

Understand Details

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences based on the chapter.

- _____ 1. Early settlers came to the North American continent and established colonies mainly because they wanted to be free from
 - a. the power of kings, priests, and noblemen.
 - b. the influence of their families.
 - c. the problems of poverty and hunger.

- _____ 2. There are no titles of nobility in the United States today because
 - a. no one likes aristocrats.
 - b. the church does not allow it.
 - c. they are forbidden by the Constitution.

- _____ 3. The price that Americans pay for their individual freedom is
 - a. self-reliance.
 - b. competition.
 - c. hard work.

- _____ 4. The American belief in self-reliance means that
 - a. receiving money from charity, family, or the government is never allowed.
 - b. if a person is very dependent on others, he or she will be respected by others.
 - c. people must take care of themselves and be independent, or risk losing their personal freedom.

- _____ 5. The American belief in equality of opportunity means that
 - a. all Americans are rich.
 - b. Americans believe that everyone should be equal.
 - c. everyone should have an equal chance to succeed.

- _____ 6. In the United States, learning to compete successfully is
 - a. part of growing up.
 - b. not seen as healthy by most people.
 - c. not necessary, because Americans believe in equality.

- _____ 7. Traditionally, immigrants have been able to raise their standard of living by coming to the United States because
 - a. Americans value money more than anything else.
 - b. there were such abundant natural resources.
 - c. the rich have shared their wealth with the poor.

- _____ 8. Americans see their material possessions as
 - a. having nothing to do with social status.
 - b. the natural reward for their hard work.
 - c. showing no evidence of a person's abilities.

- _____ 9. A belief in the value of hard work
 - a. developed because it was necessary to work hard to convert natural resources into material goods.
 - b. developed because the immigrants who came here had a natural love of hard work.
 - c. has never been a part of the American value system because people have so much.

- _____ 10. In reality, such American ideals as equality of opportunity and self-reliance
 - a. do not exist because there is no equality in the United States.
 - b. are always put into practice in the United States and truly describe American life.
 - c. are only partly carried out in real life, but are still important because people believe in them.

Talk About It

Work in small groups and choose one or more questions to discuss.

1. Americans believe strongly in self-reliance and the freedom and independence of the individual. What are the advantages and disadvantages of being very independent? Which is more important to you, pleasing your family or having the freedom to do what you want?
2. If Americans had to pick one aspect of their country that they are most proud of, over 90 percent would choose freedom. What aspect of your country are people most proud of? How does that quality affect life there?
3. Is it healthy for a person to want to compete? Which is more important in a society—competition or cooperation? Which do you value more? Why?