



Beginning-of-Year Assessment (BOY)

Grade 8 Social Studies Standards

This BOY assessment is intended to assess current grade 9 students who completed grade 8 social studies in the 2019-2020 school year.

Congratulations! You worked very hard in school to learn many new things. Taking this Grade 8 Social Studies Standards test is a great way to show your family and school what you learned. It is okay if you do not know all the answers. Just try your best. You are amazing! You are taking this test so adults can learn more about how to help you this year.

You can ask an adult for help if you do not understand the directions. You can use scratch paper for this test.

If you do not know the answer to a question, choose the answer you think might be correct. You must answer the questions on your own.

You are now ready to start. Take your time and remember that trying your best is what is important. You're awesome, and you'll do great!

BOY Assessment Grade 8 Social Studies Standards

Student _____
Class _____
Date _____

1.

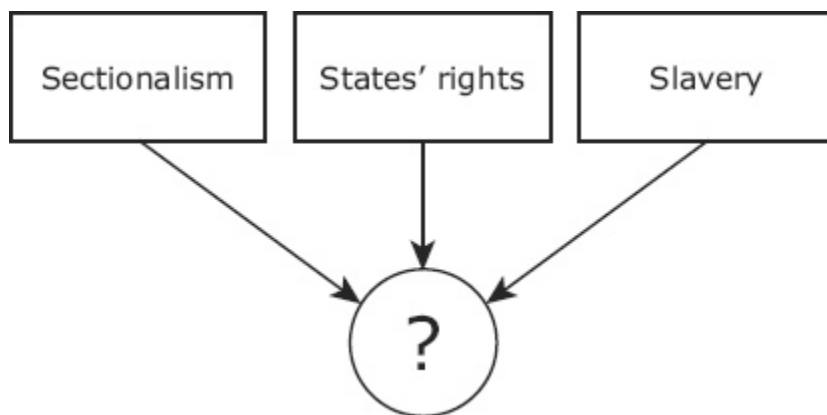
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Life• Liberty• Pursuit of happiness

This list includes rights that are considered —

- A. transferable
 - B. legislated
 - C. unalienable
 - D. inherited
2. One environmental consequence of the large-scale cultivation of cotton in the South was —
- A. widespread soil exhaustion caused by decades of farming
 - B. drought caused by overuse of river water to irrigate farmland
 - C. air pollution caused by the use of cotton gins
 - D. widespread water contamination caused by fertilizer runoff

3. The development of the factory system in the early 1800s caused —
- A. a decrease in free trade between nations
 - B. an increase in government regulation of businesses
 - C. an increase in production levels
 - D. a decrease in immigration

4.



Which outcome best completes this diagram?

- A. American Revolution
- B. Popular Sovereignty
- C. Manifest Destiny
- D. Civil War

5. Which factor encouraged more immigrants to settle in northern states than southern states during the mid-nineteenth century?

- A. Northern states had lower population densities.
- B. Citizenship requirements in southern states were not as strict.
- C. Southern states had smaller industrial sectors.
- D. Governments in northern states were less corrupt.

6.

- Invention of the cotton gin
- Opening of lands along the Mississippi River
- Growing demand for inexpensive labor

Which change occurred as a direct result of these developments?

- A. A reduction in the number of skilled workers in northern states
- B. The expansion of manufacturing into the western territories
- C. A reduction in trade with European countries
- D. The expansion of slavery into newly acquired territories

7.

I was the conductor of the Underground Railroad for eight years, and I can say what most conductors can't say—I never ran my train off the track and I never lost a passenger.

—1904

Who made this statement?

- A. Harriet Beecher Stowe
- B. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- C. Harriet Tubman
- D. Phillis Wheatley

8. The great idea in Article V [of the Constitution] is that change requires two elements: . . . national agreement, as well as agreement in most of the states, that an urgent problem exists that cannot be remedied by the courts, legislatures or Congress.

—*Mary Frances Berry, The New York Times, September 13, 1987*

This author is expressing her opinion about —

- A. recalling members of Congress
 - B. impeaching the President
 - C. disobeying the Supreme Court
 - D. amending the Constitution
9. The completion of the Erie Canal played a key role in which development?
- A. New York City becoming a vital commercial center with the country's busiest seaport
 - B. New Orleans becoming a leader in manufacturing and overseas trade
 - C. Washington, D.C., becoming the cultural and political center of the nation
 - D. Boston becoming one of the country's largest transportation hubs

10. Which argument would a Federalist make to support ratification of the Constitution?
- A. The Constitution will enable states to nullify laws that are harmful to citizens.
 - B. A strong federal government will be more stable than a loose confederation of states.
 - C. The Constitution will allow states to establish banks to stabilize the national economy.
 - D. A republican system of government will better represent large states.

11. Foreign-Born Population in the United States, 1850–1870

Year	Foreign-Born Population (millions)	Percent of Total Population
1850	2.2	9.7%
1860	4.1	13.2%
1870	5.6	14.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

One result of the trend shown in this table was the —

- A. expansion of available labor
- B. creation of specialized trade guilds
- C. decrease in educational opportunities for women
- D. increase in production costs for manufacturers

12. The British government issued the Proclamation of 1763 to limit the area British colonists were allowed to settle. Which geographic feature did the British use as the boundary of approved settlement?

- A.** Lake Michigan
- B.** Gulf of Mexico
- C.** Mississippi River
- D.** Appalachian Mountains

13. Which numbered area did the United States acquire in 1846 after negotiations with Great Britain?



14.

- Daughters of Temperance
- Women's Christian Temperance Union

How did the growth of these organizations most affect the role of women in U.S. society?

- A. By providing economic opportunities for women in urban areas
- B. By expanding the participation of women in social reform
- C. By increasing the number of women teachers in rural areas
- D. By securing the establishment of private universities for women

15.

The American continents, by the free and independent condition which they have assumed and maintain, are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European Power.

—President James Monroe, message to Congress, 1823

What was the main reason President Monroe made this statement?

- A. To strengthen political alliances with European allies
- B. To address European competition for natural resources
- C. To increase U.S. military readiness for European expansionism
- D. To prevent European intervention in countries near the United States

16.

United States in the Mid-1800s

Industrial development expanded.

?

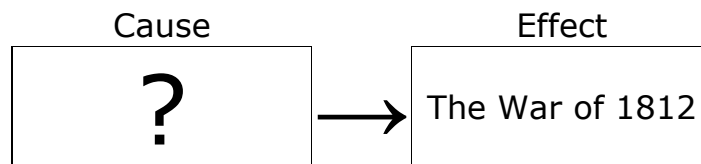
Overcrowding, pollution, and crime became widespread.

Reform movements were organized to address social problems.

Which sentence best completes this diagram?

- A. Cities grew rapidly.
- B. Demand for artisans increased.
- C. Farms experienced a shortage of labor.
- D. Government regulation of factories increased.

17.

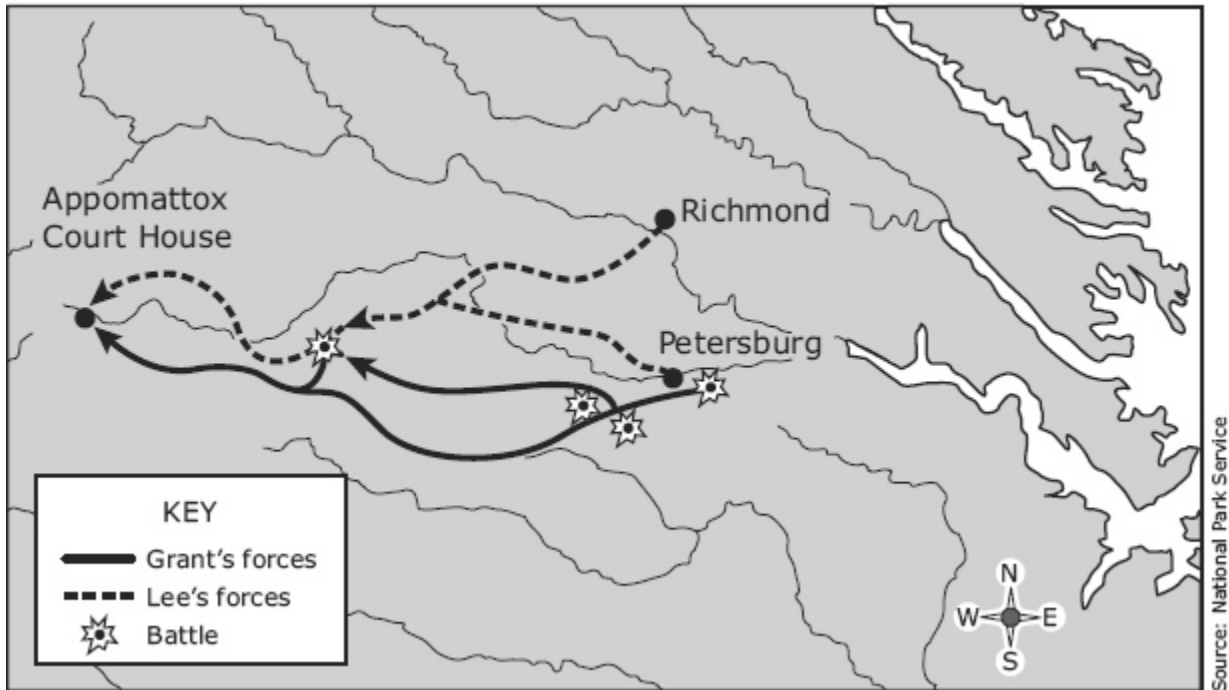


Which action completes this graphic organizer?

- A. French naval attacks on U.S. harbors
- B. British invasions of countries allied with the United States
- C. French embargoes on trade with the United States
- D. British impressment of U.S. sailors

18.

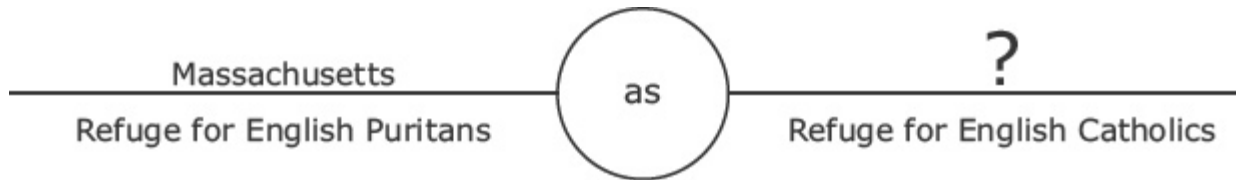
Virginia, Spring 1865



What was the result of the events shown on the map above?

- A. General Lee's troops received necessary reinforcements.
- B. General Grant's supply lines were completely cut off.
- C. General Lee surrendered to General Grant.
- D. General Grant and General Lee combined forces.

19.



Which colony correctly completes this diagram?

A. Maryland

B. Virginia

C. South Carolina

D. Georgia

20. Why was it difficult for Congress to fulfill its duties under the Articles of Confederation?

A. Any congressional action required executive approval.

B. Congress lacked the power to declare war.

C. Most congressional decisions required the approval of at least nine states.

D. Congress lacked the power to regulate foreign trade.

- 21.** Which of the following was an argument made against slavery in the Thirteen Colonies?
- A.** Manufacturers argued that slavery discouraged the development of industry.
 - B.** Farmers argued that using slave labor was expensive and inefficient.
 - C.** Quakers argued that slavery violated Christian principles.
 - D.** Puritans argued that the slave trade encouraged materialism.
- 22.** How did the Supreme Court decision in *Worcester v. Georgia* affect American Indians?
- A.** The ruling gave the state authority over relations with American Indians.
 - B.** The state ignored the ruling and distributed Cherokee lands to white settlers.
 - C.** More American Indian tribes decided to grant licenses to missionaries to live on tribal lands.
 - D.** Reservation policies were overturned and replaced with land grants to individuals.

23. Irish and Chinese immigrants are best remembered for performing which type of labor during the late nineteenth century?
- A. Building dams in the midwestern states
 - B. Digging canals across northern states
 - C. Building railroads in western territories
 - D. Constructing bridges in southern states

24.

All men are created equal, says the great Declaration and now a great act attests this verity. Today we make the Declaration a reality. . . . The Declaration was only half established by Independence. The greatest duty remained behind. In assuring the equal rights of all we complete the work.

—Senator Charles Sumner, 1870

What is the “great act” referred to by Senator Sumner in this excerpt?

- A. The Senate’s readmission of the last Confederate state
- B. The addition of Hiram Rhodes Revels to the U.S. Senate
- C. The Senate’s acquittal of President Andrew Johnson
- D. The election of the first woman to the U.S. Senate

25. What was one result of the Treaty of Paris of 1783?

- A. Great Britain recognized the United States as an independent country.
- B. Competing Seminole and Spanish claims in West Florida were resolved.
- C. The British navy agreed to stop pressing American sailors into service.
- D. British territory in eastern Canada was ceded to France.

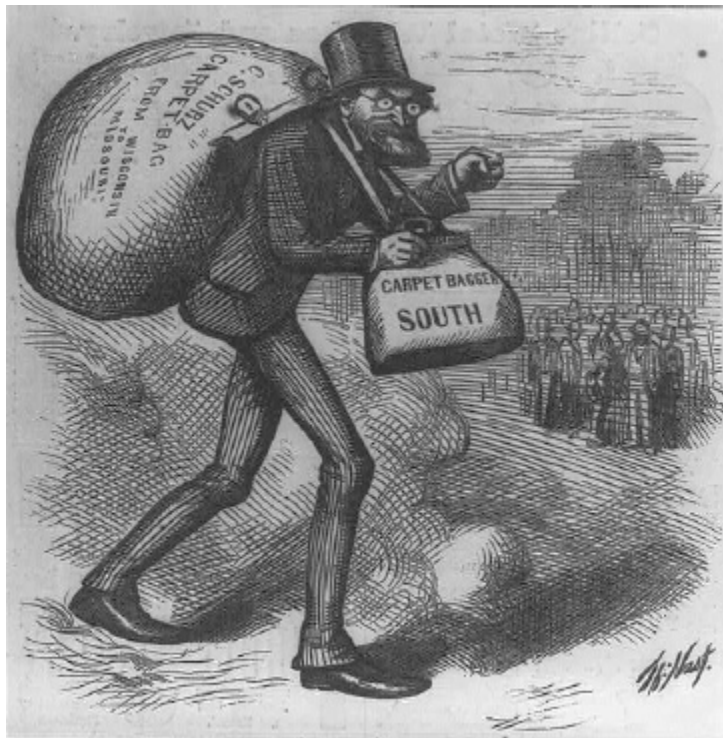
26.

Representation in the U.S. Senate	Representation in the U.S. House of Representatives
Equal number of seats for all states	Number of seats based on state population

Why was this congressional structure created by the framers of the Constitution?

- A. To follow the plan outlined in the Articles of Confederation
- B. To reach a compromise between large and small states
- C. To reach a compromise between slave states and non-slave states
- D. To implement the outcome of a popular vote

27.

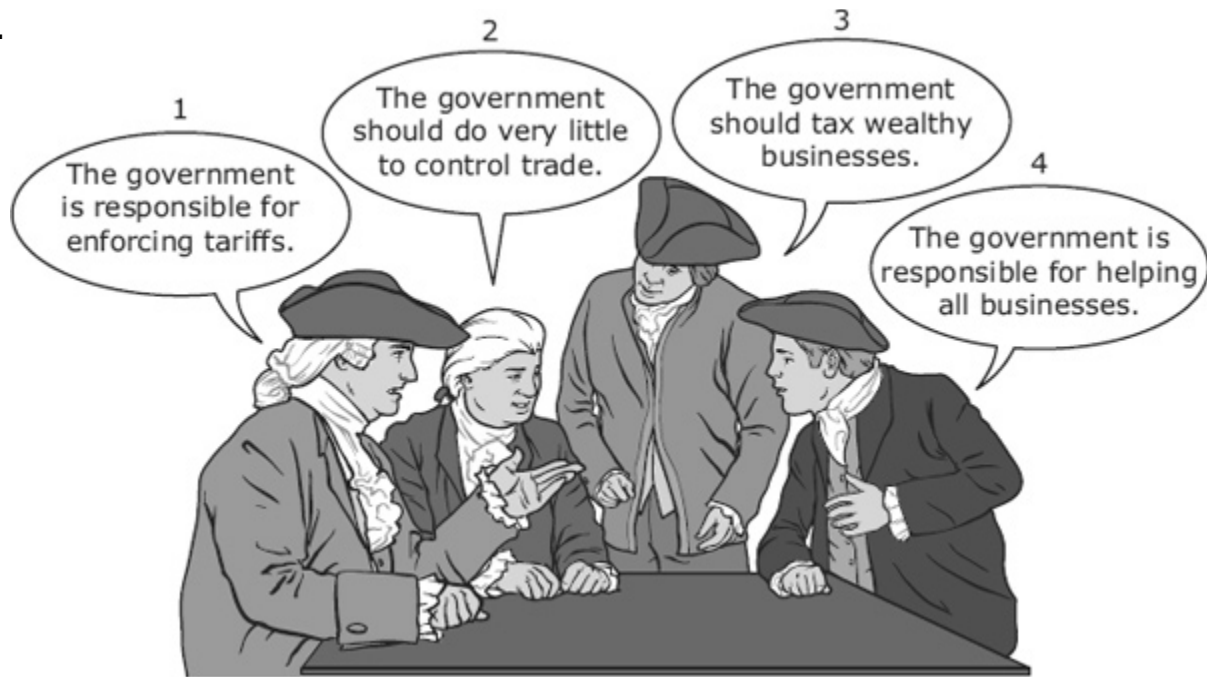


Source: Library of Congress,
Prints and Photographs Division

This political cartoon comments on events that occurred during the —

- A. Reconstruction era
- B. Age of Jackson
- C. Second Great Awakening
- D. War of 1812

28.



Which person is most likely a supporter of free enterprise?

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

- 29.** Which of the following had the greatest impact on the outcome of the Civil War?
- A.** Economic differences between the Union and the Confederacy
 - B.** The amount of military training given to Union forces and Confederacy forces
 - C.** Religious differences between the Union and the Confederacy
 - D.** The alignment of foreign allies with the Union or with the Confederacy
- 30.** During the 1830s public servants and officials were widely perceived to be unqualified. What practice reinforced that perception?
- A.** The public voting for candidates based on religious affiliations
 - B.** The president rewarding political supporters with appointments to desirable positions
 - C.** The federal government recruiting volunteers to serve abroad as ambassadors
 - D.** Legislators awarding government contracts to the lowest bidders

- 31.** Which American colony's economy was based primarily on shipbuilding and fishing?
- A.** Virginia
 - B.** Maryland
 - C.** Georgia
 - D.** Massachusetts
- 32.** How did the provisions of the Northwest Ordinance affect U.S. expansion?
- A.** By funding a transportation network in uninhabited regions
 - B.** By establishing a process for territories to govern themselves
 - C.** By promoting the growth of southern plantation economies
 - D.** By creating a national bank to loan money to land investors

33.

Resolved, that the taxation of the people by themselves, or by persons chosen by themselves to represent them . . . is the only security against a burdensome taxation . . .

—Virginia Stamp Act Resolutions, May 30, 1765

Which statement best explains why this resolution was adopted?

- A. Colonists were upset by the punishment imposed after the Boston Tea Party.
 - B. Colonists created this in order to address the causes of the Boston Massacre.
 - C. Colonists were opposed to colonial laws being created only by Parliament.
 - D. Colonists wanted to expand powers given to governors appointed by King George III.
34. Which grievance from the Declaration of Independence is addressed by the Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?
- A. "He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly."
 - B. "For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury . . ."
 - C. "He has obstructed the . . . Laws for establishing Judiciary powers."
 - D. "For Quartering large bodies of armed troops among us . . ."

35.



Which motive best completes the diagram?

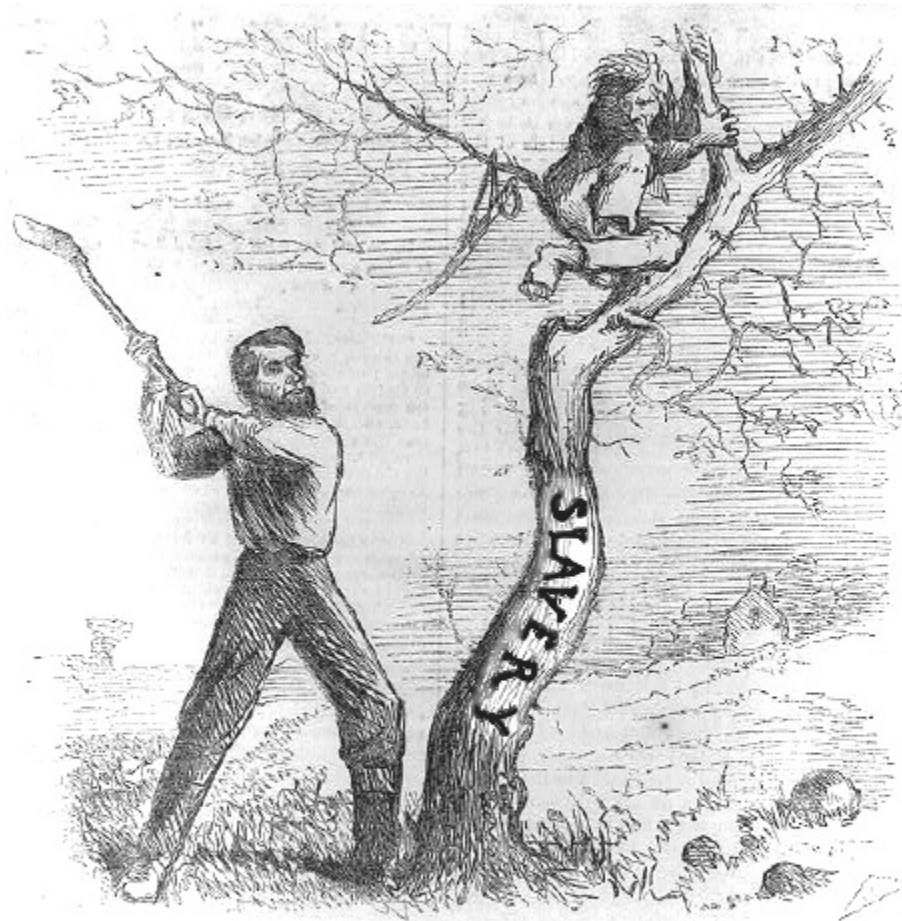
- A. To promote free enterprise
- B. To extend democracy
- C. To expand empires
- D. To found utopian communities

- 36.** All you need is an open mind and a readiness to work with the other[s] . . . to make decisions. You also need to be impartial—in other words, your decisions must not be influenced by personal feelings and biases

This statement is most likely from a handbook designed to prepare citizens for —

- A.** voting in elections
 - B.** jury duty
 - C.** paying income taxes
 - D.** military service
- 37.** Which of these occurred during early U.S. industrialization?
- A.** Manufacturers instituted a five-day workweek.
 - B.** Labor laws required factories to provide a safe working environment.
 - C.** Workers were required to attend schools to develop technical skills.
 - D.** Production of goods transitioned from homes to factories.

38.



LINCOLN'S LAST WARNING.

"Now, if you don't come down, I'll cut the Tree *from under you*."

Source: Library of Congress,
Prints and Photographs Division

How did President Lincoln succeed in permanently abolishing the practice represented by the tree in this cartoon?

- A.** By ordering the use of popular sovereignty to decide the issue of slavery
- B.** By encouraging an armed rebellion of slaves in the South
- C.** By promoting the passage and ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment
- D.** By helping abolitionists fund the Underground Railroad

39. The first political parties in the United States formed mainly in response to disagreements over —

- A.** taxation without representation
- B.** the doctrine of judicial review
- C.** territorial expansion to the west
- D.** the extent of federal power

40.

- The Mayflower Compact
- The charter establishing the Virginia House of Burgesses
- The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

Which factor most contributed to the creation of the documents in this list?

- A.** The opportunity for trade with American Indians
- B.** The distance of the colonies from Great Britain
- C.** The doctrine of the Church of England
- D.** The economic system of mercantilism

41.



Why is this type of interaction important in U.S. society?

- A. Free speech allows people to help create a better government.
- B. Due process laws are guaranteed by the Fifth Amendment.
- C. Individual protections are guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.
- D. Freedom of the press helps the government respond to public opinion.

42. What was one effect of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850?

- A. The Republican Party lost influence in the federal legislature.
- B. The Missouri Compromise was deemed unconstitutional by federal courts.
- C. Tensions among the populations of northern and southern states increased.
- D. Immigrants were forced to relocate from eastern cities to western territories.

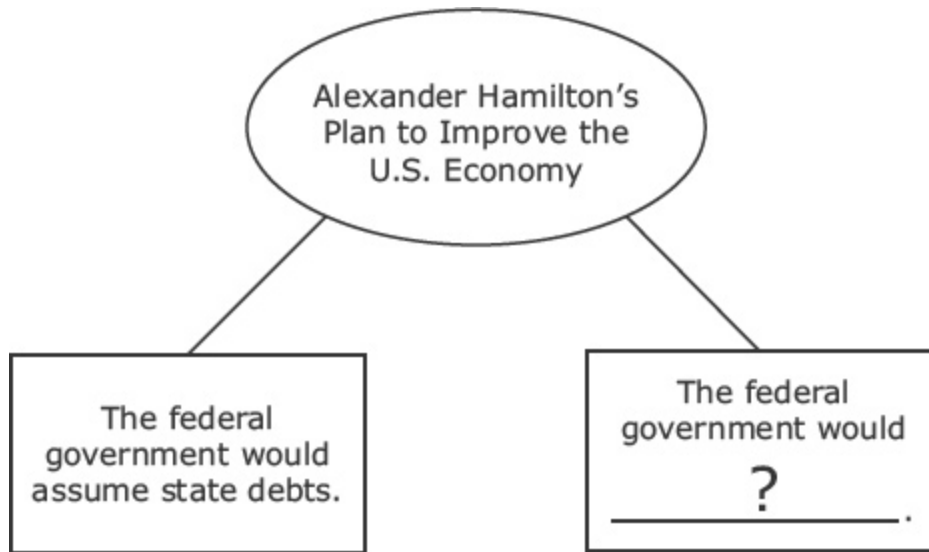
43. The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved for the states respectively, or to the people.

—Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Conflicting interpretations of this amendment played a major role in the —

- A. Bank War
- B. Nullification Crisis
- C. Corrupt Bargain
- D. XYZ Affair

44.



Which action completes this diagram?

- A. oversee state government agencies
- B. regulate the creation of new businesses
- C. establish a national bank
- D. eliminate protective tariffs

