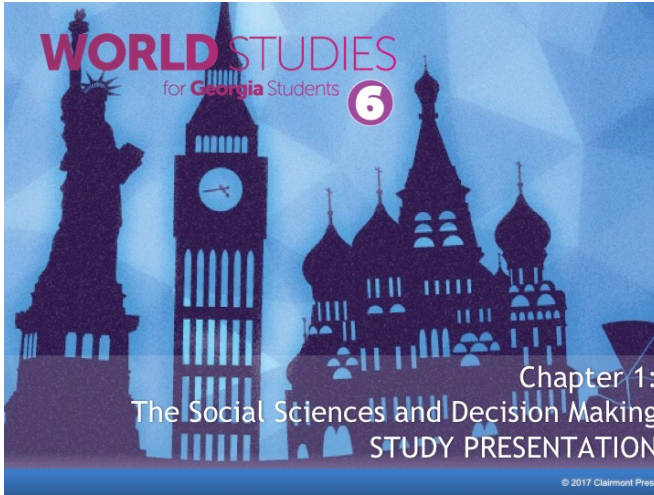


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 1: The Social Sciences and Decision Making**  
**Quick Notes**



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**Section 1: What Is History?**

➤ Essential Question:

- What are some reasons people study history?

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**Section 1: What Is History?**

➤ What terms do I need to know?

- history
- philosopher

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### What Is History?

- History is the story of successes and failures from the past that shaped our world today.
- By looking at our past, we can learn from our mistakes and make better decisions today.
  - Philosopher George Santayana wrote, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”
- This textbook is meant to inform students about the history of many countries, including our own.
  - What effects did the actions of individuals or groups of the past have on the world that shaped it into what it is today?

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### Section 2: What Is Geography?

- Essential Question:
  - What are the five themes of geography?

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### Section 2: What Is Geography?

- What terms do I need to know?
  - geography
  - environment
  - absolute location
  - latitude
  - longitude
  - relative location
  - human geography
  - physical geography

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### The Study of Geography

- The study of **geography** is the study of the physical features on Earth and the human geography that examines how people adapt to their **environment**.
- Geography has five themes:
  - ❖ **Location** describes where a place is on Earth in two different ways. **Absolute location** uses latitude, measuring lines on a map marking north or south, and longitude, measuring lines on a map marking east or west, to find an exact location. **Relative location** uses other locations to compare distance somewhere else, like saying that Atlanta, Georgia, is about 100 miles north of Macon, Georgia.

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### The Study of Geography (cont.)

- Geography has five themes:
  - ❖ **Places** can be defined by either human geography or physical geography. **Human geography** includes languages, customs, and belief systems, all of which can vary based on place they are in. **Physical geography** includes landforms, climate, vegetation, and other natural characteristics, which can influence the human geography that develops in a place.
  - ❖ **Human/environment interaction** is important for how humans choose to survive in their environment. Some landscapes have hundreds of acres of forests, and others can have dry shifting sands. This theme covers the way humans adapt their environment to fit their needs.

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### The Study of Geography (cont.)

- Geography has five themes:
  - ❖ **Movement** is when people, goods, or ideas travel from one location to another. In the past, movement was very slow because of the restrictions of communication and transportation. Today, movement is much faster, with planes, cars, and the Internet.
  - ❖ **Regions** are areas with distinctive human and/or physical characteristics. A region is a space that is united by some characteristic, with some regions existing in the Amazon rainforest where people still practice ancient traditions.

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### Solving the Longitude Problem

- The skill of using latitude and longitude, while easily found today in GPSs, was a very difficult skill to master in the age of exploration.
  - Through navigational tools and maps, while also using the positions of the sun and stars, navigators on ships could determine latitude, but that's only half of the problem.
- For centuries, Europe worked to solve this problem.
- In the early 1760's, mechanic and clockmaker John Harrison created the chronometer, which was a precise instrument for calculating longitude.
  - This device would save ships time, along with possibly their lives, since many ships were known to get lost at sea.

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### Section 3: What Is Political Science?

- Essential Question:
  - What are the three parts to political science?

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### Section 3: What Is Political Science?

- What terms do I need to know?
  - political science
  - civic life
  - personal life
  - politics
  - government

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### What Is Political Science?

- **Political science** is the study of different types of governments and how they help their citizens.
- There are three main parts to political science:
  - ❖ **Civic life** looks at how citizens' decisions affect the local community and its decisions, like voting for a candidate in an election. On the other hand, **personal life** focuses on decisions people make about their own interests.
  - ❖ **Politics** is a process through which people with different opinions reach decisions that are agreed upon and enforced. Every social group, like family, school, and government, is engaged in politics.
  - ❖ **Government** is made up of people and institutions in a society with the authority to make laws and enforce them with the intention to protect citizens.
- People will always have different views about politics, but it's important to look past them and work together if we hope to improve.

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### Section 4: What Is Economics?

- **Essential Question:**
  - Why do people study economics?

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### Section 4: What Is Economics?

- **What terms do I need to know?**
  - economics
  - scarcity
  - trade
  - specialization
  - domestic
  - globalization

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### What Is Economics?

- **Economics** is the study of how decisions are made about how to distribute limited resources in order to satisfy our unlimited wants.
  - **Scarcity** is when there are not enough goods to satisfy a demand.
- **Trade**, or the voluntary exchange of goods and services among people and countries, occurs as a result of scarcity and **specialization** (when a country focuses on the goods and services they can make best).
- Learning about trade prepares you to understand **domestic** (one's home country) and global economic issues.
  - Learning about trade and interdependence will also help you understand the problems of **globalization**, the development of an increasingly worldwide economy.

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### Section 5: What Is Decision Making?

- Essential question:
  - What are some important steps to take before making a decision?

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### Section 5: What Is Decision Making?

- What terms do I need to know?
  - decision
  - issue
  - options
  - consequences
  - values

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Chapter 1: The Social Sciences and Decision Making

## Quick Notes

### What Is Decision Making?

- A **decision** is a determination reached after consideration of alternatives and choosing the most attractive option.
- To make good decisions, you must first clearly identify an **issue** that needs to be solved.
  - Many times, an issue has two parts: a goal and an obstacle.
- The next step is for the decision maker to list their **options** (choices), each of which has its own **consequences** (outcomes) that can be good or bad.
- Decisions involve balancing choices against personal **values**, or what is important to you.
  - Your values will certainly affect the option you choose.
- By combining all these factors, you are now ready to make your choice, hopefully choosing the option you believe is the best solution to the problem.

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