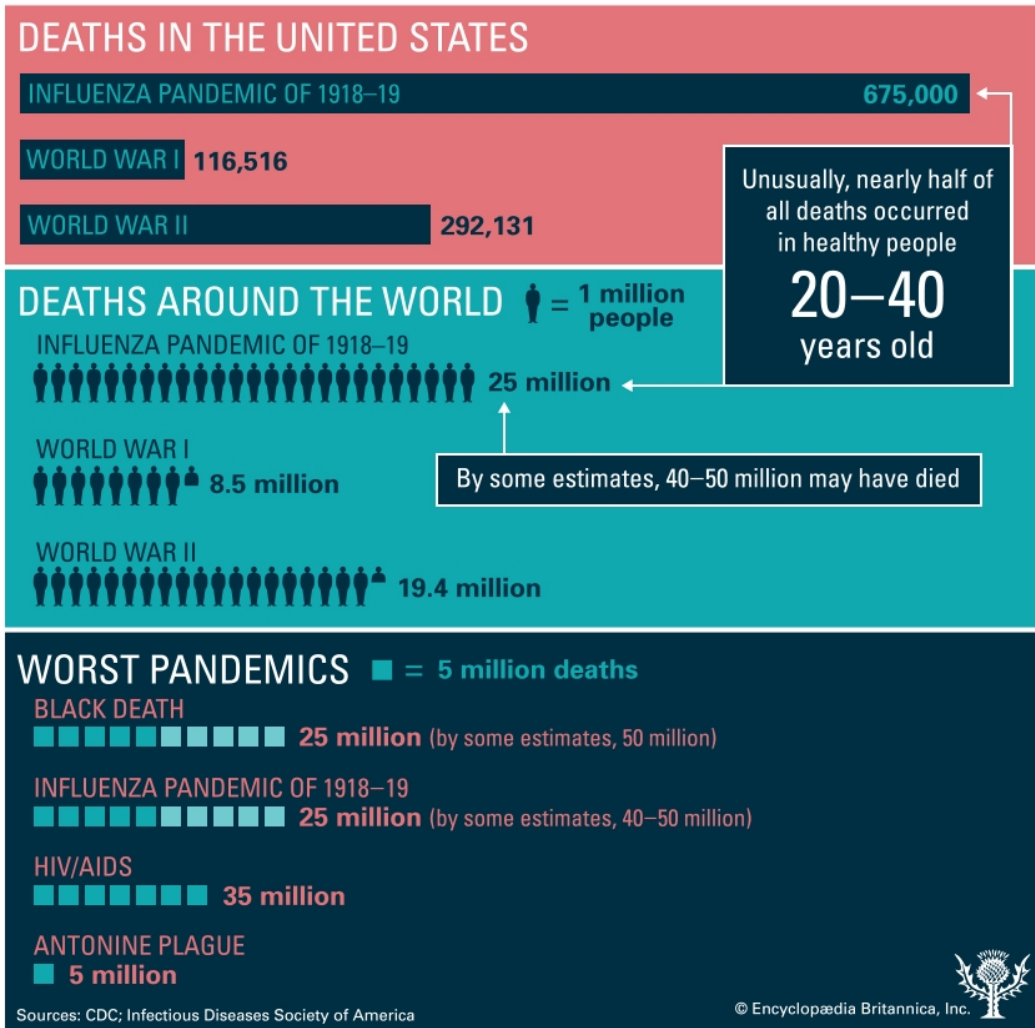
ANTONINE PLAGUE

5 million

Sources: CDC; Infectious Diseases Society of America

© Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. 

Context



Bar graph showing the deaths in the United States:

- During the influenza pandemic of 1918–19, 675,000 people died in the United States.
- During World War I, U.S. deaths numbered 116,516.
- During World War II, U.S. deaths numbered 292,131.
- Unusually, nearly half of all deaths during the influenza pandemic of 1918–19 occurred in healthy people 20–40 years old.
- The influenza pandemic of 1918–19 caused 25 million deaths around the world, but by some estimates, 40–50 million may have died.
- World War I caused 8.5 million deaths worldwide.
- World War II caused 19.4 million deaths worldwide.

A chart showing the worst pandemics includes:

- The Black Death caused 25 million deaths worldwide, but by some estimates, 50 million people died.
- The influenza pandemic of 1918–19 caused 25 million deaths worldwide, but by some estimates, 40–50 million may have died.
- HIV/AIDS caused 35 million deaths worldwide.
- The Antonine plague caused 5 million deaths worldwide.

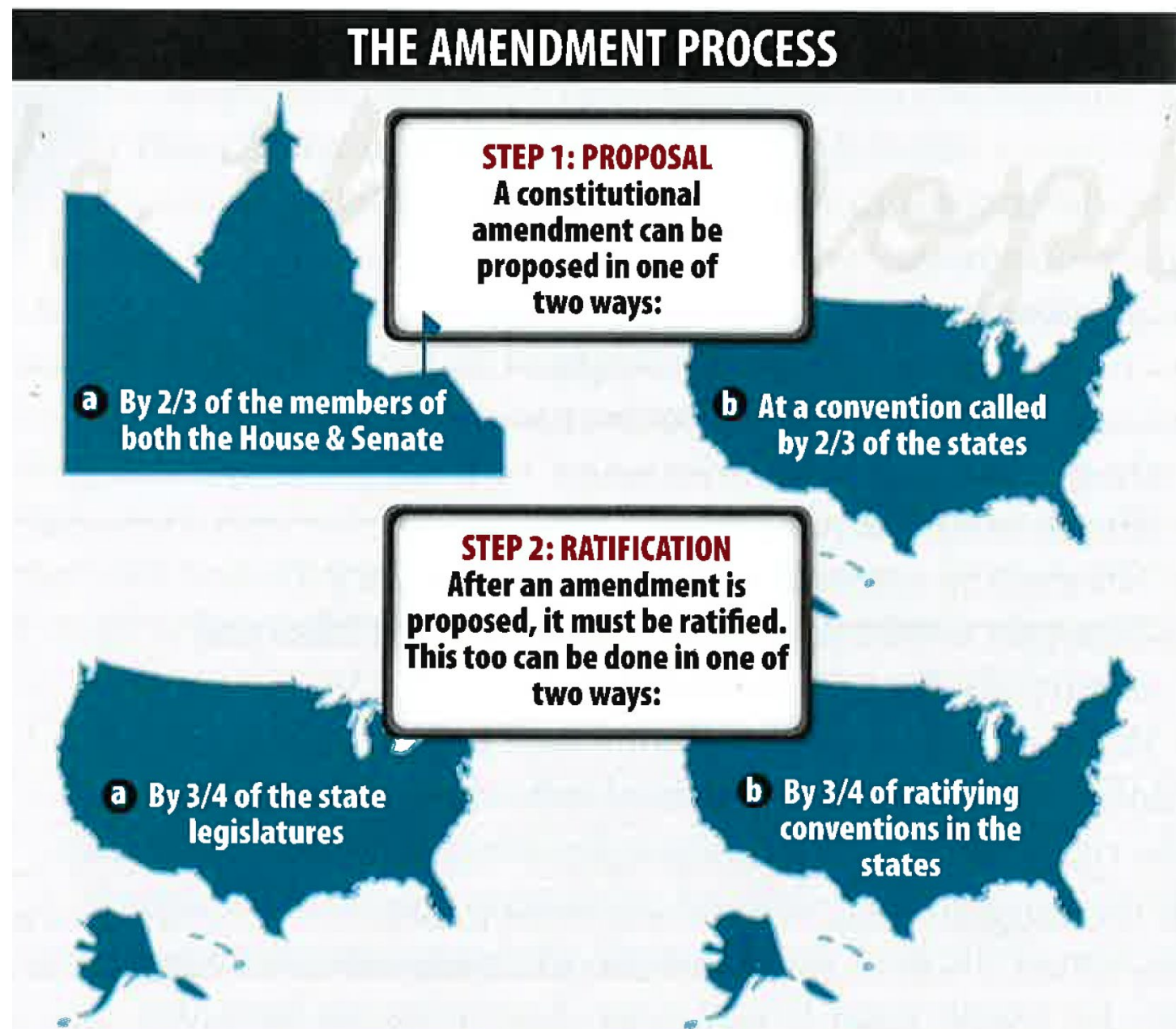
2. Focus on the Content

- Determine information unique to the image
- Describe only what is there
- Do not interpret the material

Content

1 Where do amendments get their start?

2 Do you think the process is too easy, too difficult, or just right? Explain your answer?





Content

Washington and the Continental Army lived through a terrible winter at Valley Forge.

How did the difficult winter at Valley Forge affect the Continental Army?

LOWELL FACTORY SYSTEM

- 1 The first steps in textile production are to **clean** the raw cotton and turn loose cotton into crude yarn.
- 2 The **spinning** process transforms the yarn into thread.
- 3 At the **weaving** stage, power **looms** interlace the threads into coarse cloth or fabric.
- 4 Fabric is measured and batched for **dyeing**. Vegetable dyes are the earliest known dyes.

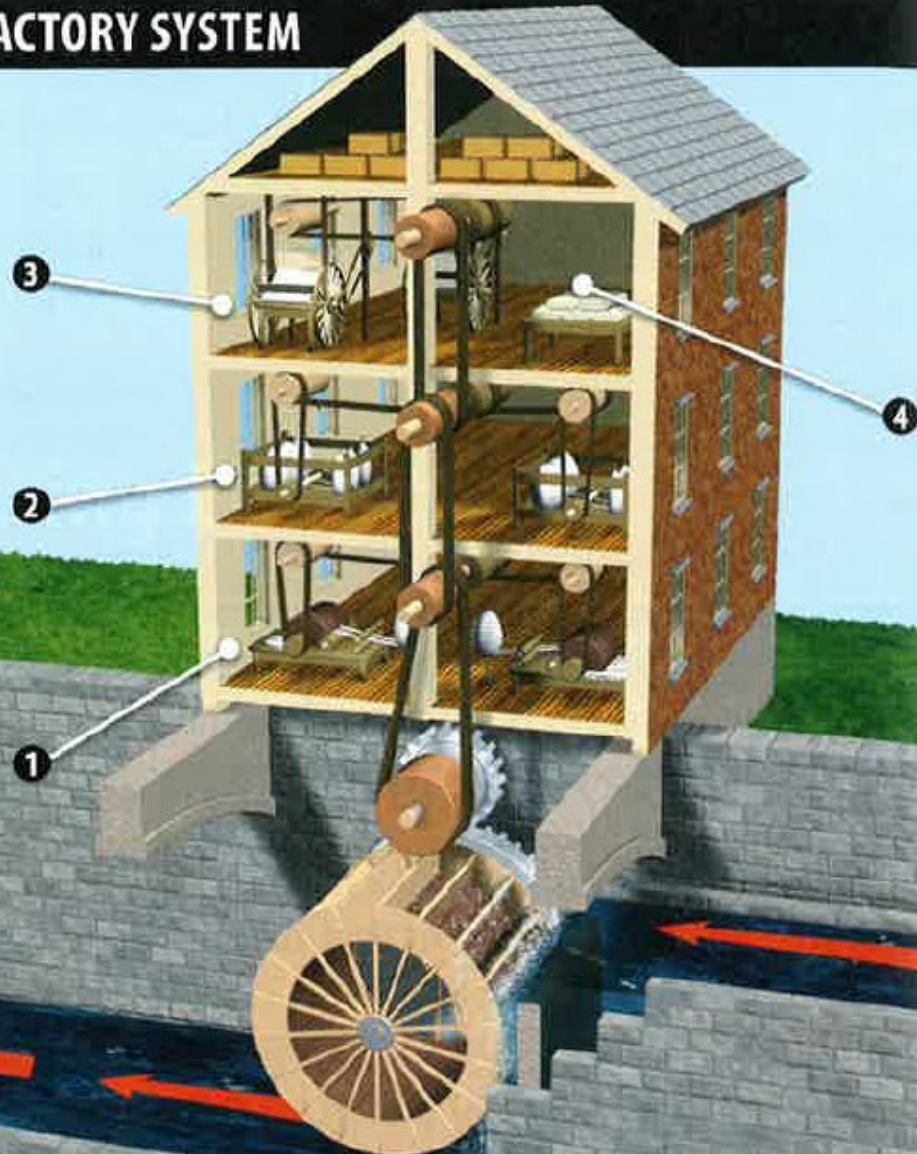


DIAGRAM SKILL

Content

The Lowell factory system combined all the different steps of making cloth under one roof.

What is the source of the power in this mill?

3. Be Clear and Concise

- Choose your words carefully
- Ignore extraneous details
- Avoid information overload
- Student should read the description once to understand

Clear and Concise



On Location

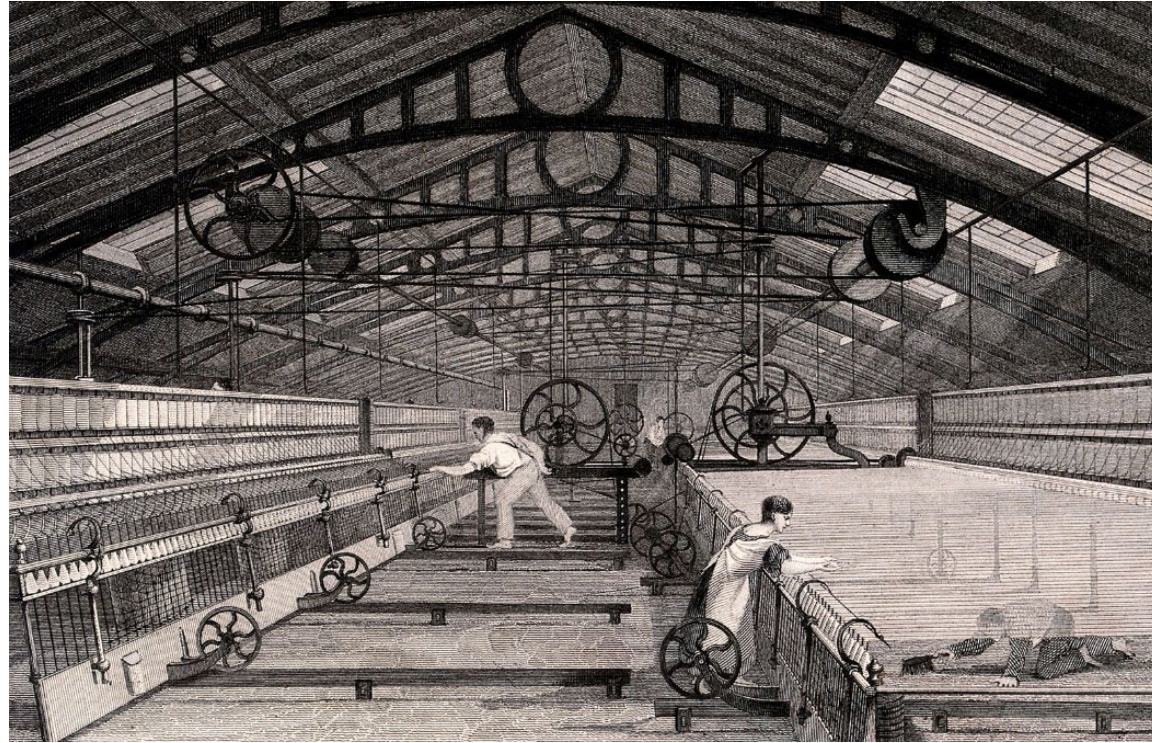


Madeira Islands

This hillside has been terraced to allow the owner to build a house and plant crops.

Human/Environment Interaction How would terraced fields help prevent erosion?

Clear and Concise

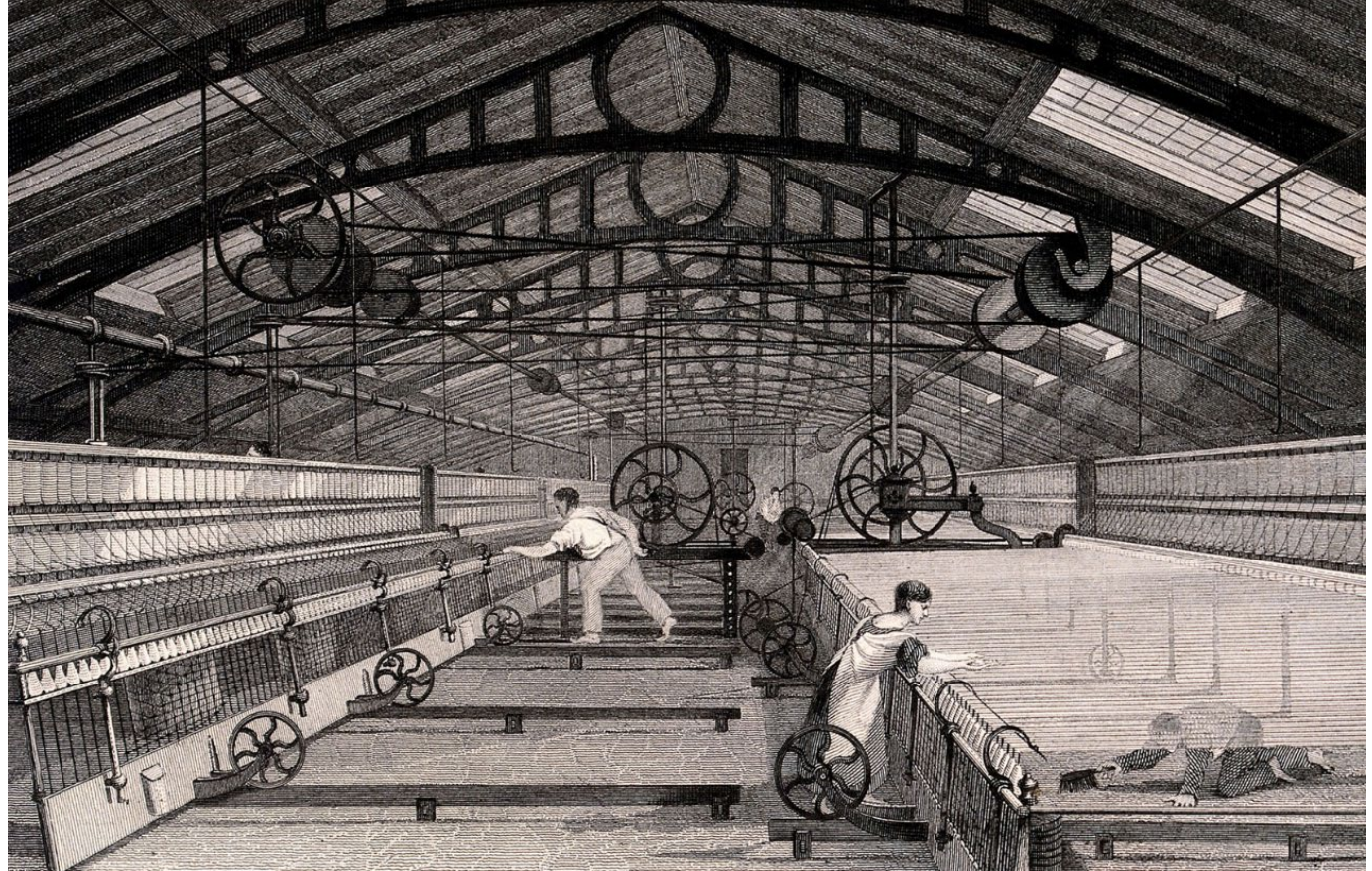


Technological advancements led to an increase in the production of materials. The spinning mule was able to utilize 1,000 spindles at once, compared to one spindle on a spinning wheel.

Clear and Concise



Clear and Concise

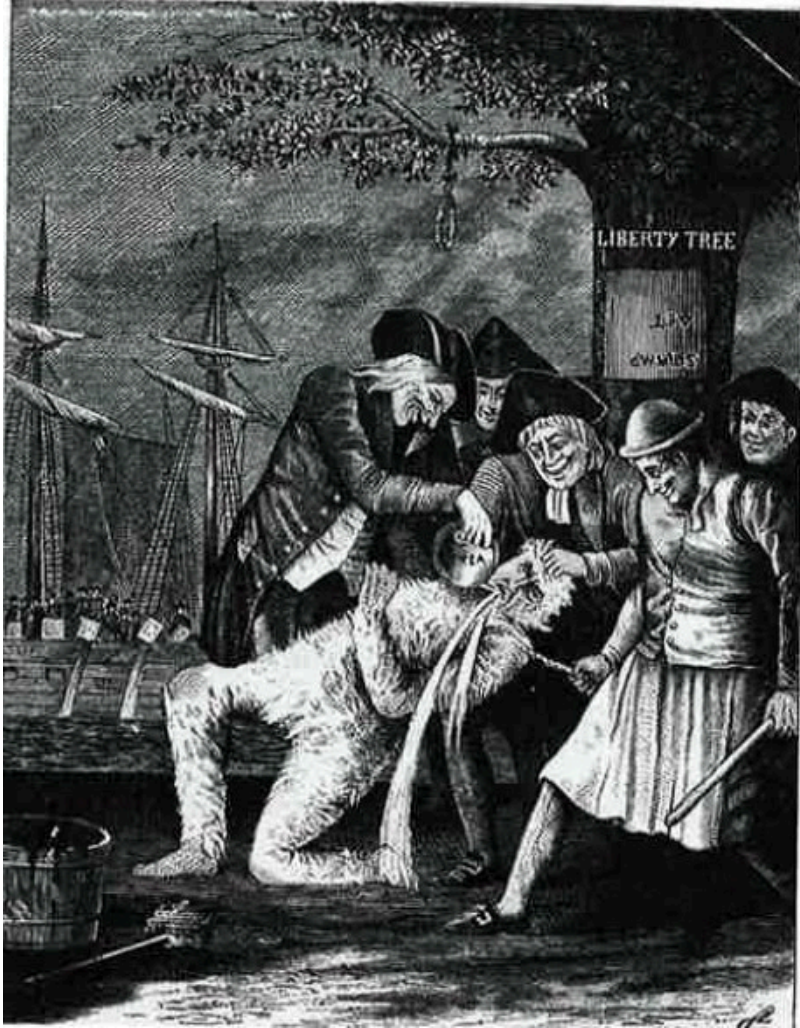


Clear and Concise



This 1774 cartoon shows some Patriots pouring tea down the throat of John Malcolm, a British tax collector. What message is the artist trying to send? How do the Patriots seem to feel towards the tax collector?

Concise



Five smiling patriots, wearing tricorn hats and buckled shoes, have tied a rope around the neck of a scowling tax collector underneath a tree labeled "Liberty Tree." A sign for the Stamp Act is posted upside down on the trunk of the tree and a noose is hanging from a branch from which they will soon hang the tax collector. A bucket of tar is on the ground and the tax collector is covered in chicken feathers because the Patriots have tarred and feathered him. Two of the Patriots are shoving the tax collector to his knees and pushing him backwards, while another Patriot pours tea into the tax collector's mouth, which he then vomits onto the ground. Meanwhile in the background, people are dumping tea off the side of a large boat into the water, probably the Massachusetts Bay.

Concise



Five sneering Patriots surround the tax collector who has been tarred and feathered. Two of the Patriots are forcing him towards the ground while another Patriot is dumping tea into his mouth.



Concise



Analyzing *Political Cartoons*

Paying the Tea Tax This cartoon by a British artist shows Bostonians forcing tea down the throat of a tarred and feathered customs official. In the background, colonists dump tea in Boston Harbor. **Why do you think the words "Stamp Act" are hung upside down on the Liberty Tree?**



EQUITABLE ACCESS

To all things graphic



Equitable Access

- Current events or historic ones
- Do not interpret
- Do not include personal bias
- Do not censor

Context



“How to engage students
in civil discourse
following events at the
U.S. Capitol”

Content

A drawing by an Aztec artist





Content

Mass grave discovered during the liberation of Bergen-Belsen Concentration Camp in April 1945.

History, despite its wrenching pain
Cannot be unlived, but if faced
With courage, need not be lived again.

Quote

-Maya Angelou

“On the Pulse of Morning”





BRAILLE FORMATTING



Narrative

- Embedded or 7-5
- Within Transcriber's Note indicators
- Drawings, photographs, and paintings
- Introduce the image
- General to specific

Narrative

Do you think this painting was meant for a Union or Confederate audience? Explain your answer.



Narrative



@.<Soldiers in blue uniforms are carrying weapons and an American flag as they emerge from a cloud of smoke to attack troops in mismatched clothing waiting in a bunker below. The faces of the soldiers in blue are shown as they charge while only the backs of the other soldiers are visible.@.>

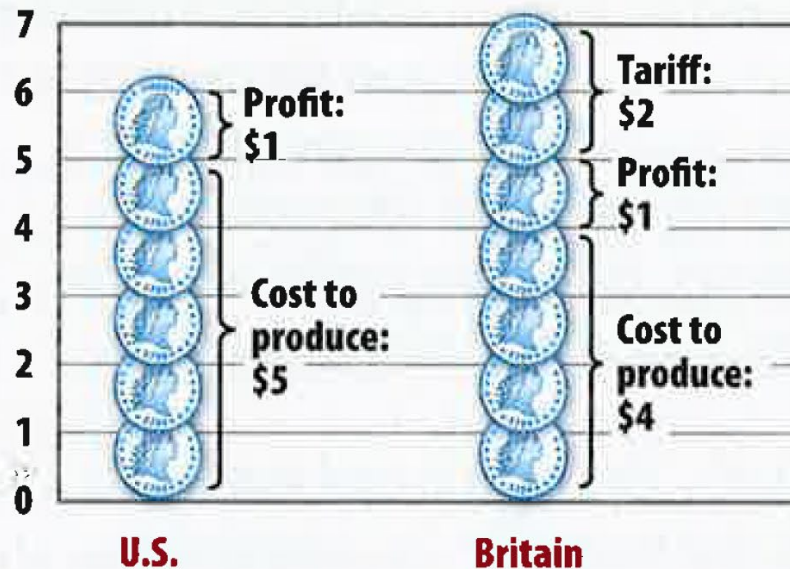
Narrative

PROTECTIVE TARIFFS

In the late 1700s, American industries lacked experience. As a result, it often cost American manufacturers more to make a product than it cost foreign makers. To raise the price of imported products, the U.S. government used tariffs. This helped protect American industries by making foreign-made goods more expensive and, therefore, less attractive to American buyers.

ECONOMICS SKILL

BREAKDOWN OF COST



Hat made in U.S.



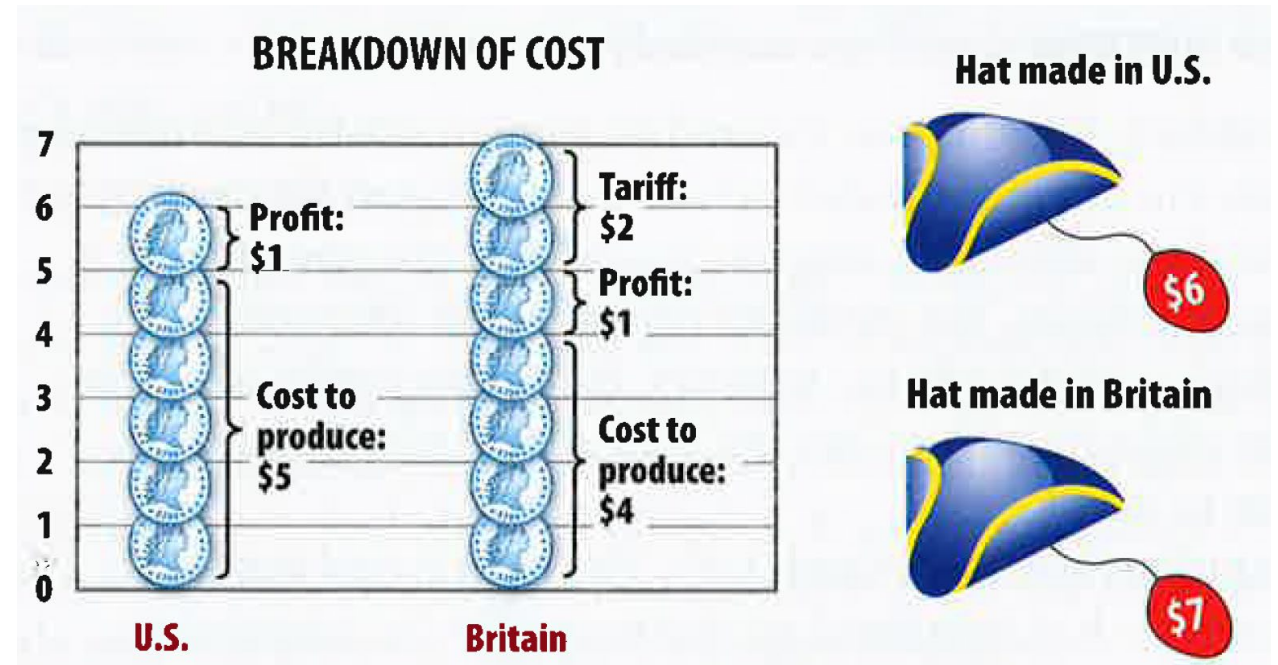
Hat made in Britain



Narrative

BREAKDOWN OF COST

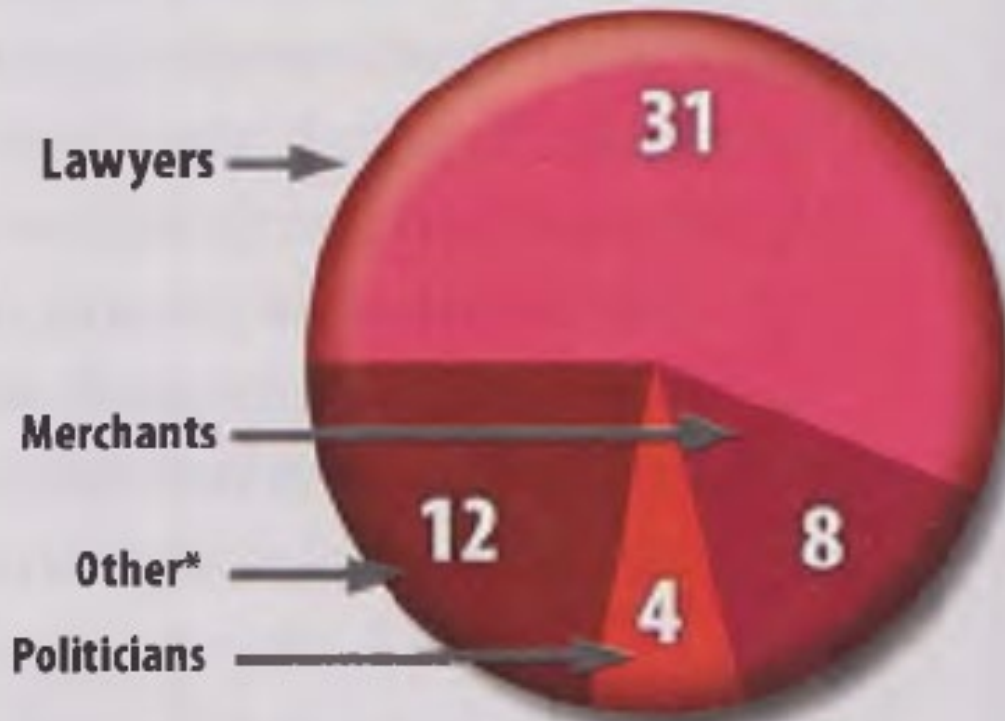
@.<The graph shows a hat made in U.S. costs \$6 and a hat made in Britain costs \$7. The cost to produce the U.S. hat is \$5 and has a profit of \$1. The cost to produce the British hat is \$4 and has a profit of \$1, plus a tariff of \$2.@.>



List

- Simple or Nested
- Include Transcriber's Note explaining change
- Images with steps, processes, diagrams
- Single category of information

THE 55 FRAMERS



*Judges, Physicians, Planters, philosopher, Professor, Surveyor

Source: Fifty-Five Fathers: The Story of the Constitutional Convention

List

What was the most common occupation among the men who attended the Convention?

List

The 55 Framers

@.<The circle graph is presented as a list.@.>

Lawyers 31

Merchants 8

Politicians 4

Other (Judges, Physicians, Planters, philosopher, Professor, Surveyer) 12

List

What crop was important in making Jamestown and early Virginia an economic success?



List

The Southern Colonies

@.<Map has been omitted. Products are listed by each colony.@.>

Maryland

Iron

Tobacco

Virginia

Cattle

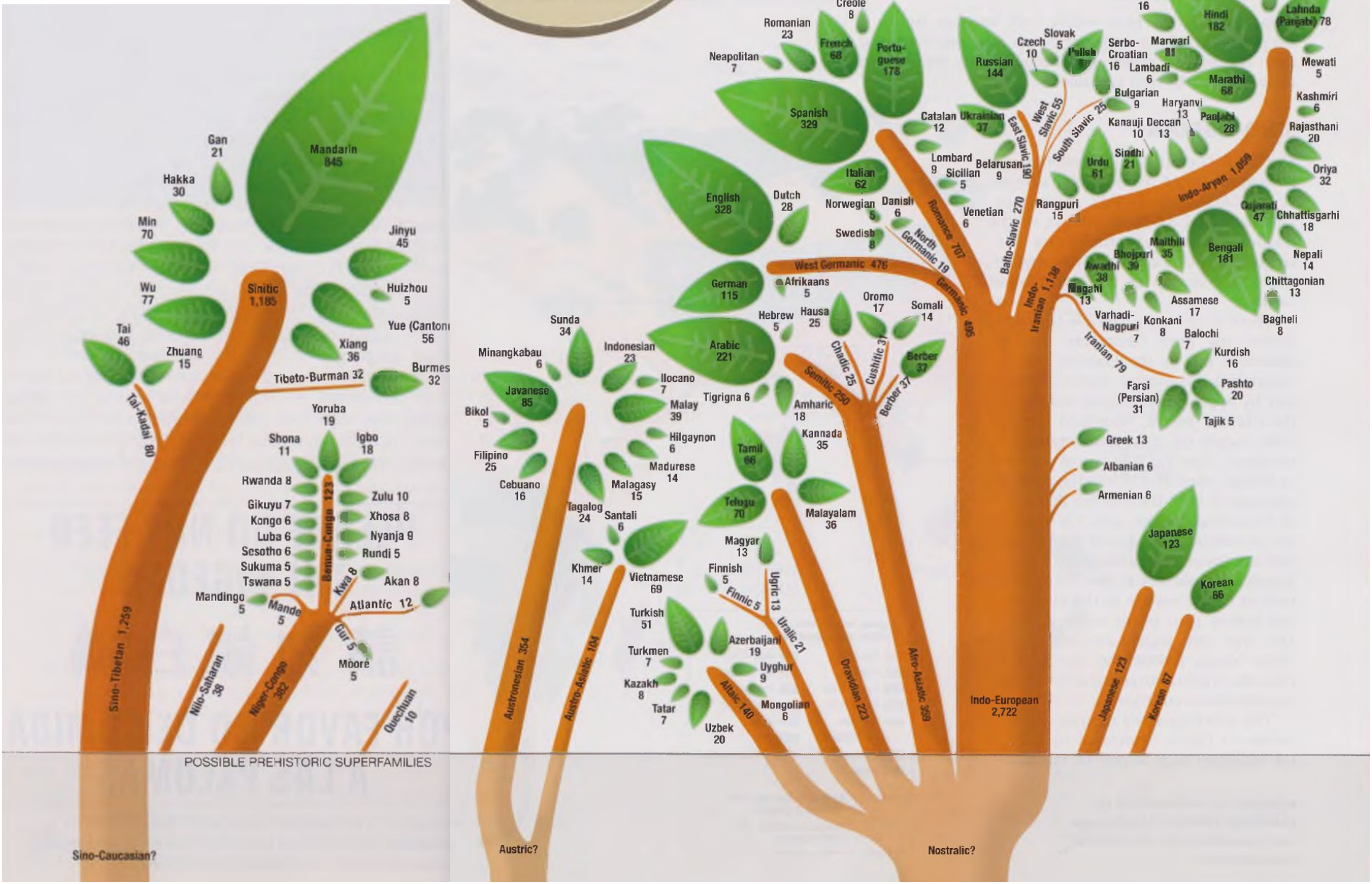
Grain

Tobacco

Fish

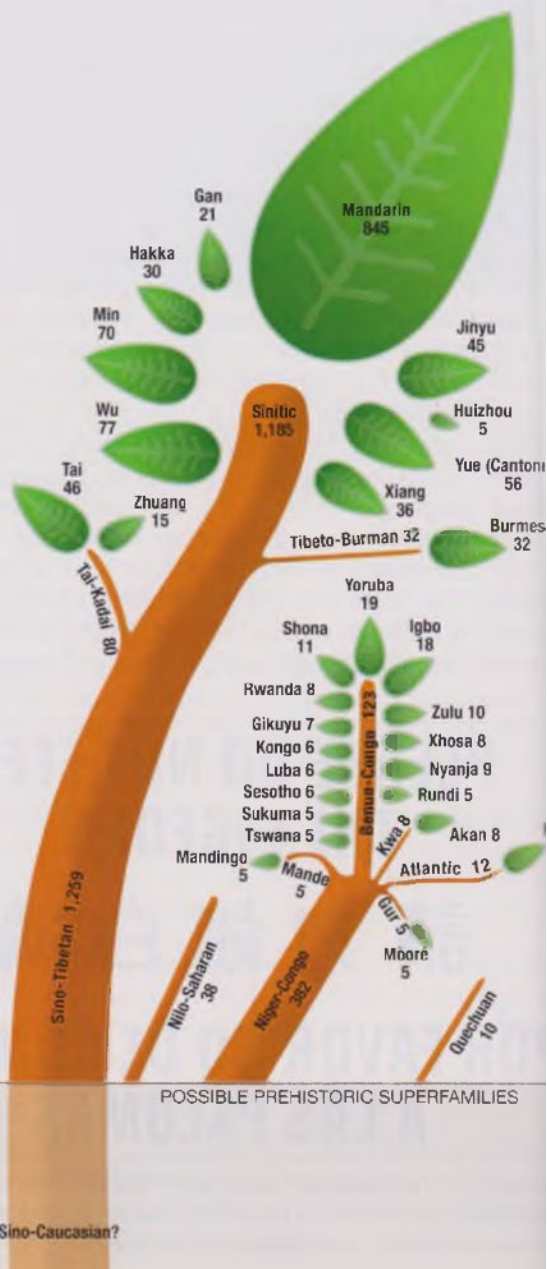
Rum ...

List



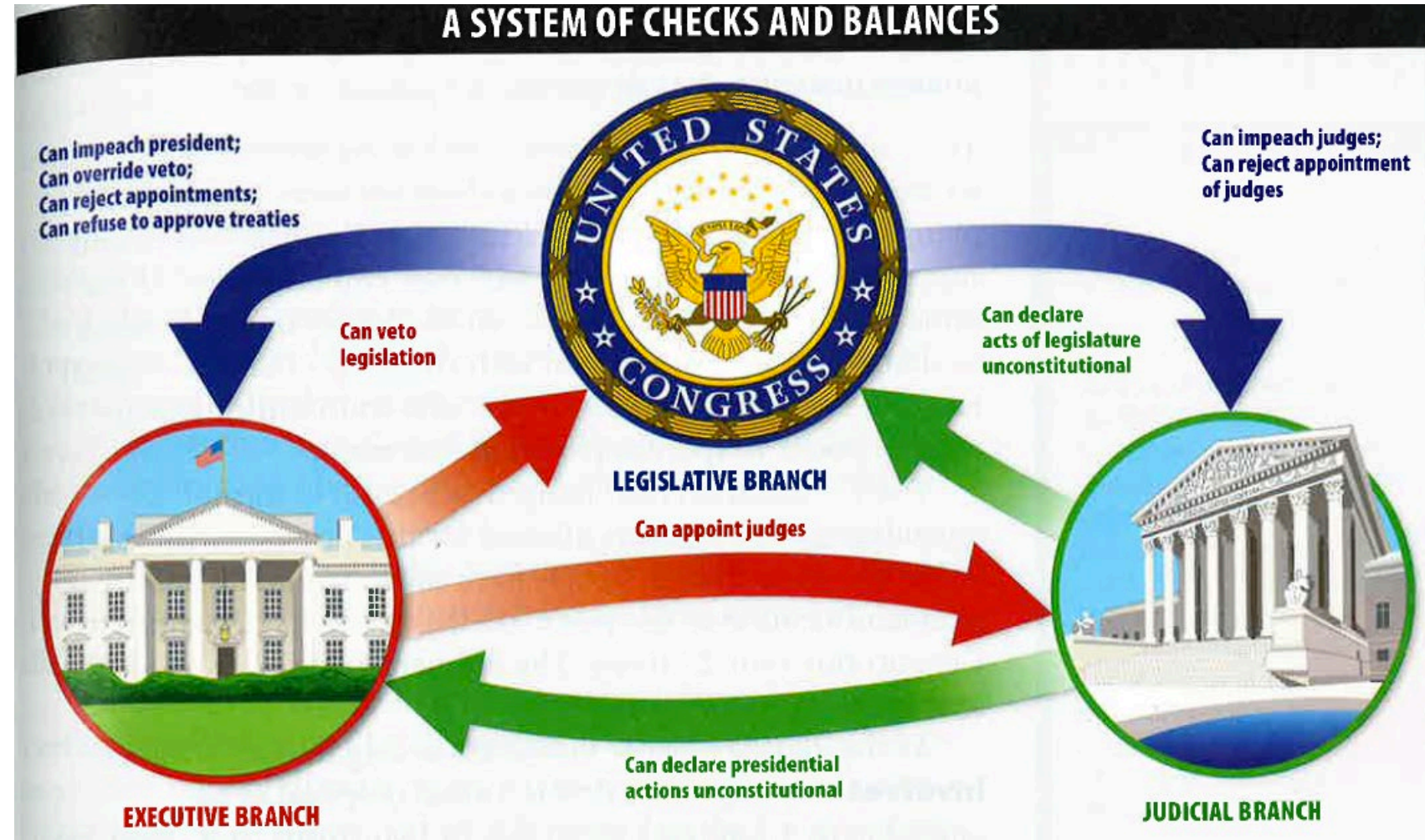
Sino-Caucasian?
 Sino-Tibetan 1,259
 Tai-Kadai 80
 Tai 46
 Zhuang 15
 Sinitic 1,185
 Wu 77
 Min 70
 Hakka 30
 Gan 21
 Mandarin 845 ...

Concise



List

Identify a legislative branch check on the judicial branch



Braille version

A SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES

@.<The diagram, which has arrows pointing from one branch of government to another, has been converted to a list.@.>

Executive Branch

Can veto legislation ;\o Legislative Branch

Can appoint judges ;\o Judicial Branch

Legislative Branch

Can impeach president; Can override veto; Can reject appointments; Can refuse to approve treaties ;\o Executive Branch

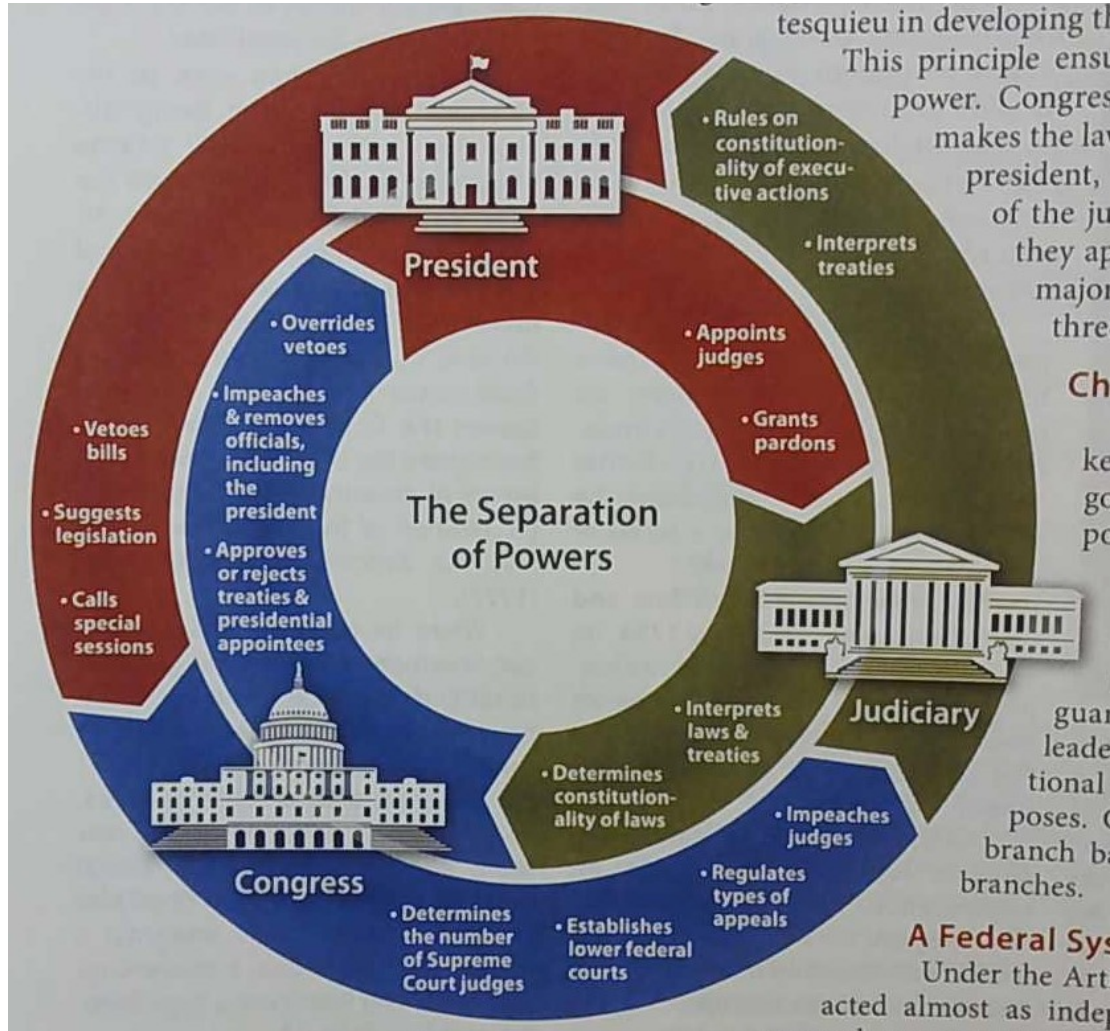
Can impeach judges; Can reject appointment of judges ;\o Judicial Branch

Judicial Branch

Can declare acts of legislature unconstitutional ;\o Legislative Branch

Can declare presidential actions unconstitutional ;\o Executive Branch

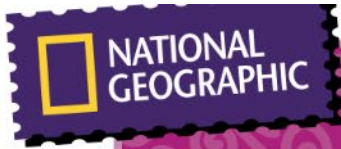
List




Table

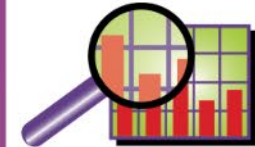
- Information displayed in columns and rows
- Include Transcriber's Note explaining change
- Graphs, some maps, when values are identified
- Related categories

Table



Types of Government

Type of Government	Who Holds Power?	Examples
Direct Democracy 	All citizens vote directly on issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parts of Switzerland • Some New England towns
Representative Democracy	People vote for representatives who lead the country and make laws.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States • Russia • France
Constitutional Monarchy 	A monarch inherits the right to rule but is limited by laws and a law-making body elected by the people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United Kingdom • Japan • Sweden • Jordan
Absolute Monarchy	A monarch inherits the right to rule and has unlimited power.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saudi Arabia
Dictatorship 	A dictator makes all laws and suppresses any opposition.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuba • Iraq under Saddam Hussein • Germany under Adolf Hitler

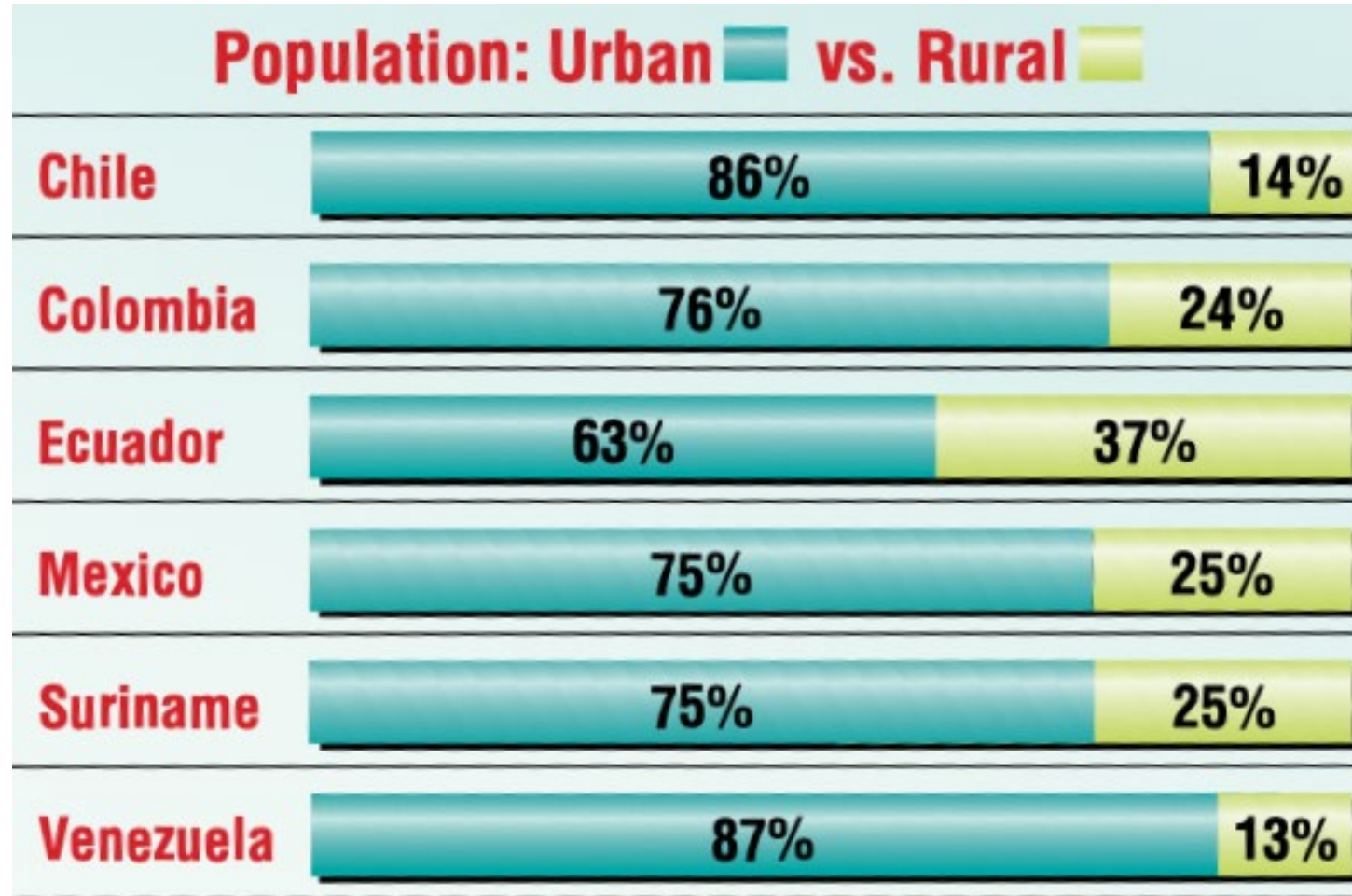


Analyzing the Chart

The United States is one of many countries with a democratic type of government.

Government What is the difference between a direct democracy and a representative democracy?

Table



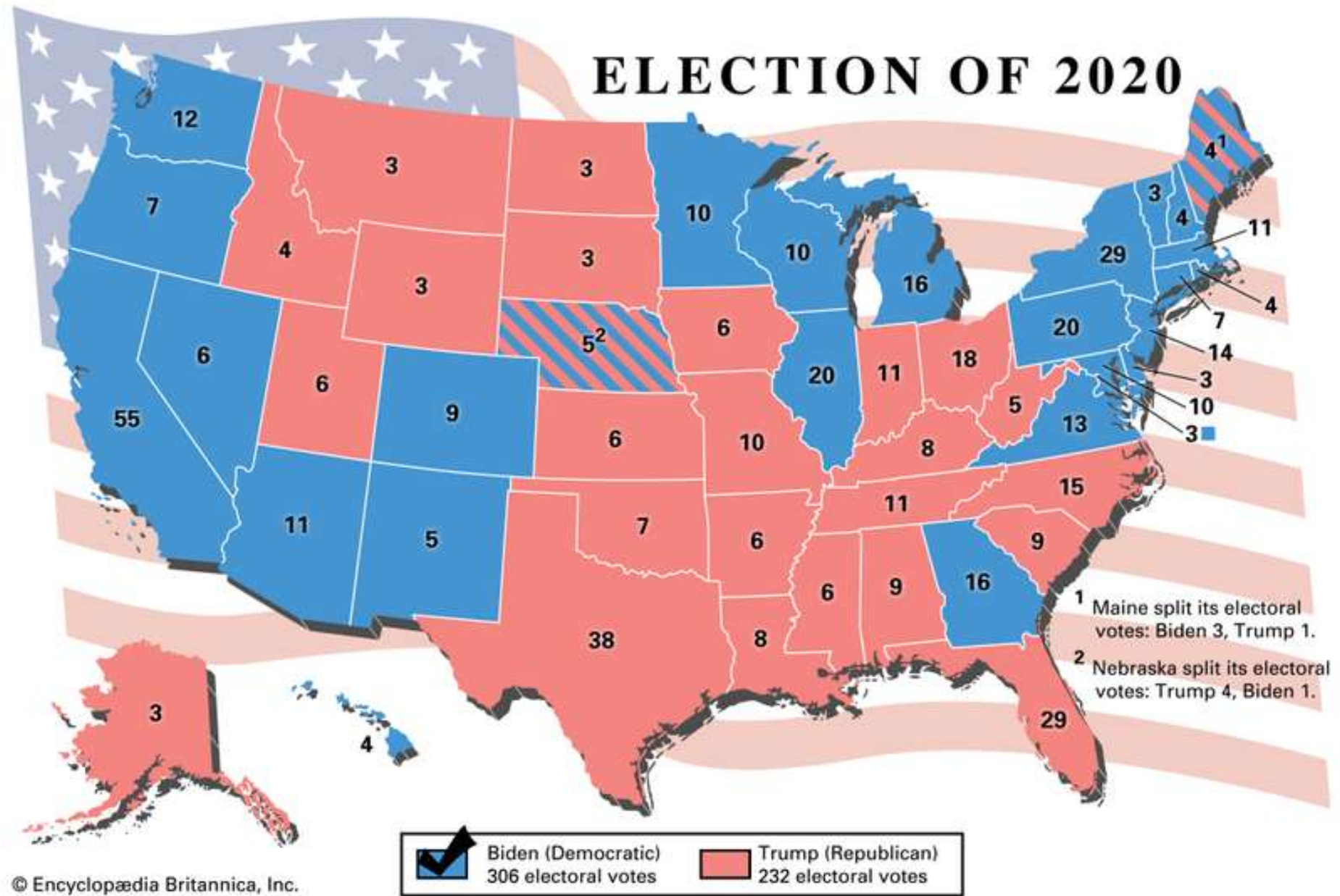
Table

Population: Urban vs. Rural

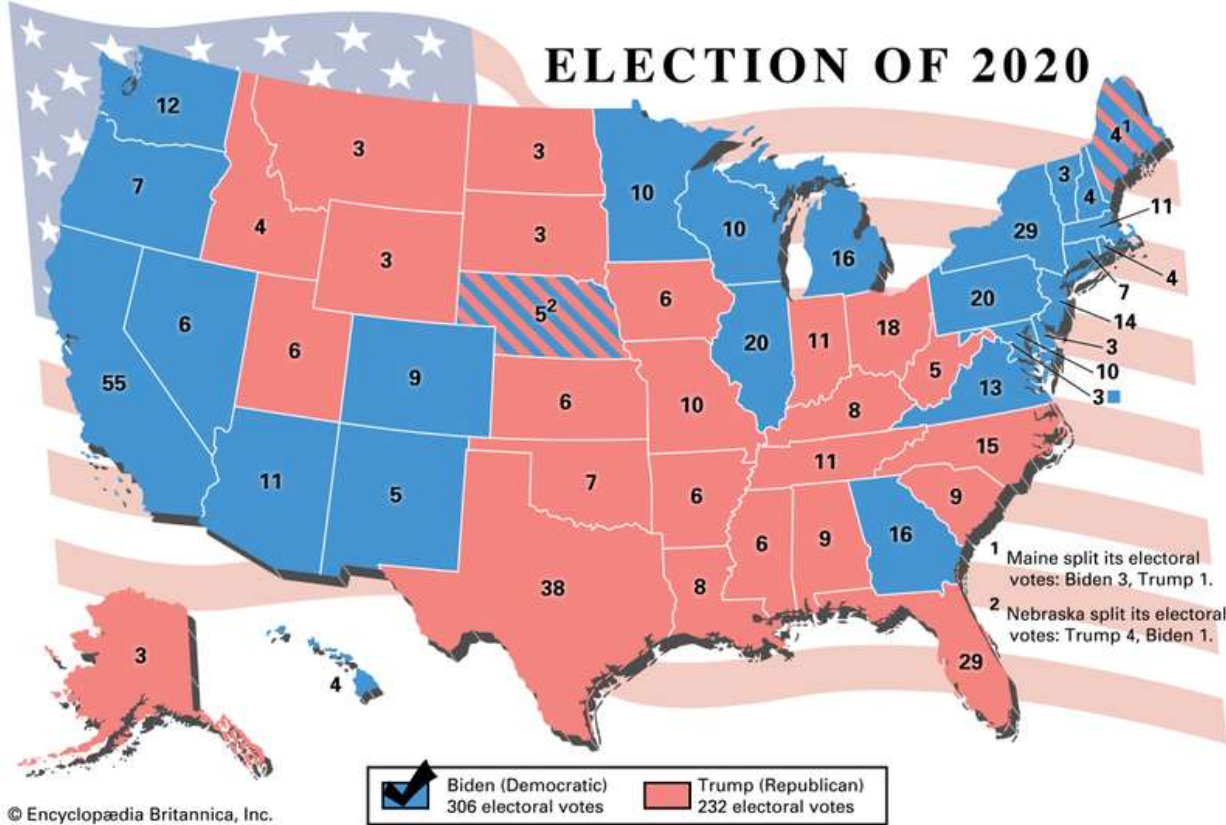
@.<The bar graph is presented as a table.@.>

	Urban	Rural
Chile	86%	14%
Colombia	76%	24%
Ecuador	63%	37%
Mexico	75%	25%
Suriname	75%	25%
Venezuela	87%	13%

Table



Table



	Biden (Democratic)	Trump (Republican)
Alabama	9
Alaska	3
Arizona	11
Arkansas	6
Total Electoral Votes	306	232

Cartoons



A Uncle Sam (United States)

B Irish Immigrants

C John Bull (Britain)

D British Lion

How do the British feel about the migration? How do you know?

Cartoon



@.<Uncle Sam is sitting on the United States shore next to Castle Gardens and a sign that reads “Wanted 1,000,000 men, Good Wages.” On the British shore, a group Irish immigrants are following a sign that reads “To the American Steamers,” which points to boats waiting nearby. John Bull is pulling one of the immigrants away from the steamers. The British Lion is watching John Bull and frowning.@.>

Multi-frame Cartoons



Multi-frame Cartoons

@.<Frame 1: A peaceful street.@.>

New Amsterdam, 1664

@.<Frame 2: Throne room.@.>

Meanwhile in England, King Charles II is feeling greedy.

King Charles I want to increase our colonies.

Advisor There is New Netherland...

King Charles Taking it over would make trade easier.

@.<Frame 3@.>

King Charles @.<offering a scroll@.> To my brother, the Duke of York, I give a gift. All the land between the Charles and Delaware Rivers!

@.<Frame 4: Large ships sailing on the ocean.@.>



GOOD DESCRIPTIONS

1. Consider the Context
2. Focus on the Content
3. Are Clear and Concise
4. Offer Equitable Access

CHECK OUT THE HANDOUT

For more information & resources!

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AMERICAN
PRINTING
HOUSE FOR
THE BLIND

