**Key Concepts for the Grade 7 *i*LEAP Social Studies Assessment**

The key concepts are provided to guide teachers in their classroom instruction as it relates to the assessment. These concepts describe important content emphasis regarding the knowledge and skills eligible for assessment of each strand.

**Geography**

**The World in Spatial Terms**

* Types of maps, charts, graphs, and diagrams related to U.S. history—*e.g., population, electoral, or territorial maps; bar, circle, or line graphs*

**Places and Regions**

* Physical features and climate that affected migration, settlement patterns, and land use in the U.S. through 1877—*e.g., landforms (such as Rocky Mountains, Appalachian Mountains, Great Plains, etc.), bodies of water, vegetation and precipitation patterns, mining and deforestation*
* Physical features that have influenced U.S. historical events—*e.g., Ohio River Valley in the American Revolution and Civil War, landforms and rivers encountered by the Lewis and Clark expedition and pioneers, Mississippi River in the Battle of New Orleans*

**Physical and Human Systems**

* Patterns of rural/urban migration in the U.S.—*e.g., political, cultural, and economic motives for migration (Gold Rush, rise of industrialization and growth of cities, Homestead Act, etc.); population patterns*
* Positive and negative consequences of urban development in the U.S.—*e.g., cultural diversity, transportation, increased jobs; overcrowding, pollution and deforestation, push/pull factors*
* Racial, ethnic, and religious groups that settled in the U.S.—*e.g., Irish, Acadians, Germans, Chinese, British*
* Political, cultural, and economic reasons for immigration—*e.g., find jobs or new opportunities, escape oppression or religious persecution, flee drought or famine; push/pull factors*
* Economic interdependence of Great Britain and the American colonies—*trade of raw materials and agricultural goods for manufactured products*
* Changing political boundaries due to cooperation and conflict in the U.S. to 1877—*e.g., Missouri Compromise, Louisiana Purchase, Gadsden Purchase, Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo*

**Environment and Society**

* Physical environments in the North and South that led to different economic activities—*e.g., shipbuilding, textile mills, fishing versus cotton, tobacco, sugarcane, and rice farming; differences in climate, soil, bodies of water, and landforms*

**Civics**

**Structure and Purposes of Government**

* Major purposes of government—*e.g., ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote general welfare, secure the blessings of liberty, make laws*
* Definition of federalism and structure of a federal system
* Characteristics and organization of various forms of government—*e.g., absolute or constitutional monarchy, direct democracy, republic, oligarchy, autocracy, and totalitarian dictatorship*
* System of checks and balances and the limits of government through separation of power—*e.g., presidential veto, judicial review, congressional override and approval of presidential nominees, presidential appointment of judges, impeachment*
* Powers of the federal government according to the U.S. Constitution—*e.g., print money, establish a postal service, approve treaties, declare war, raise an army*
* Powers shared by the federal government and the state governments—*e.g., establish courts, tax citizens, pass laws, enforce laws*
* Structure and powers of the three branches of government and the limits of those powers
* Key positions within each branch of government
	+ Executive—*president, vice-president, attorney general, secretary of state and other cabinet secretaries, Joint Chiefs of Staff*
	+ Legislative—*Speaker of the House of Representatives, president of the Senate, House and Senate majority leaders*
	+ Judicial—*Supreme Court justices, chief justice, federal district judge*
* Qualifications, terms of office, responsibilities, and limits of power for elected officials at the national level
* How a bill becomes a law at the federal level

**Foundations of the American Political System**

* Problems the U.S. faced after the American Revolution that led to the writing of the Constitution—*e.g., weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation, Shays’ Rebellion, Federalist Papers*
* Similarities and differences of the Articles of Confederation and the U.S. Constitution
* Formation of the American constitutional government and the federal union—*e.g., Continental Congress, Great Compromise*
* Arguments and leaders of the Federalists and Anti-Federalists
* Ancient governments that influenced American democracy and culture—*e.g., Greek direct democracy, Roman Republic, British Parliament*
* Major ideas expressed in the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence—*e.g., natural/basic rights, self-government, proclamation of freedom*
* Principles of government embodied in the U.S. Constitution—*e.g., popular sovereignty, respect for individual liberties, checks and balances, due process of law, separation of powers, consent of the governed*
* Methods of making changes in a democratic society—*e.g., petition, elections, impeachment, civil disobedience (marches, rallies, boycotts, strikes), compromise, constitutional amendment, recall*
* Political parties in the American political system—*e.g., two-party system, purpose of national convention, party platform*

**International Relationships**

* Political divisions of the world—*e.g., nation, state*
* Processes and strategies nations use to interact—*e.g., trade, diplomacy, treaties, tariffs and embargoes, United Nations, economic and humanitarian aid, sanctions*
* Ways U.S. foreign policy is formed and carried out—*e.g., Monroe Doctrine, presidential summit meetings, military actions, Senate approval of treaties, negotiations by an ambassador or the secretary of state*
* Types of foreign policy issues—*e.g., war, isolationism, national security, containment*

**Roles of the Citizen**

* Qualifications and requirements for U.S. citizenship—*e.g., birth in the U.S., birth to American parents abroad, naturalization (residency, citizenship test, oath of allegiance)*
* Issues involving important rights and responsibilities of individuals in American society
* Rights—*First Amendment freedoms, rights of persons with disabilities, due process of law, other rights in the Bill of Rights*
* Responsibilities—*military service, jury duty, paying taxes, obeying laws, holding public office*

**History**

**United States History**

* Causes, course, and consequences of the American Revolutionary War—*e.g., Stamp Act, Townshend Acts, Tea Act, Intolerable Acts, Battle of Saratoga, Benedict Arnold, Thomas Paine, Yorktown, Boston Tea Party, Fort Ticonderoga, Declaration of Independence*
* Compare and contrast the strategies and motivations of the Patriots, Loyalists, and British during the American Revolution—*e.g., Sons of Liberty, Committees of Correspondence, British recruitment of slaves, American merchants*
* Key figures in the American Revolution—*e.g., Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Samuel Adams, John Hancock, Patrick Henry, George Rogers Clark*
* Effect of the American Revolution on the politics, society, and economy of the U.S.—*e.g., national debt, local elections, state constitutions*
* Issues involved in the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution—*e.g., Constitutional Convention, Virginia Plan, New Jersey Plan, Connecticut Compromise, Three-Fifths Compromise, slavery question, addition of a bill of rights*
* Specific guarantees of the Bill of Rights—*e.g., freedom of speech, religion, assembly, press, and petition; right to bear arms; compensation for private property; rights of the accused (warrants for search and seizure, protection from double jeopardy and self-incrimination, speedy and public trial by jury, due process of law, right to an attorney, no excessive bail or cruel and unusual punishment); other rights reserved to the people*
* Provisions of the Monroe Doctrine and its influence on U.S. foreign relations
* Effect of westward movement of the U.S. on relations with American Indians and the changes it created—*e.g., Oregon Trail, Oregon Territory, expansion of railroad system, Great Plains, government policy toward American Indians in the early 1800s, removal/resettlement of American Indian nations, resistance strategies of American Indians*
* Concept of Manifest Destiny and its economic, political, social, and religious roots—*e.g., Homestead Act, Preemption Act, Transcontinental Railroad, Gold Rush, Gadsden Purchase*
* Causes, course, and consequences of the Texas War for Independence and the Mexican-American War
* The influence of Jacksonian democracy on the U.S. political system—*e.g., Indian Removal policy, Trail of Tears, spoils system (Kitchen Cabinet), support of increased federal power, national bank*
* Major technological developments related to land, water, and transportation—*e.g., roads, canals, railroads, steamboat, cotton gin, steel plow, mechanical plow*
* National policies on a protective tariff, national bank, federally funded improvements (roads, canals, railroads), and educational and prison reforms—*e.g., Bank of the United States, Erie Canal, Cumberland Road, Alexander Hamilton, protective tariffs*
* Comparison of ways of life in northern and southern states—*e.g., rapid urbanization and industrialization in the North, growth of agricultural economy and slavery in the South*
* Causes and explanations for new waves of immigration prior to the Civil War—*e.g., railroad, potato famine in Ireland, the appeal of gold in California, political unrest, American (Know-Nothing) Party*
* Importance of the ideas and reform leaders of the Second Great Awakening— *e.g., public education, mental health and prisons, temperance, suffrage, religion, abolition*
* Fundamental beliefs of abolitionists—*e.g., William Lloyd Garrison, Harriet Tubman, Underground Railroad, John Brown, Harper’s Ferry, Frederick Douglass, positions of those who favored gradual versus immediate emancipation*
* Leaders and effects of the major antebellum reform movements—*Seneca Falls Convention, woman’s suffrage, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Julia Ward Howe, Dorothea Dix, temperance, Horace Mann*
* Advantages and disadvantages of the North and the South at the outbreak of the Civil War and their economic, social, and cultural differences