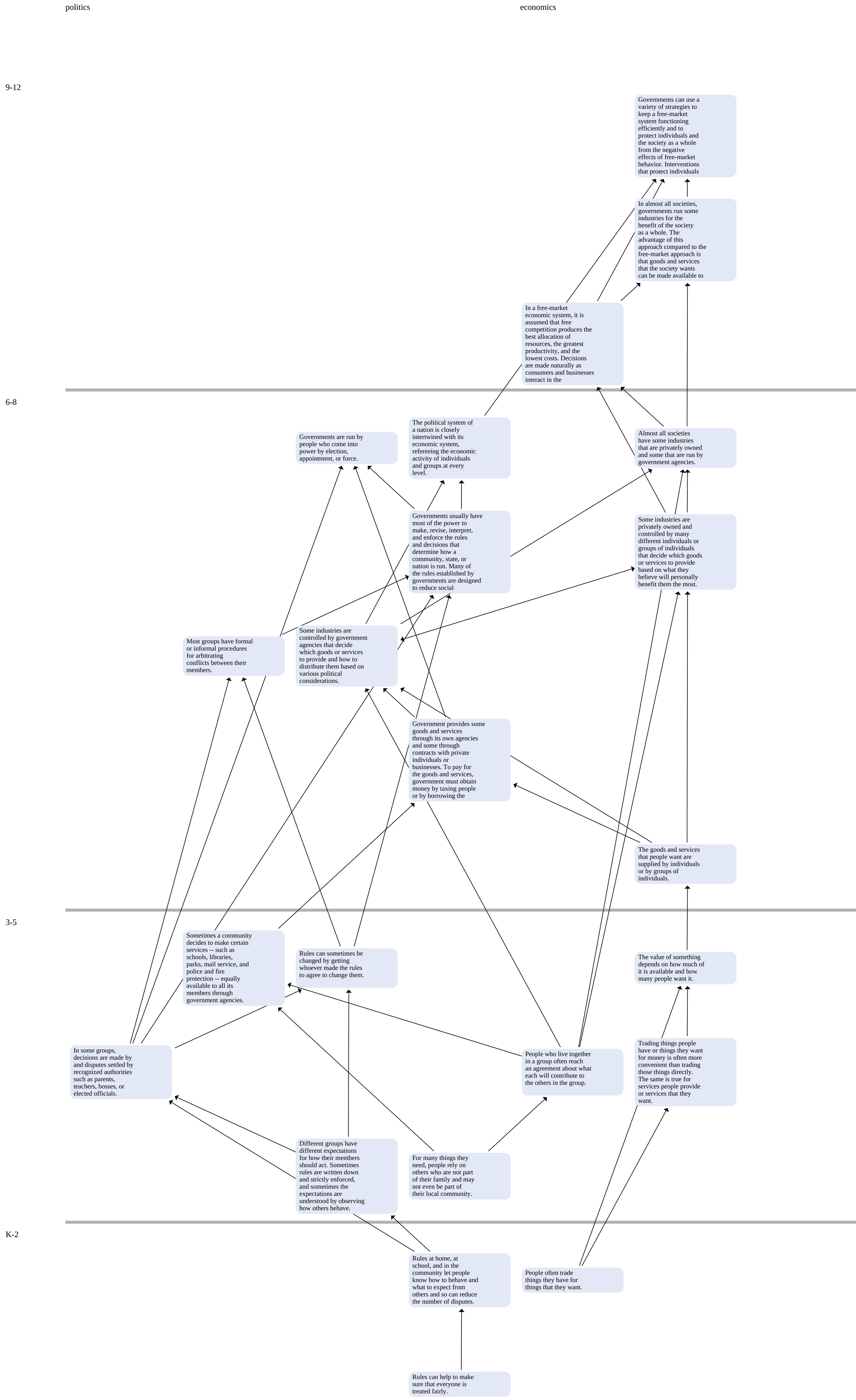
politics
economics
9-12
Governments can use a variety of strategies to keep a free-market system functioning efficiently and to protect individuals and the society as a whole from the negative effects of free-market behavior. Interventions that protect individuals
In almost all societies, governments run some industries for the benefit of the society as a whole. The advantage of this approach compared to the free-market approach is that goods and services that the society wants can be made available to
In a free-market economic system, it is assumed that free competition produces the best allocation of resources, the greatest productivity, and the lowest costs. Decisions are made naturally as consumers and businesses interact in the
6-8
The political system of a nation is closely intertwined with its economic system, refereeing the economic activity of individuals and groups at every level.
Governments are run by people who come into power by election, appointment, or force.
Almost all societies have some industries that are privately owned and some that are run by government agencies.
Governments usually have most of the power to make, revise, interpret, and enforce the rules and decisions that determine how a community, state, or nation is run. Many of the rules established by governments are designed to reduce social
Some industries are privately owned and controlled by many different individuals or groups of individuals that decide which goods or services to provide based on what they believe will personally benefit them the most.
Most groups have formal or informal procedures for arbitrating conflicts between their members.
Some industries are controlled by government agencies that decide which goods or services to provide and how to distribute them based on various political considerations.
Government provides some goods and services through its own agencies and some through contracts with private individuals or businesses. To pay for the goods and services, government must obtain money by taxing people or by borrowing the
The goods and services that people want are supplied by individuals or by groups of individuals.
3-5
Sometimes a community decides to make certain services -- such as schools, libraries, parks, mail service, and police and fire protection -- equally available to all its members through government agencies.
Rules can sometimes be changed by getting whoever made the rules to agree to change them.
The value of something depends on how much of it is available and how many people want it.
In some groups, decisions are made by and disputes settled by recognized authorities such as parents, teachers, bosses, or elected officials.
People who live together in a group often reach an agreement about what each will contribute to the others in the group.
Trading things people have or things they want for money is often more convenient than trading those things directly. The same is true for services people provide or services that they want.
Different groups have different expectations for how their members should act. Sometimes rules are written down and strictly enforced, and sometimes the expectations are understood by observing how others behave.
For many things they need, people rely on others who are not part of their family and may not even be part of their local community.
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.
People often trade things they have for things that they want.
Rules can help to make sure that everyone is treated fairly.