

# The Study of History

## Public Education

During the colonial period, few people considered a formal education to be important. By the 1830's, however, public education gained widespread support. Today, each state in the Union provides for a system of free public education for all students.

*In the spaces provided, write a brief answer to each of the following questions.*

1. What is meant by the word *education*? (Give a dictionary definition.) \_\_\_\_\_

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2. What is meant by the word *public*? (Give a dictionary definition.) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. According to the definitions for *public* and *education*, what is meant by public education?

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4. Who supported schools before public education gained widespread support? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How did state and local governments provide support to education before the establishment of public schools? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Why is it important to have free public education in a country that is a democracy?

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## You and History

Throughout American history, there have been efforts to reform American society. People have frequently identified what they consider to be the most serious problems and sought to correct them through reform.

A. In the spaces provided, list what you consider to be five major problems in American society today.

Problems in American Society Today	
1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

*B. In the spaces provided, arrange the problems you listed in order with what you consider the most serious problem first.*

1.	_____
2.	_____
3.	_____
4.	_____
5.	_____

*C. In the spaces provided, write some suggestions how you think these problems may be resolved or solved.*

1.	_____
	_____
2.	_____
	_____
3.	_____
	_____
4.	_____
	_____
5.	_____
	_____