rules and government

internal influences on change

external influences on change

9-12

Peaceful efforts at social change are most successful when the affected people are included in the planning, when information is available from all relevant experts, and when the values and power struggles are clearly

Mass media, migrations, and conquest affect social change by exposing one culture to another. Extensive borrowing among cultures has led to the virtual disappearance of some cultures but only modest change in others.

To various degrees, governments try to bring about social change or to impede it through policies, laws, incentives, or direct coercion. Sometimes such efforts achieve their intended results and sometimes they do not.

Social change, or the prospect of it, promotes conflict because social, economic, and political changes usually benefit some groups more than others. That, of course, is also true of the status quo.

The size and rate of growth of the human population in any location are affected by economic, political, religious, technological and environmental factors. Some of these factors, in turn, are influenced by the size and rate of growth of

6-8

However they are formed, governments usually have most of the power to make, interpret, and enforce the rules and decisions that determine how a community, state, or nation will be run.

Technologies having to do with food production, sanitation, and health care have dramatically changed how people live and work and have resulted in rapid increases in the human population.

Migration, conquest, and natural disasters have been major factors in causing social and cultural change.

By the way they depict the ideas and customs of one culture, communications media may stimulate changes in others.

Some aspects of family and community life are the same now as a generation ago, but some aspects are very different. What is taught in school and school policies have been changed over the years in response to family and community

3-5

One person's exercise of freedom may conflict with the freedom of others. Rules can help to resolve conflicting freedoms.

Rules can sometimes be changed by getting whoever made the rules to agree to change them.

Although rules at home, school, church, and in the community stay mostly the same, sometimes they change. Changes in social arrangements happen because some rules do not work or new people are involved or outside circumstances change.

K-2

Rules at home, at school, and in the community let people know how to behave and what to expect from others and so can reduce the number of disputes.

Changes happen in everyone's life, sometimes suddenly, more often slowly. People cannot control some changes, but they can usually learn to cope with them.

Rules can help to make sure that everyone is treated fairly.