

Civics

SNOW DAY

Government

(AMI) Alternate Assignments.

The Following Packet has been assembled for Alternate course work to be performed when we are not at school because of snow. Work to complete 1 section of this Packet for each Snow Day we are Absent.

CHAPTER  
2

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY**



**JOHN PETER ZENGER'S FIGHT FOR THE TRUTH**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following passage about John Peter Zenger, and then answer the questions.

Today we take free speech for granted. For Americans living in the early 1700s, however, freedom of speech was limited. They did not, for example, have the right to criticize the government or their leaders. John Peter Zenger, a German immigrant, helped win that right 50 years before the Constitution was written.

Zenger came to the American colonies in 1710. He became a printer and started a newspaper in New York. Zenger's newspaper, the *New York Weekly Journal*, was very critical of the colonial governor, William Cosby.

In 1735 Governor Cosby arrested Zenger and charged him with "seditious libel." Under the law, it was a crime to publish any criticism of the government because it might turn people against their leaders. It did not matter if the criticism was true or not.

At his trial Zenger was represented by a young Philadelphia attorney, Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton argued that Zenger could not be convicted of libel if the articles in his newspaper were truthful. When the judge ruled that truth could not be used as a defense, Hamilton replied that it was up to the jurors. They should decide whether truth is a proper defense against libel.

The jury courageously acquitted Zenger. From that time on, no one could be convicted of libel if he or she had told the truth. The Peter Zenger case established an enduring principle of freedom of speech and the press—the right to criticize our government and our political leaders.

1. Why was Zenger arrested? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What was Alexander Hamilton's defense? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the significance of the Zenger case? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. **Critical Thinking** Why is it important to be able to criticize government leaders and government policy? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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CHAPTER  
4

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY**



**A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE DISABLED**

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the following passage about federal legislation to aid the disabled, and then answer the questions.

A few years ago, 34-year-old Diana Scheffert wanted to find a job as a secretary in a small or medium-sized office. She could type 70 words per minute, could take dictation, and had a pleasant personality. Diana was also confined to a wheelchair. She was turned down for job after job because the businesses in her community did not have ramps, rest rooms for the handicapped, and other special facilities Diana needed. Even if a company had hired Diana, she would not have been able to ride a city bus or a subway train to work. Since she could not support herself, Diana received disability checks from the government and lived in a subsidized apartment.

Because of her physical disability, Diana was denied opportunities in employment and in other areas of life. Fortunately, Diana's situation—and the situation of millions of other mentally and physically disabled Americans—has changed. The reason is the Americans With Disabilities Act of 1990.

Legislation barring discrimination against disabled Americans is not new. The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, for example, prohibits government agencies and companies receiving federal funds from discriminating

against people with disabilities. The Americans With Disabilities Act, however, goes even further. It prohibits all public and private businesses—whether or not they receive federal aid—from discriminating against the disabled.

According to this act, businesses employing more than 15 workers must modify their offices, factories, or stores to accommodate disabled employees. New buses, trains, and subway cars must be equipped with hydraulic lifts to make them accessible to people in wheelchairs. New or renovated retail stores, hotels, and restaurants must be barrier free, and barriers in existing buildings must be removed if possible. Finally, telephone companies must provide relay services between special telephones for hearing- and speech-impaired people and ordinary telephones.

Businesses that can prove that the required changes would be too costly or too disruptive or would substantially alter the way they do business are exempt from the provisions of the Americans With Disabilities Act. Nevertheless, it is estimated that state and local governments and private businesses have spent billions of dollars to comply with the law.

1. How does the Americans With Disabilities Act help the disabled? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The Americans With Disabilities Act has been hailed as a bill of rights for the disabled. In what way is it a bill of rights? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Critical Thinking** Do you think government has the right to force businesses to modify their facilities to accommodate the disabled? Why or why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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CHAPTER  
5

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY



## THE PEACE CORPS

**DIRECTIONS:** Today the responsibilities of citizenship extend well beyond the borders of the local community. In his message to Congress on establishing a Peace Corps, President John F. Kennedy made this point. Read the following excerpts from his speech and then answer the questions.

... Peace Corps members will often serve under conditions of physical hardship, living under primitive conditions among the people of developing nations. For every Peace Corps member service will mean a great financial sacrifice. They will receive no salary. Instead they will be given an allowance which will only be sufficient to meet their basic needs and maintain health. It is essential that Peace Corps men and women live simply and unostentatiously among the people they have come to assist. ...

The benefits of the Peace Corps will not be limited to the countries in which it serves. Our own young men and women will be enriched by the experience of living and working in foreign lands. They will have acquired new skills and experience which will aid them in their future careers and add to our own country's supply of trained personnel and teachers. They will return better able to assume the responsibilities of American citizenship and with greater understanding of our global responsibilities.

... Our own freedom, and the future of freedom around the world, depend, in a very real sense, on [the] ability [of people in developing countries] to build growing and independent nations where men can live in dignity, liberated from the bonds of hunger, ignorance and poverty.

One of the greatest obstacles to the achievement of this goal is the lack of trained men and women with the skill to teach the young and assist in the operation of development projects—men and women with the capacity to cope with the demands of swiftly evolving economies, and with the dedication to put that capacity to work in the villages, the mountains, the towns and the factories of dozens of struggling nations.

[We] have in this country an immense reservoir of dedicated men and women willing to devote their life energies and time and toil to the cause of world peace and human progress.

March 2, 1961

1. What was to be the purpose of the Peace Corps? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What rewards would work in the Peace Corps bring to the volunteers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. **Critical Thinking** What might Peace Corps volunteers be able to accomplish better than highly paid professionals? Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

CHAPTER  
3

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY**



**FEDERALISTS VERSUS ANTI-FEDERALISTS**

**DIRECTIONS:** The Constitutional Convention ended in September 1787, but it was just the beginning of the national debate over ratification. Read the following quotations from the Federalists, who supported the Constitution, and the Anti-Federalists, who opposed it. Then answer the questions.

**FEDERALISTS**

James Madison: "In the . . . republic of America, the power surrendered by the people is first divided between two distinct governments, and then the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments. Hence a double security arises to the rights of the people. The different governments will control each other . . ."

Alexander Hamilton: "The courts were designed to be an intermediate body between the people and the legislature, in order, among other things, to keep the latter within the limits assigned to their authority. The interpretation of the laws is the proper and peculiar province of the courts."

**ANTI-FEDERALISTS**

Melancton Smith: "The whole number, in both houses, amounts to ninety-one; of these forty-six make a quorum; and twenty-four of those, being secured, may carry any point. Can the liberties of three millions of people be securely trusted in the hands of twenty-four men?"

George Mason: "There is no Declaration of Rights, and the laws of the general government being paramount to the laws and constitution of the several States, the Declaration of Rights in the separate States are not security."

1. How did Madison answer the charge that the Constitution gives the national government too much power? \_\_\_\_\_
2. According to Hamilton, why is the courts' role as interpreter of the laws so important? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why did Smith oppose the plan for Congress? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did Mason believe that the Constitution threatens the individual rights guaranteed in state constitutions? \_\_\_\_\_

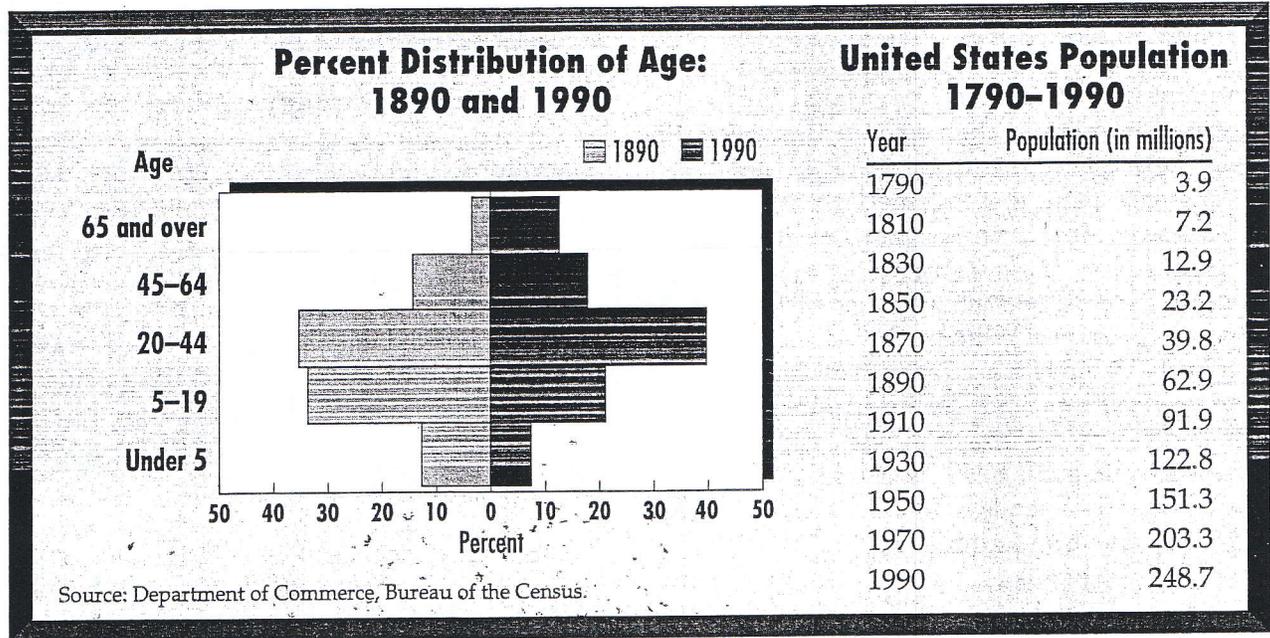
CHAPTER  
**1**

**ENRICHMENT ACTIVITY**



**INTERPRETING CENSUS STATISTICS**

**DIRECTIONS:** Census information is used as the basis for determining the number of representatives each state sends to Congress. Census statistics also provide important information about social and cultural changes. Study the information in the graph and table. Then answer the questions that follow.



1. About what percentage of the population was over 44 years old in 1890? In 1990? \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. By what year shown had the United States population topped 200 million persons? \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. **Critical Thinking** What would you guess the population of the United States will be in 2030? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_
  
4. **Critical Thinking** Summarize the major changes in age distribution between 1890 and 1990. \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. **Critical Thinking** How might changes in age distribution affect social issues such as child care and care for the elderly? \_\_\_\_\_