

Model Test Units
Middle School Curriculum
for the TEKS Test at Grade 8 in Texas

Unit - American Heritage Themes

1) Which of the four American Heritage themes motivates us to cheer for our classmates and at school athletic events?

- A. Unity
- B. Freedom
- C. Responsibility
- D. Progress

2) Which of the following items is not a symbol of freedom?

- A. The Declaration of Independence
- B. The Thanksgiving Turkey
- C. The U. S. Flag
- D. The Statue of Liberty

3) To which one of the following themes does the quote below allude?
“We must all hang together, or assuredly we shall all hang separately.”

- A. Unity
- B. Freedom
- C. Responsibility
- D. Progress

4) Patrick Henry once said, “I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!” His comments are in defense of what American Heritage Theme?

- A. Unity
- B. Freedom
- C. Responsibility
- D. Progress

5) Which of the four American Heritage themes do you think is embodied by this quote? Explain why you selected this theme.

“And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” —John F. Kennedy

6) Which of the four American Heritage themes do you think is embodied by this quote? Explain why you selected this theme.

“A nation which does not remember what it was yesterday, does not know it is today, now what it is trying to do. We are trying to do a futile thing if we do not know where we come from or what we have been about.”
—Woodrow Wilson

7) The United States is represented by many symbols including the U. S. flag, the eagle, the Statute of Liberty, and others. Draw a flag that includes representations of the four American Heritage themes of freedom, unity, progress, and responsibility. Below the drawing explain why your symbols represent the themes.

Unit - The Declaration of Independence

1) Independence Day is a celebration of:

- A. The birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- B. The end of the Civil War.
- C. The signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- D. The landing of the first man on the moon.

2) This painting depicting the signing of the Declaration of Independence was painted by:

- A. John Smith
- B. John Wayne
- C. John Trumbull
- D. John R. Kennedy

3) Which of the following is NOT a self-evident truth espoused by the Declaration of Independence?

- A. All men are created equal.
- B. All men are endowed by their creator with unalienable rights.
- C. All men should be involved in their government.
- D. All men are entitled to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

4) Which of these was NOT a reason for the colonists to send the Declaration of Independence to England?

- A. To complain about the way they were being treated by the King.
- B. To describe how they felt they should be treated.
- C. To declare their independence.
- D. To ask other countries to join them.

5) If the government becomes oppressive, Jefferson said the people should:

- A. Start a war or revolt.
- B. Abolish it and institute a new government.
- C. Move to another country.
- D. Form a forum to discuss how to counteract the oppression.

6) According to Locke the function of government is to do what?

- A. Promote the general welfare of the citizens.
- B. Protect the value of property.
- C. Protect the citizens.
- D. Promote the natural rights of citizens.

7) Which of these cause and effect sentences best describes the reasons why the Declaration of Independence was written?

- A. Because the colonists threw tea into the Boston Harbor, they declared war on Britain.
- B. Because the colonists did not like the way they were treated by King George, they decided to write the Declaration of Independence.
- C. The colonists liked King George, and they also liked paying taxes to him.
- D. Because the colonists were so far away, King George did not bother them.

8) In a few sentences tell why the Declaration of Independence is so important. Your answer needs to support the concept of freedom.

9) The Declaration of Independence is also known as the "birth certificate of _____".

10) After months of hard work you have grown really tired of all the work and studying that your teacher has assigned you. Luckily you remember what you were taught about the Declaration of Independence and decide to create your own Declaration based on your classroom experience. Using what you remember, write your own Declaration of Independence and include three sections modeled after those found in the original Declaration of Independence. Explain the similarities between what you and what the Founding Fathers felt.

11) Create a comic strip drawing which illustrates the events leading up to the Declaration of Independence. Make sure your answers include the following Founding Fathers: John Hancock, King George, and Samuel Adams.

12) Draw a time line from 1600 to 2000 and mark important events including the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Unit - The Monarchy Game

1) In a monarchy, who is the absolute ruler of the country?

- A. Craftsman
- B. Citizens
- C. King
- D. Nobleman

2) How are the songs "God Save the King" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee" similar?

- A. The words and the music are the same.
- B. The words are the same, but the music is different.
- C. The words and the music are different.
- D. The words are different, but the music is the same.

3) What is the one way that kings and queens increase their wealth?

- A. Sell goods they produce.
- B. War with neighboring nations.
- C. Investing in business.
- D. Writing books.

4) Illustrate and label the King's cash and compare it to the peasants' cash.

Unit - Thanksgiving

1) Thanksgiving is a national annual holiday which is celebrated in what month?

- A. December
- B. November
- C. July
- D. October

2) What war was being fought in the United States when President Lincoln declared Thanksgiving a national holiday in 1863?

- A. Civil War
- B. Revolutionary War
- C. French and Indian War
- D. Korean War

3) Thanksgiving was originally designed to give thanks to:

- A. The Buddha
- B. God
- C. George Washington
- D. The Indians

4) The Thanksgiving celebration is designed to:

- 1. Bring people together.
- 2. Help people understand one another.
- 3. Provide a place where people can discuss the need for a government.
- 4. Demonstrate the importance of giving thanks.

- A. 1, 2, and 3
- B. 2, 3, and 4
- C. 3 and 4
- D. 1, 2, and 4

5) Write a brief description of the factors that resulted in nearly half of the pilgrims dying during the winter of 1620?

6) Draw a picture of the amount of food the Pilgrims had during the first winter compared to the amount of food they had the following year with the help of the Indians.

Unit - United States Flag

1) The fifty stars on the United States Flag represent:

- A. The original Colonies in America.
- B. The number of rules in the 1776 Flag Code.
- C. The number of States in the United States.
- D. The number of signers of the Declaration of Independence.

2) What is patriotism?

- A. Commitment to the ideas of a Nation.
- B. A kind of flag.
- C. A symbol of a county.
- D. The building of a new country.

3) Write a paragraph stating why it is important for Americans' to say the Pledge of Allegiance?

4) What does saying the pledge of allegiance tell you about the importance of the flag?

5) Why are there so many rules about how to care for our flag?

6) Draw the American flag and identify its parts. What do the symbols represent?

Unit - The Star-Spangled Banner

1) The Star-Spangled Banner was written during a great war to demonstrate how people felt about the nation. What was the name of the great war going on when the song was written?

- A. American Revolutionary War
- B. Civil War
- C. World War I
- D. War of 1812

2) The author of the Star-Spangled, Frances Scott Key, was on board a British ship when he wrote the song because:

- A. He was a spy for the United States.
- B. He was arranging for the release of an American prisoner.
- C. He was a British citizen with strong feeling of respect for the United States.
- D. He was traveling to the Britain when his ship was caught in the harbor.

3) The Star-Spangled Banner has been sung during all but one of the following conflicts:

- A. American Revolutionary War
- B. Civil War
- C. World War I
- D. War of 1812

4) During the war of 1812, the United States was defending its existence as a free nation from an invasion by what country?

- A. France
- B. Great Britain
- C. Spain
- D. Italy

5) The United States had been a free nation for about thirty years when the British began to seize American merchant ships and kidnap American sailors. What did the British force the American sailors to do for them?

- A. Fight in France for Britain.
- B. Fight in Spain during the War of 1812.
- C. Return to Britain and build guns.
- D. Serve in the British navy.

6) Read the Star-Spangled Banner and identify four examples of the character of citizens of the United States.

7) From the song the Star-Spangle Banner, what is the suggested national motto?

Unit - The Gettysburg Address

1) Abraham Lincoln wrote the Gettysburg Address for the occasion of:

- A. The end of the Civil War.
- B. Dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg.
- C. Opening remarks to introduce Edward Everett at Gettysburg.
- D. To inspire soldiers before the battle of Gettysburg.

2) Lincoln began his address about the activities of the Founding Fathers and their dedication to the proposition that all men are created equal. To what year was he referring when he said four score and seven years ago?

- A. 1816
- B. 1812
- C. 1776
- D. 1786

3) Lincoln said in the Gettysburg Address that the Founding Fathers brought forth on this continent a nation. Which of these was not one of the characteristics of the nation?

- A. It was new.
- B. It was ruled by a king.
- C. It was dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.
- D. It was conceived in liberty.

4) There are many basic ideas about the American system of government and human values expressed in Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Which of the following words were not used in his speech?

- A. one nation
- B. under God
- C. conceived in liberty
- D. all men are created equal

5) Describe briefly the work Lincoln said the living should do after the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg.

Unit - The National Motto

1) Where was the national motto "In God We Trust" first stated?

- A. Declaration of Independence
- B. Constitution of the United States
- C. Mayflower Compact
- D. The Star-Spangled Banner

2) The National Motto has been used in many ways over the years. Which of the following is not true about the Motto?

- A. Lincoln declared the motto be placed on all coins.
- B. Congress added the motto on all paper currency.
- C. The motto is found in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- D. Francis Scott Key suggested the motto, "In God is our Trust."

3) The National Motto incorporated the Founding Fathers' belief in:

- A. Divine Guidance
- B. Philanthropy
- C. Civic virtue
- D. Individual liberty

4) The national motto reflects what essential freedom that the United States provides for all people?

- A. Freedom to experience economic growth.
- B. Freedom to bear arms.
- C. Political freedom.
- D. Religious freedom.

5) Write a brief paragraph about how the first colonists expressed their belief that all people are impacted by Divine Providence.

Unit - Statue of Liberty

1) The Statute of Liberty was given to the United States by:

- A. Texas
- B. England
- C. Germany
- D. France

2) The correct name of the Statue of Liberty is:

- A. Liberty Enlightening the World
- B. Light Leading the Country
- C. Bring Me the Tired
- D. One Nation Under God

3) Which of these is not a reason why migrants come to the United States?

- A. To flee religious persecution.
- B. For better economic opportunities.
- C. To be sold into slavery.
- D. To escape political unrest.

4) According to M. Stanton Evan's excerpt, "The Theme is Freedom", freedom can best be described as:

- A. Something to be taken for granted.
- B. Deciding things voluntarily in consideration of others.
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5) Describe the qualities represented by the Statue of Liberty as a symbol of America?

6) Draw a picture of the Statue of Liberty and define its parts.

7) Make a bumper sticker for someone who supports the qualities represented by the Statue of Liberty.

Unit - Pledge of Allegiance

1) The word allegiance means:

- A. Sadness
- B. Heart
- C. Loyalty
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2) The Pledge of Allegiance was first published in what year?

- A. 1772
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3) The word “pledge” in the Pledge of Allegiance is a synonymous with:

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4) Write a short persuasive essay on the topic of requiring all students to say the pledge daily in school.

5) Discuss the reasons people might use if they do not wish to say the pledge.

6) Discuss the importance of the pledge for people who do say the pledge.

7) Illustrate citizens showing allegiance to the Flag of the United States.

Unit - What is an American?

1) George Washington once said, “You are all dependent on one another and should be in union.” What event in America history does not follow that thought?

- A. Slavery.
- B. Signing of the Declaration of Independence.
- C. Emancipation Proclamation.
- D. The original Bill of Rights.

2) If you were to write a definition of “American” what word would not apply?

- A. Dependent
- B. Independent
- C. Communist
- D. Free

3) Write a description about interdependence in a game of football.

4) Draw a picture of a flag that illustrates the concepts of freedom, responsibility, progress, and unity.

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The following model test items are designed to provide a starting point for teachers to assess student knowledge of the American Heritage concepts tested on the Texas Assessment of Essential Knowledge and Skills. These items may be changed and modified in any fashion as needed by the teacher. Copyright permission is granted for use in any Houston ISD schools. Correct answers are in bold type.

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[Answer: Lack of proper shelter, no time to plan and harvest crops before winter came, and disease.]

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["In God is our trust."]

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