

**South Carolina Alternate Assessment (SC-Alt)  
Social Studies**

**Glossary of Terms Grades 3–8**

- **act:** a law or rule
- **agriculture:** farming
- **battle:** a fight within a war
- **cash crops:** crops grown to be sold for money
- **city:** an area where many people live
- **civil war:** a war in which people in the same country fight each other
- **to claim:** to say something is yours
- **Cold War:** a period in history after World War II when the United States and Soviet Union disagreed over types of government and competed to influence other nations
- **colonists:** people from another country who live in a land controlled by that country
- **colony:** land or place controlled by another country
- **to compromise:** to work together to make a decision
- **Confederacy:** states in the United States that separated to try to form their own nation during the Civil War
- **conflict:** problems, disagreements, or fighting
- **constitution:** a plan or outline for a government
- **cooperation:** working together
- **dangerous:** unsafe
- **decisions:** choosing what to do and/or how to do something
- **declaration of independence:** a document asserting that a land is no longer controlled by another place or is now independent or free from the mother country
- **discrimination:** treating someone differently and unfairly based on the belief that he or she belongs to a particular group
- **disease:** something that causes illness or sickness

- **economy:** the way people make money or make a living
- **effects:** the results of another event or events (the causes)
- **executive branch:** the branch of government that enforces the laws
- **to explore:** to travel to look for and study new lands
- **explorers:** people who travel to look for and study new lands
- **factory:** a place people go to make goods, usually with machines
- **freedom:** the state of being allowed to do things; can also mean independence when referring to a nation
- **government:** system of rules or laws for an area of land and its people
- **guide:** someone who shows someone else the way to get somewhere
- **hunter-gatherer:** people who move from place to place to hunt for and gather food
- **Ice Age:** a period in history when many parts of modern-day oceans were frozen and ice covered the land
- **independence:** when a country is free to rule itself
- **to influence:** to persuade (get) others to follow you
- **integration:** bringing people together in society
- **Jim Crow laws:** laws that treated African Americans and whites differently, with African Americans being treated worse
- **judicial branch:** the branch of government that decides whether laws are fair or right
- **land bridge:** a piece of land that connects two larger bodies of land
- **legislative branch:** the group that makes laws
- **low country:** an area or region close to the ocean
- **midlands:** an area or region in the middle of the state
- **mother country:** a nation that controls other lands or places
- **nation(al):** a group of lands with a shared government (of the shared government)
- **native:** a person who originally lived or lives in a place

- **natural resources:** items from nature that are used to make other goods or used for travel or transportation
- **New Deal:** a series of government programs to try to get people jobs
- **party:** when talking about political topics, a group of people who have similar ideas for government
- **plantation:** a large farm for growing crops to make money
- **political:** anything that deals with governments
- **port:** a place on the water where boats can dock
- **poverty:** living with very little money; being extremely poor
- **power:** the ability to make decisions for other people or a nation
- **president:** title for leader of the executive branch in many limited governments
- **protest:** go against
- **reconstruction:** a time of rebuilding
- **region:** an area or part of a place
- **rights:** things people must be allowed to do
- **river:** a body of water that runs from mountains and lakes
- **segregation:** keeping people separated in life, usually in public places
- **settlers:** people who move to new lands to build places to live
- **slaves:** people owned and controlled by other people and forced to work for no pay
- **state:** an area of land with one government
- **state's rights:** individual powers that states have or decisions that states can make without having to agree with the national government
- **taxes:** money paid to the government
- **textiles:** goods made from cloth
- **three branches:** the separate or different parts of the government that each have their own powers or jobs and are meant to check and balance each other (see **executive branch, judicial branch, and legislative branch**)
- **tourism:** a part of an economy based on people coming to a place on vacation

- **trade:** the exchange of goods or natural resources
- **traditions:** the ways people live their lives based on what people in the past have done
- **Union:** states in the United States that stayed together during the Civil War
- **upcountry:** area or region at the “top” of a state near the mountains
- **vote:** when a person decides or chooses a law or person whom he or she wants to serve in government
- **wealth:** accumulated money
- **World War II:** a second war in history that involved nations from all over the world