U.S. History
Student Questionnaire

2014
Grade 8
In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. Please answer questions about your home based on where you live most of the time during the school year. The section has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only one oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in one or more ovals.
   - ☐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
   - ☐ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
   - ☐ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in one or more ovals.
   - ☐ White
   - ☐ Black or African American
   - ☐ Asian
   - ☐ American Indian or Alaska Native
   - ☐ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
3. About how many books are there in your home?
   - Few (0–10)
   - Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
   - Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
   - Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

4. Is there a computer at home that you use?
   - Yes
   - No

5. Do you have the following in your home? Fill in ovals for all that apply.
   - Access to the Internet
   - Clothes dryer just for your family
   - Dishwasher
   - More than one bathroom
   - Your own bedroom

6. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?
   - 5 or fewer
   - 6–10
   - 11–15
   - 16–20
   - More than 20

7. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?
   - Never or hardly ever
   - Once every few weeks
   - About once a week
   - Two or three times a week
   - Every day

8. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?
   - None
   - 1 or 2 days
   - 3 or 4 days
   - 5 to 10 days
   - More than 10 days
9. How far in school did your mother go?
- She did not finish high school.
- She graduated from high school.
- She had some education after high school.
- She graduated from college.
- I don’t know.

10. How far in school did your father go?
- He did not finish high school.
- He graduated from high school.
- He had some education after high school.
- He graduated from college.
- I don’t know.

11. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?
- Never
- Once in a while
- About half of the time
- All or most of the time

12. Do the following people live in your home? Fill in ovals for **all** that apply.
- Mother
- Stepmother
- Foster mother or other female legal guardian
- Father
- Stepfather
- Foster father or other male legal guardian

13. Write the ZIP code of your home address in the boxes.
SECTION 4

This section has 12 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only one oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. Did you take a United States history course in the following grades? Fill in one oval on each line.

   a. 5th grade
      ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ I don’t know.
   b. 6th grade
      ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ I don’t know.
   c. 7th grade
      ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ I don’t know.
   d. 8th grade
      ○ Yes  ○ No  ○ I don’t know.

2. Are you taking a United States history course now?
   ○ Yes
   ○ No
3. Since the beginning of middle school or junior high school, how much have you studied the following periods of United States history? Fill in one oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Not at all</th>
<th>Some</th>
<th>A lot</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. The period before 1815: beginnings through the Revolution (e.g., colonization, settlement, revolution)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. The period between 1815 and 1865: the new nation through the Civil War (e.g., expansion, reform, crisis of the Union)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. The period between 1865 and 1945: the development of modern America (e.g., Reconstruction, industrial growth, United States’ role in world affairs, the Great Depression, the First and Second World Wars, immigration)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. The period between 1945 and the present: contemporary America (e.g., civil rights movement, women’s rights movement, Korean and Vietnam wars, environmental movement)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4. When you study history or social studies in school, how often do you do each of the following? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Never</th>
<th>A few times a year</th>
<th>Once or twice a month</th>
<th>Once or twice a week</th>
<th>Almost every day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Read material from a textbook</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b. Read extra material not in the regular textbook (e.g., biographies or historical stories)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c. Use letters, diaries, or essays written by historical people</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d. Discuss the material studied</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e. Write short answers (a paragraph or less) to questions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f. Write a report</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g. Work on a group project</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h. Give a presentation to the class on the topic being studied</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i. Watch movies or videos</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j. Take a test or quiz</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k. Go on field trips or have outside speakers</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l. Use the books or computers in the library to do schoolwork</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m. Listen to information presented online</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. This year in school, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions or assignments for history or social studies?

☐ Never
☐ Once or twice this year
☐ Once or twice a month
☐ At least once a week

6. How often do you use computers at school for history or social studies?

☐ Never or hardly ever
☐ Once every few weeks
☐ About once a week
☐ Two or three times a week
☐ Every day

7. When you study history or social studies, to what extent do you use computers to do research projects about history or social studies topics using a CD or the Internet? Include both class work and homework assignments.

☐ Not at all
☐ Small extent
☐ Moderate extent
☐ Large extent

8. When you study social studies or history, how often do you agree with the following statements? Fill in one oval on each line.

Never or hardly ever Sometimes Often or almost always

a. I have a clear understanding of what my social studies or history teacher is asking me to do.

b. The social studies or history work is easy.

c. The social studies or history work is difficult.

d. The social studies or history work is interesting.
9. How much do you agree that history or social studies is one of your favorite subjects?
   - Not at all
   - A little
   - A lot

10. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?
   - Easier than other tests
   - About as hard as other tests
   - Harder than other tests
   - Much harder than other tests

11. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?
   - Not as hard as on other tests
   - About as hard as on other tests
   - Harder than on other tests
   - Much harder than on other tests

12. How important was it to you to do well on this test?
   - Not very important
   - Somewhat important
   - Important
   - Very important